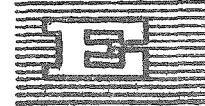


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STATISTICAL COMMISSION

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Item 8 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
ON THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION,  
HELD IN GENEVA FROM 10 TO - OCTOBER 1966

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its fourteenth session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 10 to October 1966.

Attendance

2. Attendance at the session was as follows:

MEMBERS

<u>Australia:</u>	Mr. A. M. Archer, Mr. D. V. Youngman*
<u>Belgium:</u>	Mr. A. Dufrasne
<u>Brazil:</u>	Mr. Sebastião Aguiar Ayres
<u>Canada:</u>	Mr. Walter E. Duffett, Mr. S. Goldberg*
<u>China:</u>	Mr. Jui Pao-kung
<u>France:</u>	Mr. Claude Gruson
<u>Hungary:</u>	Mr. György Péter, Mrs. Aladár Mód*
<u>India:</u>	Mr. P. C. Mahalanobis
<u>Japan:</u>	Mr. Masao Goto, Mr. Saburo Kawai,* Mr. Tatsutoshi Kano**, Mr. Kokichi Asakura,**
<u>Morocco:</u>	Mr. A. Imani
<u>Norway:</u>	Mr. Petter Jakob Bjerve
<u>Panama:</u>	Miss Luisa E. Quesada

\* Alternate

\*\* Adviser

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Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics: Mr. Valentin Fedorovich Burlin  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mr. I. Malishev, Mr. S. Genin\*  
United Arab Republic: Mr. Gamal Askar  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Sir Harry Campion,  
Mr. R. E. Beales\*, Mr. J. N. C. Hancock\*\*  
United States of America: Mr. Raymond T. Bowman, Mr. Leonard Felsenthal\*  
Uruguay: Mr. Pedro Vidal\*

#### SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation (ILO): Mr. Henri P. Lacroix, Mr. K. J. Penniment  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): Mr. R. D. Nerain  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):  
Mr. K. G. Brodin  
International Monetary Fund (IMF): Mr. Earl Hicks  
World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. W. P. D. Logan, Dr. M. Grais  
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT): Mr. Ph. Cerré, Mr. L. Till

#### NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

##### Category B

Inter American Statistical Institute: Miss Ana Casis

International Statistical Institute: Mr. E. Lunenberg, Mr. J. W. Nixon

3. Mr. G. Zhelev attended the session as an observer for the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance: Mr. I. Rizhov served as his adviser. Mr. Charles A. Yager and Mr. R. Bertrand attended as observers for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

4. Mr. P. J. Loftus, Director of the Statistical Office, represented the Secretary-General. The following members of the Secretariat participated: Mr. A. Aidenoff, Miss N. P. Powell; Mr. Barrie N. Davies, regional statistician for Europe; Mr. T. V. Viswanathan, regional statistician for Asia and the Far East; Mr. Gustaaf F. Loeb, regional statistician for Latin America; Mr. A. Mullier, regional statistician for Africa. Miss R. F. Grossman served as secretary of the Commission.

\* Alternate  
\*\* Adviser

Election of officers

5. At the 239th meeting, the Commission unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mr. Petter Jakob Bjerve (Norway)

Vice-Chairman: Mr. V. F. Burlin (Ukrainian SSR)

Rapporteur: Mr. K. M. Archer (Australia)

Agenda

6. At the 239th meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/340) but changed the order of the items as follows:

1. Election of officers of the Commission
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Integrated work programme of international statistics, including areas and problems of co-ordination
  - (a) Report of the July 1966 inter-agency statistical co-ordination meeting
  - (b) Integrated five-year work programme of international statistics, 1966-1971, including co-ordination
  - (c) Relationship between the recommendations for the 1970 population and housing censuses and those for the 1970 agricultural censuses
  - (d) Progress report on the International Trade Statistics Centre and on the elimination of duplicate requests to Governments for external trade statistics
4. National accounts and balances
  - (a) The extension and revision of the System of National Accounts
  - (b) National and sector balance-sheet accounts integrated into the System of National Accounts
  - (c) A system of income distribution statistics supplementary to the systems of national accounts and balances
  - (d) Progress in relating the System of National Accounts and the Material Products System
5. 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programmes
  - (a) Report of the Expert Group to Review the Draft Recommendations for the 1970 Population and Housing Censuses
  - (b) Draft principles and recommendations for the 1970 population censuses
  - (c) Draft principles and recommendations for the 1970 housing censuses
6. Control and limitation of documentation
7. Other business
8. Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fourteenth session.

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ON THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION HELD  
IN GENEVA FROM 10 to .. OCTOBER 1966

Addendum

INTEGRATED WORK PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS,  
INCLUDING AREAS AND PROBLEMS OF CO-ORDINATION

REPORT OF THE INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON STATISTICAL CO-ORDINATION (JULY 1966)  
(Item 3(a))

1. The Commission examined a "Report on the Inter-Agency Meeting on Statistical Activities" (document E/CN.3/350) which was held in Geneva in July 1966. The proposal to establish a co-ordinating committee on statistical activities was noted with approval. The Commission wished to record its satisfaction at the efforts being made and the progress so far achieved towards co-ordination within the United Nations family of agencies. The Commission noted that representatives of organizations outside the United Nations family would be invited to participate in meetings of the proposed co-ordinating committee on statistical activities for discussion of specific problems.
2. The Commission discussed the general problem of co-ordination of the statistical activities of the United Nations family of organizations and of other international organizations working in the same fields. The Commission recalled that at its 13th session it had expressed the view that this was an aspect of its work to which it had in the past devoted insufficient attention. It was also recalled that at the time of its establishment in 1946, the Commission had been charged, inter alia, with assisting the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General on the development of the statistical services of the Secretariat and on the co-ordination

of the statistical work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies. At that time, specific mention had been made of the necessity for making provision for such co-ordination and for the maximum co-operation in the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical data.

