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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

(Memorandum by the Secretary-General)

1. Election of officers of the Commission

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

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Commission may wish to modify the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/310). It may also wish to consider the sequence in which the items on the agenda should be discussed.

3. Review of international statistics

A report (E/CN.3/311), the seventh in a series summarizing developments in international statistics, will contain detailed information covering the work of the United Nations (Statistical Office, Population Commission, regional economic commissions) and the specialized agencies, as well as a number of other international and regional statistical organizations. Included will be sections dealing with development and application of standards; new statistical series; new publications (statistical, methodological, bibliographical); new projects, surveys and research (including expanded use of computers); technical co-operation (training centres, seminars, group study tours, consultants, fellowships, training materials); miscellaneous matters to be called to the Commission's attention for information or discussion. The Commission's comments are invited on all aspects of this Review.

4. External trade statistics

(a) Progress report on the International Trade Statistics Centre

This (E/CN.3/312) will be an account of the progress of the International Trade Statistics Centre, which was established at the beginning of 1963 to process detailed external trade statistics by computer. The current status of reporting by Governments, of the use of generalized computer programmes to standardize the data and to summarize and rearrange them and of the dissemination of the data will be described. A set of large economic classes will be proposed, into which the SITC data available to the Centre could be reclassified by computer for use in certain macro-economic analyses.

(b) Report of a joint meeting (Paris, 8-12 June 1964) of statistical and customs experts from international organizations, national statistical offices and customs administrations on the international exchange of external trade statistics

In 1964, the French Administration des Douanes et des Droits Indirects was host to a working group called jointly by the Customs Co-operation Council and the United Nations Statistical Office to consider improving the usefulness and availability of external trade data. The group, which was composed of representatives of 24 countries and 9 inter-governmental organizations, made a number of suggestions for the consideration of the Commission (E/CN.3/313).

(c) Preliminary key between the Standard International Trade Classification, Revised, and the commodity classification of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)

In accordance with the wish of the Commission that the relation between the SITC and the commodity classification used for trade statistics in the USSR and Eastern Europe be studied, a preliminary key has been made between the SITC and the common trade classification of the CMEA countries. The Thomas J. Watson Research Center of the International Business Machines Corporation kindly contributed its facilities for translating the Russian text of the commodity headings into English by computer and tabulating the keys and bilingual texts, which will be presented to the Commission (E/CN.3/314).

5. Tourist statistics: proposals of the United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism for the definition of terms used in collecting tourist statistics

The Conference, which met in Rome from 21 August to 5 September 1963, proposed a definition of "visitor" (including "tourist" and "excursionist") for statistical purposes and requested that the Commission express its views of the definition suggested (E/CN.3/315).

6. Study of the major uses of, and requirements for, industrial statistics, including the types of primary data and the indicators derived therefrom

A document entitled "Major Statistical Indicators of Industrial Activity" (E/CN.3/316) will be a description of the major general uses of the different indicators of industrial activity and will contain a consolidated table showing these industrial statistical indicators. The list of indicators will include the primary data, ratios, indexes and distributions used for economic analysis.

The table will contain some methodological remarks concerning formulae, components, frequencies, etc. This brief survey will sum up and complete suggestions scattered through various earlier documents but will not contain detailed recommendations either on the definitions of the indicators or on the various uses of the indicators. The document is intended to give a rough but comprehensive framework of industrial statistics, which may help developing countries to design their programmes of industrial statistics for primary data and their processing into derived figures, indexes, ratios and distributions, etc.

7. Study of methods used in the compilation of input-output tables, including the most important uses

The compilation, publication and use of input-output tables has advanced rapidly in the last decade. A paper (E/CN.3/317) on the terminology, methodology, compilation and application of input-output tables will be submitted in the hope that it may prove useful in the following circumstances: (i) there are a number of official statistical agencies in both developed and developing countries which may wish to undertake input-output studies now or in the future; (ii) official agencies and private institutions which have compiled input-output tables may be interested in the uses to which these tables have been put in other countries;

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(iii) in reviewing the practices adopted in various countries, the comparability and therefore the usefulness of future tables may be improved. An appendix to this document will survey in some detail the experience gained by many countries in this area of economic and statistical analysis.