3. The Commission noted that the Economic and Social Council had, at its 41st session, discussed the problem of statistical co-ordination. In the course of the Council's discussion, the suggestion had been made that it might be desirable to establish a procedure by which international statistical standards drawn up by any agency should be brought before the Statistical Commission prior to promulgation. The Commission considered that if such a procedure were established it would be a possible means by which the Commission could carry out its original mandate as the co-ordinating body of the Economic and Social Council for statistical matters. It was emphasized that the setting up of a procedure for this purpose, while it might pose some problems, would in many ways be of assistance to the agencies involved in ensuring that their standards became truly international in the sense of being suitable for implementation on a world-wide basis and in fields broader than the field of specialization of the agency.

4. The Statistical Commission welcomed the proposal to establish a co-ordinating committee on statistical activities under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). Administrative co-ordination of statistical arrangements through the ACC should certainly prove advantageous. The Commission expressed the hope that this proposal would be approved. It suggested, however, that meetings of the proposed committee should not be limited to every two years but, particularly in the early years of its establishment, be subject to call as required and should meet not less frequently than once a year. The Commission considered it desirable that the reports of the proposed co-ordinating committee on statistical activities should be made available to the Statistical Commission for comment and recommendation at its regular sessions and should be circulated to Statistical Commission members in the period between sessions.

5. The Statistical Commission was confident that a co-ordinating committee on statistical activities consisting of the chief statistical officers of the various international organizations could do a great deal to improve and co-ordinate statistical standards at the world level, and to plan for the collection and dissemination of statistical information efficiently and with a minimum of duplication.

6. The Statistical Commission reaffirmed its confidence in the principle of statistical specialization by agencies, with co-ordination of world standards directed primarily to ~~those elements of each agency's programme which are inter-related in important ways and~~ which extend beyond the area of competence of any one agency. In the development of statistics which have relevance in many areas of economic and social analysis - such as the world censuses, (population, housing, agriculture, industry and trade), major classification systems, (International Standard Industrial Classification, Standard International Trade Classification, International Standard Classification of Occupations, etc.), major conceptual frameworks in national accounting, education, health and finance - great care should be taken in the promulgation of world standards, both methodological and administrative. It was necessary to afford full opportunity for the consideration of all important inter-related uses having due regard to the flexibility essential to meet the particular requirements of Member States.

7. The following resolution was adopted:

The Statistical Commission,

Noting the proposal to establish an inter-agency co-ordinating committee on statistical activities under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination

Taking account of the principle by which each agency of the United Nations family specializes in the fields of statistics appropriate to its functions,

Recognizing that certain world statistical standards have relevance beyond the specialized fields in which they originate and should therefore be reviewed and approved by the Statistical Commission for submission to the Economic and Social Council,

Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies, to prepare a report for consideration by the proposed inter-agency co-ordinating committee on statistical activities and thereafter by the Statistical Commission at its 15th session, on the important inter-related fields of statistics for which world standards are desirable and on the practical methods by which the Statistical Commission could review and approve all proposed standards in these inter-related fields prior to their promulgation as world standards.

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IN GENEVA FROM 10 to .. OCTOBER 1966

Addendum

INTEGRATED WORK PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS,  
INCLUDING AREAS AND PROBLEMS OF CO-ORDINATION

REPORT OF THE INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON STATISTICAL CO-ORDINATION (JULY 1966)

(Item 3(a))

1. The Commission examined a "Report on the Inter-agency Meeting on Statistical Activities" (document E/CN.3/350) which was held in Geneva in July 1966. The proposal to establish a co-ordinating committee on statistical activities was noted with approval. The Commission wished to record its satisfaction at the efforts being made and the progress so far achieved towards statistical co-ordination within the United Nations family of agencies. The Commission noted that representatives of organizations outside the United Nations family would be invited to participate in meetings of the proposed co-ordinating committee on statistical activities for discussion of specific problems.
2. The Commission discussed the general problem of co-ordination of the statistical activities of the United Nations family of organizations and of other international organizations working in the same fields. The Commission recalled that at its 13th session it had expressed the view that this was an aspect of its work to which it had in the past devoted insufficient attention. It was also recalled that at the time of its establishment in 1946, the Commission had been charged, inter alia, with assisting the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General on the development of the statistical services of the Secretariat and on the co-ordination of the statistical work of the United Nations

and the specialized agencies. At that time, specific mention had been made of the necessity for making provision for such co-ordination and for the maximum co-operation in the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical data.

3. The Commission was aware that the Co-ordination Committee of the Economic and Social Council had, at its 293rd meeting, discussed the problem of statistical co-ordination. In the course of that discussion, a suggestion had been made that it might be desirable to establish a procedure by which international statistical standards drawn up by any agency should be brought before the Statistical Commission prior to promulgation. The Commission considered that if a procedure of the kind suggested were established it could be a possible means by which the Commission could carry out its original mandate as the co-ordinating body of the Economic and Social Council for statistical matters. It was emphasized that the setting up of a procedure for this purpose, while it might pose some problems, would in many ways be of assistance to the specialized agencies in ensuring that their standards became truly international in the sense of being suitable for implementation on a world-wide basis and in fields broader than the field of specialization of the agency.

4. The Statistical Commission welcomed the proposal to establish a co-ordinating committee on statistical activities under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). Administrative co-ordination of statistical arrangements through the ACC should certainly prove advantageous. The Commission expressed the hope that this proposal would be approved. It suggested, however, that meetings of the proposed committee should not be limited to every two years but, particularly in the early years of its establishment, be subject to call as required and should meet not less frequently than once a year. The Commission considered it desirable that the reports of the proposed co-ordinating committee on statistical activities should be made available to the Statistical Commission for comment and recommendation at its regular sessions and should be circulated to Statistical Commission members in the period between sessions. It was hoped that arrangements could be made to this end.

5. The Statistical Commission was confident that a co-ordinating committee on statistical activities bringing into association the chief statistical officers of the various international organizations could do a great deal to improve and co-ordinate statistical standards at the world level, and to plan for the collection and dissemination of statistical information efficiently and with a minimum of duplication.



6. The Statistical Commission reaffirmed its confidence in the principle of statistical specialization by agencies, with co-ordination of world standards directed primarily to those elements of each agency's programme which are inter-related in important ways and which extend beyond the area of competence of any one agency. In the development of statistics which have relevance in many areas of economic and social analysis, great care should be taken in the promulgation of world standards. It was necessary to afford full opportunity for the consideration of all important inter-related uses having due regard to the flexibility essential to meet the particular requirements of Member States.

7. The following resolution was adopted:

Statistical Co-ordination

The Statistical Commission

Requests the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following draft resolution:

Statistical Co-ordination

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the proposal to establish an inter-agency co-ordinating committee on statistical activities under the auspices of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination,

Taking account of the principle by which each agency of the United Nations family specializes in the fields of statistics appropriate to its functions,

Recognizing that certain world statistical standards have relevance beyond the specialized fields in which they originate and that it is therefore desirable (for technical statistical reasons or in order to extend their application to a wider range of economic and social analysis, both nationally and internationally) that they should be reviewed by the Statistical Commission, prior to their recognition as world standards,

Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies, to prepare a report for consideration by the proposed inter-agency co-ordinating committee on statistical activities and thereafter by the Statistical Commission at its 15th session, on the important inter-related fields of statistics for which world standards are desirable and on the practical methods by which the Statistical Commission could review, endorse, approve, or make recommendations on proposed standards in these inter-related fields prior to their recognition as world standards.

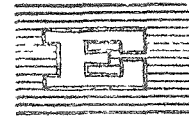
8. Reservations on the draft resolution contained in paragraph 7 were expressed by the representatives of the ILO, WHO, UNESCO and FAO.



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Addendum

INTEGRATED FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

(Item 3(b))

1. The Commission discussed the statistical programme of the United Nations and the specialized agencies on the basis of a report by the Secretary-General entitled "Integrated Five-Year Programme of International Statistics" (E/CN.3/351). The report also included information on the programme of the Inter-American Statistical Institute.
2. The Commission was of the view that the document made a very useful contribution to its work and facilitated its examination of problems of co-ordination. It was agreed that similar reports should be presented to future sessions. Certain changes in the content would, however, be necessary to include the statistical programmes of other international organizations having substantial statistical programmes.
3. It was hoped that the integration of the work of the agencies involved could be steadily extended in order to achieve a programme that was integrated in terms of the division of operations among the agencies and covering a five year period. It would be desirable also that the programmes should give indications of the priorities involved as well as the feasibility of the projects from the technical point of view as well as in relation to the overall resources required. It was felt that more precise descriptions of the projects would be necessary and that clearer expression should be given of the main purposes to be served by each project.

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4. It was considered desirable that the co-ordination of these programmes should be sought before the work programmes had advanced to a stage where co-ordination of concepts, methods and classifications became difficult. Such early consultation will avoid complication while ensuring that the procedures for achieving co-ordination do not have the effect of hindering the work and priorities of the programmes of the different agencies.

5. The need for adequate training facilities in the developing countries was emphasized and note was taken of the proposals to establish facilities for the training of statisticians for government service in Africa and Asia. It was suggested that in the special field of data processing consideration might have to be given to establishing a training centre in which officers from the developing countries could receive suitable training and demonstrations of recent applications of data processing in statistics.



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Addendum

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS CENTRE  
 (Item 3(d))

1. The Commission considered a report by the Secretary-General entitled "Progress Report on the International Trade Statistics Centre and Steps being Taken to Avoid Duplication of Requests to Governments for Statistical Data by International Organizations" (E/CN.3/353). The report described the work of the International Trade Statistics Centre in compiling and operating a bank of data covering world trade in the detail of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). It also set out particulars of the publications programme on international trade and indicated the direction of future work. In response to the request of the Commission at its 13th session, the report described the steps being taken to avoid duplication of requests to Governments for statistical data.

2. The Commission commended the foresight and initiative of the Statistical Office of the United Nations for its work in this field which responded to the growing demand for world trade data, both at the international and at the national level. It was stated that national offices were placing very considerable reliance on the International Trade Statistics Centre for arrays of data of many kinds in the field of international trade. It was realised that the operational responsibilities undertaken by the Statistical Office to meet the requirements of international organizations and those of Governments were extremely heavy and were destined to grow. It was noted that certain of the projects carried out in the Centre were

paid for by Governments and other institutions on a cost basis. It was considered that the staff of the Centre would have to be expanded to enable it to cope expeditiously with the growing volume of work. There had been delays in the fulfilment of some of the contracts undertaken by the Centre.

3. Considerable interest was expressed in the proposals for future work by the Centre, particularly in the fields of index numbers and estimations. It was understood that such calculations were envisaged only in relation to broad flows of trade and aggregates for groups of countries. It was emphasized, however, that in both these areas of work great care should be taken to ensure that the calculations were in line with those of the countries themselves and that whenever they were published, they should be accompanied by complete methodological descriptions to ensure that the technical details are available to the users of the results. The view was expressed that there was a need for annual publication at the five-digit level of the SITC of the country fascicles. It was felt that the Statistical Office should also publish the keys between the SITC and the country classifications. It was also thought that in the interests of accuracy the data bank should include revisions of their data made by the national statistical offices.