8. Classification of commodities by industrial origin: relationship of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) to the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC)

A draft study (issued in September 1964 as ST/STAT/9 and presented to the Commission as E/CN.3/307) has been prepared relating the items of the SITC, Revised, to the groups and items of the ISIC. This study is composed of two parts. The first part shows opposite each item of the SITC the number of the corresponding group or groups of the ISIC. In cases where the SITC item corresponds to two or more ISIC groupings, details are given in the second part of the study showing the group of commodities covered by the SITC item which belongs to each ISIC group. This draft study was distributed to national statistical authorities for comment, and a summary of the comments will be presented to the Commission (E/CN.3/308).

9. Construction statistics: concepts and methods of collection and compilation

A paper (issued in July 1964 as ST/STAT/8 and presented to the Commission as E/CN.3/305) has been prepared on the problems of and suitable concepts, methods and techniques for gathering data on construction. Its purpose is to assist countries in initiating, developing or improving their statistics on construction. It is intended to draw attention to the sources from which the statistics can be compiled, the methods by which the data can be obtained, the problems involved in compiling the statistics and the ways in which these problems might be solved. An appendix to this study shows the practices in many countries. Copies of this study were sent to the national statistical authorities and regional statistical organizations for comment. A summary of the comments will be presented to the Commission (E/CN.3/306).

10. Study of the industrial statistics of selected countries (Japan, India, Ghana, Brazil)

A study entitled "Systems of Industrial Statistics in Developing Countries" (E/CN.3/309) will highlight certain problems which are especially relevant for the

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statistical work of the developing countries. The study is based on detailed descriptions of the industrial statistical systems of Brazil, Ghana, India and Japan. The statistical system of these countries is summarized in a table which is an appendix to the study. The country studies which were prepared by the countries concerned are also included in their original language as appendices to this paper.

11. Progress report on industrial statistics

A paper (E/CN.3/318) will describe the progress made by the countries participating in the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics. In the light of the results of this Programme, the Commission may wish to make recommendations for the next programme.

12. National accounts

(a) General

This (E/CN.3/319) will be a description of the programme for reviewing the systems of national accounts and balances, including the work already completed and further work planned.

(b) Extension and revision of A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables

This (E/CN.3/320) will consist of the report of the Expert Group on the Extension and Revision of A System of National Accounts and Supporting Tables (New York, 2-13 December 1964) and the comments on the report by the Working Group on National Accounts and Balances, Conference of European Statisticians.

13. Measures of economic growth

This (E/CN.3/321) will be a preliminary consideration of series of data (such as on output, employment, the labour force and the population, capital formation and the capital stock, productivity, and incomes and consumption) that are useful in assessing economic growth and the underlying factors and inter-relationships.

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14. Estimation of national product and expenditure in constant prices

This (E/CN.3/322) will be a description and analysis of the concepts, methods and sources of data utilized by countries in estimating the various components of the production account in constant prices.

15. Statistics of the distribution of income

This (E/CN.3/323) will be a study of the concepts, distributions and classifications, and methods utilized in compiling these statistics in the light of the requirements for, as well as the sources of, these data.

16. Classification of government accounts

(a) Progress report on the classification of government accounts

A report (E/CN.3/324) will cover the progress made since 1962 in applying, in a number of countries, classifications of government transactions along the lines developed in the Manual for Economic and Functional Classification of Government Transactions (ST/ECA/49). It will further review the recommendations of the regional workshops held in Santiago, Chile in 1962 and in San José, Costa Rica in 1963, the latter recommending a uniform scheme for the countries of Central America. Reference will also be made to the Inter-regional Budget Workshop of 1964 which recommended the development of a unified system covering the needs for economic development planning as well as for budget formulation and execution.

(b) System of classification of public debt

A document (E/CN.3/325) will discuss the classification of debt transactions of the central government sector. It will provide a definition of the government sector and of public debt. The debt transactions will be considered within the wider context of the overall transactions of the government sector. Certain classifications will be suggested for the analysis of some important characteristics of debt such as maturity, ownership, etc., and a classification giving a summary consolidated statement of the outstanding debt will also be presented.