4. The Commission took note of the steps being taken to avoid duplication of requests to Governments for statistical data. The Commission welcomed the consultations which had already taken place for this purpose and those proposed for 1967 in Europe under the arrangements made by the Conference of European Statisticians. The Commission requested a report on this subject for its next session, which should include particulars of data which continue to be collected directly on a regular basis from national offices.

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Addendum

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION AND AGRICULTURAL CENSUSES

(Item 3(c) )

1. At its 13th session, the Statistical Commission had requested that a progress report on co-ordination of the international statistical programme include a report on the relationship between recommendations for the 1970 population and housing censuses and those of the 1970 agricultural censuses<sup>1/</sup>. The Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization at its 13th session, late in 1965 had considered that, in further programming work for the agricultural census, particular attention should be given to the co-ordination of the sections on "employment in agriculture" and "farm population" in the FAO 1970 Census Programme, with the relevant sections of the United Nations draft recommendations for the 1970 population census<sup>2/</sup>. Accordingly, a report entitled "Relationship Between Population and Agricultural Censuses" (E/CN.3/35) was prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Statistics Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-ninth session, Supplement No.13, paragraph 182, sub-paragraph 3.

2/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Provisional Report of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference, 20 November-9 December 1965, Rome, 1966, paragraph 305.

2. The relationship between the two censuses was examined broadly under the following headings:

- (a) Complementary use of the results of population censuses and of agricultural censuses for analytical purposes,
- (b) Feasibility of simultaneous enumeration for the two censuses,
- (c) Comparison of related concepts in the world-wide recommendations for the 1970 censuses,
- (d) Use of the population census in the preparation of the agricultural census,
- (e) Use of the agricultural census in the preparation of the population census,
- (f) Inclusion of agricultural questions in the population census,
- (g) Collection of population information in the agricultural census.

3. The Commission welcomed the work done by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization in their efforts to clarify the dimensions of the problem and its possible solutions.

4. The Commission noted that the matter of co-ordination between population and agriculture censuses had been considered also by the Expert Group convened in April 1966 to review the draft recommendations for the 1970 population and housing censuses and that their observations were set forth in document E/CN.3/344 which would come before the Commission in connexion with agenda item 5(a). They were also informed that the Study Group on Food and Agricultural Statistics of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization had also considered the report at its 6th session in August 1966, and that subsequently the Conference of European Statisticians, at its 14th plenary session, had suggested that further study and experimentation on harmonizing differences should be undertaken by countries<sup>3/</sup>.

5. In the course of the discussion, it was brought out that, such conceptual differences between the two types of censuses were difficult to harmonize, and where they were designed to meet different analytical needs they were unavoidable. It was felt, on the other hand, that operational aspects were able to be reciprocally useful and hence co-ordination in this area would further efficient utilization of all available census resources, especially important in developing countries where these are in short supply.

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<sup>3/</sup> Conf.Eur.Stats./246, paragraph ...

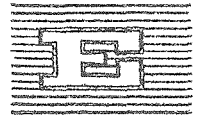


6. It was the consensus that efforts to take the two types of censuses simultaneously should not be recommended for linking purposes only, because of the burden this would place on the statistical services involved, the risk of lowering enumerater efficiency, the timing problem, the potential delay in processing the large amount of material which would result and the inability of countries to analyse the results of such a large-scale inquiry.

7. The Commission agreed that the differences among the concepts mentioned above do not affect the most important present relationship between the two censuses, which is the use of the population census enumeration districts and household lists in the organization of a subsequent agricultural census. Addition of demographic questions to the agriculture census was deemed impracticable if a complete census was taken, but the demographic data needed for analysis of the structure of the agriculture population and changes therein might very well be obtained from a post-censal sample survey.

8. It was also suggested that small multi-subject household sample surveys, using population census concepts and definitions but inquiring inter alia into "farm population" as defined in the agriculture census, would be a more desirable method for obtaining the needed data. Experiments along these lines would serve to elucidate the problem and also provide the information required to evaluate the need for the types of analysis which can result from an integrated inquiry.

9. The Commission, therefore, noted the report, suggested that countries experiment with sample surveys in seeking a solution to the problem, and requested the Secretary-General to report on the results of these studies at a later session.



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Addendum

CLASSIFICATION BY BROAD ECONOMIC CATEGORIES

(Item 7)

1. The Commission considered a report by the Secretary-General entitled "Classification by Broad Economic Categories" (E/CN.3/341). This report outlined a classification of imports and exports into 15 categories which were intended to provide a summary view of world and regional trade. The Statistical Commission had recommended at its 13th session that a classification of this type should be compiled for each reporting country and for the world and principal regions to supplement the summary data already compiled on the basis of the sections of the Standard International Trade Classification. The draft classification presented in document E/CN.3/341 had not been circulated to countries for comment. The Commission understood that the reason for this was that the classification was of a tentative nature and that the Secretariat wished to have the comments of the Commission before circulating the classification for the comments of national statistical offices.

2. The Commission recognized that there was a great demand for a classification by broad economic categories for use not only in the analysis of world trade but also for the purpose of assessing the contribution of international trade in the economic development of countries and regions. In recommending that such a classification be drawn up, the Commission had had in mind such categories as food, industrial supplies, capital equipment and consumer goods, distinguishing durable and non-durable goods. In response to the demands made upon it, the Secretariat

had sought to make additional distinctions. Some of the distinctions could not be made uniquely and permanently but varied greatly from country to country and involved serious problems of estimation.