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17. Developments in compilation and other aspects of the work on national accounts

This (E/CN.3/326) will be a report on the major developments in and plans for the compilation internationally of national accounting data and related aspects of the methodology of these statistics.

18. Progress report on balance-of-payments statistics

This report (E/CN.3/327), prepared by the Balance of Payments Division of the International Monetary Fund, will describe activities in this field over the past three years.

19. Principles and practices in the collection and compilation of price statistics

This (E/CN.3/328) will consist of an analysis of national problems and practices in gathering and compiling statistics of prices, including index numbers, and suggestions for the modification and extension of the recommendations of the Commission concerning these statistics.

20. World programmes for national censuses of population and housing

(a) Review of national experience with the 1960 programmes and progress report on international activities in connexion with the 1970 programmes

A report (E/CN.3/329) will be presented on the population and housing censuses held between 1955 and 1964 and on the availability and adequacy of the results of these censuses. Plans for the 1970 World Programmes for National Censuses of Population and Housing will be given, including details of the activities to date and a description of future plans - both regional and international - designed to promote (1) the taking of censuses around 1970, (2) the evaluation of their quality, and (3) the utilization of the results for economic and social development.

(b) Draft principles and recommendations for 1970 national population censuses

A draft revision of Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 27) will be presented (E/CN.3/330). The Commission will be asked to comment on the draft, indicate changes to be made and suggest further steps to be taken toward making the 1960 recommendations final.

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The Population Commission will consider the draft at its thirteenth session (23 March - 5 April 1965). A document (E/CN.3/331) will provide the Statistical Commission with a summary of the comments of the Population Commission on the draft.

(c) Draft principles and recommendations for 1970 national housing censuses

A draft revision of General Principles for a Housing Census (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 28) will be presented (E/CN.3/332). The Commission will be asked to comment on the draft, indicate changes to be made and suggest further steps to be taken toward making the 1970 recommendations final.

21. Population projections: techniques and draft standards for national programmes

A report (E/CN.3/333) will be presented to inform the Commission on work in the field of population projections carried out in recent years pursuant to recommendations of the Population Commission and regional economic commissions and on plans for future work in this field.

22. Progress report on other demographic statistics

A report (E/CN.3/334) will inform the Commission of developments during 1962-1964 relating to the following projects:

- (i) Collection, evaluation, publication, utilization and promotion of improvement of population statistics, vital records and statistics and migration statistics. [The promotion of the improvement of population statistics through censuses will be reported on under Item 20 (a).]
- (ii) Bibliography of sources of demographic statistics.

23. Progress report on other statistics for social programmes

A report (E/CN.3/335) will inform the Commission of developments during 1962-1964 relating to the following projects:

- (i) Compendium of Social Statistics: 1963 and plans for a 1967 issue.
- (ii) Handbook of Household Surveys: a Practical Guide for Inquiries on Levels of Living.

- (iii) Development of a standard socio-economic classification, with the collaboration of the International Labour Organisation.
- (iv) Proposed manual on methods of estimating housing needs.
- (v) Current housing statistics.
- (vi) Bibliography of sources of housing statistics.

24. Five-year programme of international statistics

At its twelfth session, the Commission considered it desirable to ask the statistical agencies if they would before the thirteenth session draw up in as much detail as possible programmes of activities for at least five years ahead and, perhaps in more general terms, for the next ten years. The Commission considered that this practice would facilitate the adaptation of the statistical programmes to the requirements of the United Nations Development Decade. The Commission felt this would assist in achieving a reasonable balance among the programmes and bring to light areas of work that might have been neglected or overlooked. A document (E/CN.3/336) will present the programmes of The Statistical Office of the United Nations, the four regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies and a number of other international and regional statistical organizations.

25. Priorities of the Commission's work programme and control and limitation of documentation

A document (E/CN.3/L.62) presenting the future work programme, with priorities, will be prepared by the Secretary-General once the Commission's decisions are made. There will also be a report (E/CN.3/L.63) on documentation, as required by resolution 1272 (XIII) of the General Assembly.

26. Other business

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

27. Report of the thirteenth session

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