3. The Commission requested the Secretariat to revise the classification in the light of the comments made by Commission members. It was suggested that the distinction between food for direct-consumption and food supplies to industry should not be made; the same applied to the distinction between semi-finished and finished food supplies, which was not particularly significant nor permanent; the attempt to make a distinction between products of agricultural and non-agricultural origin involved certain apparent illogicalities and did not provide categories of particular economic significance. Special attention should be given to the category of capital goods which was a category of great significance for analytical purposes.

4. The Commission felt that the Secretariat should continue its work on this subject. Certain experimentation would be possible on the basis of the material in the data bank on world trade. The classification should be revised in the light of the Commission's comments and circulated to countries. The Secretariat was requested to present a revised classification for consideration by the Commission at its 15th session, together with a summary of the comments of countries.

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Addendum

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCES

A system of income distribution statistics supplementary to the  
systems of national accounts and balances

(Item 4(c))

1. The Commission discussed the subject of "Income Distribution Statistics". It had before it a paper under that title prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/348) together with a study prepared by Mrs. M. Mód of Hungary entitled "Income Statistics of the Population" (ST/STAT/13).
2. The Commission's intention in placing this item on the agenda was to develop work on international guidelines in this field and to examine the implications of these statistics for the revision of the systems of national accounts and balances. The documents outlined the features of a scheme of income statistics that would be complementary to the national accounts and balances.
3. The Commission expressed the view that the documents before it greatly facilitated its study of this field. One broad question discussed was whether the scheme of income statistics should be conceived as being based on the concepts and categories of the national accounts. It was felt, on this point, that it would be necessary for certain purposes to go beyond the national accounts in order to derive supplementary concepts, and syntheses and presentations of data which reflected the income situation of different groups of the population and different units of enumeration. While the origin of income was shown in the national

accounts, the effects of the distribution and redistribution could only be described adequately by additional detailed statistics, which would overburden the system of national accounts and have therefore to be provided by a complementary system of income statistics. A problem arose from the fact that document E/CN.3/348 treated property income as primary income while the SNA treated it as a transfer. In order, for example, to treat interest as primary income in the SNA (where it appeared as a transfer in the income and outlay accounts) it would have been necessary to provide production accounts for enterprises. In this connexion it was also pointed out that the inclusion of certain business transfers (interest and bad debts) in the household income and outlay account in SNA was unsatisfactory from the point of view of income distribution statistics. Moreover in the national accounts there is some emphasis on the concept of compensation of employees as a measure of the cost of labour whereas for income distribution statistics it may be necessary to concentrate more on the components of income actually flowing to recipients. Nevertheless, the system of national accounts and balances provides the summary statistics showing the share of the population in national and disposable income, describes the types of incomes and the redistributive transactions, and measures the level and pattern of consumption.

4. It was emphasized that the sources of the data for income distribution statistics largely determined the nature of the statistics and the unit that can be used. Only in the case of sample surveys was it possible to exercise some choice in respect of the unit of enumeration and here difficulties were caused by the fact that the extent of non-response varied greatly with the level of income of the respondents. Mention was made of the need for information on household composition and number of earners per household for study of levels of living. In this connexion reference was made to the usefulness of distributions of expenditure and to data on per capita income where the size of households varied greatly. Reference was also made to the fact that, from the point of view of welfare, importance attached to price movements which could alter the distribution of wealth with consequential effects on levels of living.

5. The Commission noted that, in response to a resolution of the Economic and Social Council, a group of experts was to be convened at United Nations Headquarters early in 1966 to review the subject of income distribution in the context of social policy. The Statistical Office of the United Nations was preparing a paper for consideration by the group of experts which would embody the views of the Commission on the statistical aspects of the subject and on the relation of this work to the revision of the SNA. The Commission expressed its intention of reviewing at its fifteenth session the statistical questions arising from the work of this expert group.

6. The following resolution was adopted:

Income Distribution Statistics

The Statistical Commission,

Taking note of resolution 1086 D (XXXIX) of the Economic and Social Council on the subject of income distribution in the context of social policy,

Requests the Secretary-General:

- (1) To report to the fifteenth session of the Statistical Commission on statistical questions arising from the work of the expert group convened under that resolution,
- (2) To continue work on the development of international guidelines for concepts, definitions, classifications and tabulations in the field of income distribution statistics in relation to the system of national accounts and balances;
- (3) To prepare a comparative analysis of practices in countries with differing social and economic systems and with differing levels of economic development as a means of promoting international exchange of experience in this field.

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Addendum

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCES

A system of income distribution statistics supplementary to the  
systems of national accounts and balances

(Item 4(c))

In E/CN.3/L.68/Add.6 delete paragraph 3 and substitute the following:

"The Commission expressed the view that the documents before it greatly facilitated its study of income distribution statistics. It was recognized that this was a complex field of statistics in which the concepts and classifications to be used were not yet the subject of a consensus. Aside from distribution statistics of those types of income which arise directly from production, there is need for detailed statistics on the distribution of income by income size, by socio-economic classes, by various characteristics of individuals, families and households. It was generally agreed that statistics of distribution of income would need to be available in considerable detail as well as in summary form, but more work was still required to define precisely the detail which would be needed for different purposes. The summary data should be viewed as an integral part of the systems of national accounts and balances. The detailed presentations of the data, which would reflect the income and expenditure situation of different groups in the population and the effects of redistribution of incomes could more suitably be developed as complementary to, rather than an integral part of, the main systems of accounts. While it was stressed that the concepts of the main systems should be used as a basis for income distribution studies, it was felt by some that it might be necessary in the complementary systems to go beyond the concepts of the main systems of accounts and balances in order to meet the manifold requirements for intensive income analysis."

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Addendum

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCES

The Extension and Revision of the system of  
National accounts

(Item 4(a) )

1. The Commission considered the extension and revision of the SNA on the basis of the documents "Proposals for Revising the SNA, 1952" (E/CN.3/345), "Report of the Second Session of the Expert Group on the Review of National accounts and Balances" (E/CN.3/346, Part II) and "The Revision of the SNA, 1952" (E/CN.3/345/Add.1). The proposals in E/CN.3/345 dealt with the structure, concepts, definitions and classifications, and standard accounts and tables of the full system, excluding national and sector balance sheets and income distribution statistics, and the adaptation of this system to the requirements and circumstances of the developing countries. In Part II of E/CN.3/346, the Expert Group commented on these proposals, recommended modifications or further study in respect of some of them, and called attention to the need to amplify and clarify the description of certain aspects of the system. Document E/CN.3/345/Add.1 outlined the progress made in revising the SNA since the thirteenth session of the Commission and enumerated suggestions in respect of the further work that was required.



2. The Commission expressed gratification with the progress that had been made in revising the SNA since the thirteenth session. The addition to the proposals in "A System of National Accounts" (E/CN.3/320) of full definitions and detailed classifications essentially completed the description of all aspects of the revised SNA other than national and sector balance sheets and those parts of the income distribution statistics which can be fully integrated into the system. The studies which have been conducted, the regional and other international consultations which have taken place, and the second session of the Expert Group have resolved many of the problems and questions which were outstanding a year and a half ago and have contributed to significant improvements in the structure, concepts and classifications, and standard accounts and tables of the proposed SNA. The studies and discussions have also resulted in substantial extension in the common ground between the revised SNA and the developed MPS, especially in respect of important classifications; these exchanges of experience and views have been of considerable value in the development of each of the systems of accounts and balances. The adaptation of the full version of the proposed SNA which has been formulated for the purposes of the developing countries provides suitable goals for the evolution of national accounting and co-ordinated series of basic statistics in these countries.

3. The Commission considered that on the whole, the proposals in E/CN.3/345 and the relevant parts of E/CN.3/320 coupled with the modifications recommended by the second session of the Expert Group, furnished the basis for a valuable and suitable revised SNA. This system should provide appropriate guidance for purposes of developing accounting and statistical systems nationally, and devising programmes of reporting comparable data internationally. It will undoubtedly take a considerable period of time to implement the full system, even in the case of countries which are well-developed statistically.

4. The extended and revised SNA integrates the major developments in the practice of national accounting during the last decade or so (e.g. input-output analysis, flow-of-funds accounts) into a coherent and articulated system of accounts and tables. The system contains a wide range of inter-related data for purposes of economic and social analysis, which may be presented at various levels of aggregation. The co-ordination of classifications in the revised SNA (e.g. in respect of industries and commodities, kind of economic activity and general government purposes, and household goods and services and the purposes of general government and private

non-profit organizations) will enhance the usefulness of the standard accounts and tables for these purposes. The proposed definitions of the system strike, in most instances, an appropriate balance between the requirement of coherence in concept, analytical usefulness and practicability in application. However, some of the definitions should be examined with a view to introducing greater flexibility in order to take account of practical problems and difficulties. Examples of these definitions are enumerated below.

5. The use of matrices to articulate the structure of the proposed system clearly indicates the way in which the various accounts, classifications and transactions fit into and are related in the system, and furnishes a basis for co-ordinating a wide range of economic statistics and developing cross-checks and analytical comparison between the data. The standard accounts and tables of the revised SNA also portray the structure of the system, in addition to furnishing the basis for presenting the data. In order to clarify and amplify the description of the system in the next version of the document on the revised SNA, the standard accounts and tables should be utilized in addition to the matrices to describe the structure of the system. Additional means of improving the description of the structure of the system from the pedagogical point of view should also be explored.

6. Though the standard tables of the system should as far as possible fit exactly into the full matrix of the system, considerable weight needs to be given to the analytical requirements for data in designing the tables; the full matrix should not be further complicated in order solely to show tables, or even accounts, devised to satisfy special needs. Where such instances occur, the relationship of the special tables to the full matrix should be indicated as part of the description of the structure of the system.

7. Document E/CN.3/345 already contains a significant number of standard tables, and these supporting tables should be supplemented in order to provide for more adequate data on the sources of income by type and income shares and on the financial transactions of monetary, fiscal and related institutions. Moreover, the tables are designed to serve general as well as specialized analytical requirements; and vary in the complexity and detail of the data presented. The Commission therefore recommended that broad guidelines should be furnished in the next document on the revised SNA in respect of the periodicity and order of priority of compiling the standard tables and accounts. The suggestions in respect of frequency and priorities

should be explained in the light of the analytical uses of the data and the relative problems and difficulties of compiling the series. In obtaining the comments of countries on the next document, it will be desirable to gather information on availability and frequency of data, and plans for developing the series called for in the standard tables and accounts.

8. The Commission considered that the discussion of a number of other aspects of the full system needed to be amplified and clarified in the next document on the revised SNA in order to improve the description provided in respect of the system. The main aspects are:

- (i) the various purposes which the revised SNA is designed to serve and the way in which the various aspects of the system are related to these aims;
- (ii) the precise differences in the sectoring between the production, consumption and capital expenditure accounts, on the one hand, and the income and outlay and capital finance accounts, on the other; and the reasons for these differences; the relationship between the establishment-type units to be employed in the first set of accounts and enterprise-type units to be employed in the second set of accounts;
- (iii) the relationships between the classifications of general government and private non-profit units according to kind of economic activity and according to purpose; and the circumstances leading to the differences and similarities between these two classifications.

9. In the course of the discussion, it was suggested that the following points of detail in respect of concepts or definitions required further study.

- (i) In one view, it was considered desirable to raise separate institutional sectors for private and public non-financial corporate and quasi-corporate enterprises in view of the marked differences between these enterprises in financial behaviour.
- (ii) The treatment of the imputed bank service charge recommended by the second session of the Expert Group was not wholly satisfactory.

- (iii) The treatment of transactions in respect of fire and other casualty insurance should be the subject of further study, including the method of allocating the service charges and the treatment of claims arising out of capital losses.
- (iv) In one view it was considered impracticable and unrealistic to value additions of commodities produced to inventories at market price. In business accounting, these additions are usually valued at cost of production. In another view it was thought undesirable to give over-riding weight to business accounting practices in this case. These practices varied; and there was some tendency to adopt market valuation in preparing data for purposes of analysing the operations and efficiency of businesses.
- (v) Clarification was needed in respect of the allocation of consumption expenditure between general government and households in the case of the acquisition of services and goods from industries for the benefit of households which was financed at least in part by general government.
- (vi) In view of the difficulties of making reliable and comparable estimates of consumption of fixed capital, some members of the Commission considered it desirable to provide for data in the system on operating surplus and saving, gross as well as net of consumption of fixed capital. It was also suggested that the definitions should furnish guidance on the question of allocating common advertising, main office and similar expenses of enterprises among their constituent establishments for purposes of estimating value added classified according to industry.
- (vii) Practical difficulties arise in separating the value of buildings from the value of the land on which these buildings are situated in the case of transactions in used buildings; and these difficulties should be considered in relation to the capital formation accounts of sectors.

10. The Commission wished to call attention to the need for a review by the IMF of the Balance of Payments Manual in the light of the revised SNA.

11. The Commission considered that the adaptation of the full system to the circumstances of the developing countries proposed in E/CN.3/345 furnished valuable and realistic guidance for the development of national accounting and co-ordinated basic statistics in these countries. It was felt that the suggested special accounts and tables and the proposed orders of priority in developing the system took into account the data required for planning economic and social development, as well as the problems and difficulties of gathering these data. It will be necessary to amplify the discussion of the adaptation in the next document on the revised SNA in order to take more detailed account of the range of economic and social institutions and circumstances among the developing countries. Fuller description and explanation was also required in respect of the special classifications, accounts and tables of the adaptation, in relation to the full system as well as in other respects, and of the proposed orders of priority for developing the system.

12. The Commission discussed the work to be done before its fifteenth session. The papers submitted at its fourteenth session embodied the subjects which the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Expert Group on the Review of National Accounts and Balances had been able to cover to date. These subjects had been reviewed in each of the regions of the world. Some members of the Commission had detailed comments which they were requested to submit to the Statistical Office before the end of 1966. To complete this stage of the work, the Statistical Office was preparing a study of the objectives, concepts and methods and series of national accounting in constant prices and related aspects of the revised SNA. This study would be discussed in regional meetings, and would thereafter be incorporated, into the revised system. The completion of the section on constant prices would bring the work to a stage where it would be appropriate for a new document to be prepared setting out the system at its present stage of development. This new presentation would describe the structure and concepts of the system and set out the definitions, classifications and standard tables and accounts of the revised SNA. It would contain chapters on input-output analysis and national accounting in constant prices.

13. It was the aim of the Statistical Office to complete the new presentation by about the end of July 1967, after which it would be circulated to national statistical offices for comment. Regional meetings would discuss the new document, following which the Expert Group would meet, towards the end of 1967, to review the work done and reach decisions. In this way the new presentation, together with a summary of country comments and the views of the Expert Group, would be available for distribution to the members of the Commission early in 1968. This schedule of operations would require decisions by the Statistical Commission early in 1968 and the date of the fifteenth session of the Statistical Commission would have to be fixed accordingly.

14. The Commission noted that a first draft of the revised International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) was being circulated to countries for comments by the end of 1966. A second draft would be prepared and circulated with the object of completing the work by the end of 1967. In this connexion it was suggested that countries should be asked to comment on these drafts of the ISIC in relation to its requirements of the SNA. The Commission was informed that the Statistical Office intended to complete the revision of the ISIC in time for the fifteenth session of the Statistical Commission, together with an adaptation of the classification for use in classifying the activities of enterprises. It would thus be possible to replace at that time the interim industrial and enterprise classifications of the revised SNA.

15. Following the Commission's conclusions on the whole subject at its fifteenth session, the revised SNA would be issued. After the issue of the publication on the revised system, it would be necessary to prepare a scheme for international reporting in respect of it.

16. Attention was drawn to the need for an adequate translation into French of the new presentation of the revised SNA. This work would have to be done by a person having knowledge of the field of national accounts. Similar considerations applied to the translation into Russian which was particularly important because of the work proceeding on the linking of the SNA and the MPS and to the translation into Spanish. The Secretariat was requested to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that adequate translations in these languages could be circulated for comments and be available to the Commission at its fifteenth session.

17. The Commission noted that this programme of work was extremely heavy and left no place for the subjects of income distribution statistics, national and sector balance sheets and regional accounting. Most of the further work on these subjects would therefore have to be undertaken later in 1968.

18. The following resolution was adopted:

The Statistical Commission

Requests the Secretary-General:

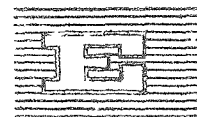
(1) to continue work on the review and development of systems of national accounts and balances, with the assistance of the Expert Group on this subject and in consultation with national statistical offices;

(2) to prepare for the Commission at its fifteenth session a presentation of the work achieved by that time on the structure, concepts, definitions, classifications, accounts and tables of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) together with the adaptations required for use in developing countries;

(3) to continue the work of revising the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) in consultation with national statistical offices and with interested Specialized Agencies with a view to submitting a draft revised ISIC to the fifteenth session of the Statistical Commission;

(4) to make adequate arrangements for the translation of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) in the French, Russian and Spanish languages.

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Addendum

PROGRESS IN RELATING THE SNA AND MPS

(Item 4(d))

1. The Commission discussed the progress made in relating the System of National Accounts (SNA) and Material Products System (MPS), and the future work to be undertaken on this subject. It had before it document E/CN.3/349, which reviewed the ways in which the common ground between the two systems had been extended and the linking of the two systems. It also outlined work that remained to be done in these respects and to delineate the means of passing from one system to the other and to define important aggregates of common interest.
2. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the degree to which the common ground between the revised SNA and developed MPS had been extended. Not only has the comparability between the two systems been increased, but in certain respects the value of each of the systems for purposes of analysis has also been enhanced. The common classifications which have been developed in respect of kind of economic activity, household consumption of goods and services and general government purposes, are of central importance in forging links between the two systems. The considerable attention devoted in the revised SNA to gross output and input-output analysis of the supply and use of goods and services brings the two systems closer together, as well as increasing the value of the revised SNA for purposes of economic planning. The addition to the MPS of a table on the income and expenditure connected with rendering of services also extends the links between the two systems



and, at the same time, develops and improves the MPS. The extent of coincidence that has been reached between the two systems in the boundaries of the own-account production of commodities and in the scope of fixed capital formation and inventories was gratifying. The raising of a separate institutional sector for private non-profit institutions serving households in the revised SNA will also assist in forging links between the two systems and increase the usefulness of the SNA for social analysis.

3. The Commission considered that the efforts to increase the common ground between the revised SNA and developed MPS should continue, recognizing that the basic differences in economic and social arrangements and institutions between the market economies and the centrally planned economies, necessarily limited the extent to which the two systems could be brought into coincidence. Coincidence should not be sought at the expense of making either set of accounts and balances less useful for purposes of compilation and analysis in respect of the economic and social system to which the accounts and balances relate. Where differences in concept and definition remain, it will be desirable to develop and include in each system, classifications for special use if they are too detailed for general use, in order to furnish the further links required between the revised SNA and MPS.

4 The Commission wished to express its gratitude to the Conference of European Statisticians for the work of relating the two systems, which had been carried on under its auspices. The meetings on national accounts and balances of the Conference have also furnished invaluable opportunities for an exchange of experience and views in respect of the two systems which has been of assistance in the development of each of the systems. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Conference of European Statisticians planned to continue the work of relating the MPS and SNA. In addition to further efforts to increase the two systems, key aspects of this work will be: (i) developing standard terms in various languages for the main concepts of the revised SNA and MPS; (ii) improving and extending the conceptual framework and rules for linking the two systems; and (iii) developing common aggregates of special interest. The Commission attached particular importance to the total consumption of the population as a common aggregate.

5. The work of relating the MPS and SNA has been greatly facilitated by the descriptions of the MPS which have been made available by member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). The Commission noted with appreciation ~~the plans for the further work to be carried on under the auspices of the CMEA in~~ respect of the development and detailed description of the MPS.

6. The Commission was informed of the interest of developing countries in the work that was being carried on in respect of the links between the SNA and MPS. It was considered that at an appropriate stage of the work, a study should be undertaken of the relationship between the revised SNA, as adapted to the circumstances of the developing countries, and the MPS in respect of the production accounts and their supporting tables.

7. The following resolution was adopted:

The Statistical Commission

Requests the Secretary-General:

(1) In co-operation with the Conference of European Statisticians, to continue the study of the relationships between the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the Material Products System (MPS) with a view to extending the common ground between the two systems and developing common basic aggregates of special interest and in order to delineate the adjustments needed in the data of each system for purposes of linking corresponding concepts;

(2) To report on the progress of this work at the fifteenth session of the Commission.

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Addendum

NATIONAL AND SECTOR BALANCE SHEET ACCOUNTS

(Item 4(b))

1. The Commission considered the subject of national and sector balance sheet accounts which were integrated into the revised SNA. For purposes of this discussion the Commission had before it documents E/CN.3/347 prepared by the Secretary-General, the report of the second session of the Expert Group (document E/CN.3/346) and a study prepared by Professor Richard Stone, as consultant to the Statistical Office of the United Nations (ST/STAT/12).
2. The Commission noted that two separate sets of data were the subject of particular interest: statistics of the stocks of fixed assets and inventories in respect of establishment-type units; and complete balance sheets, covering financial claims as well as real assets, in respect of enterprise-type units. While both types of data were relatively new areas of statistical development, work was relatively more advanced in the case of the stock of fixed assets than in the case of complete balance sheets. Questions of concept and valuation and difficult problems of collecting and compiling data arose in respect of both aspects, but were perhaps more serious in the case of complete balance sheets than the stocks of real assets. The Commission therefore considered that it would be useful to make an inquiry into the character of the balance sheet statistics gathered and planned by national statistical authorities and practices and views in respect of these data. It was thought that it might be appropriate to devote particular attention to statistics of the stock of fixed assets.

3. The Commission noted the conclusion of the Expert Group that the revised SNA would easily accommodate the integration of balance sheet accounts. It was considered desirable in this connexion that the structure of the revaluation accounts be studied, since these accounts furnish the links between the flows and the stocks of the system.

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Addendum

1970 WORLD POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS PROGRAMMES

(Item 5)

1. The Commission reviewed the third drafts of the "Principles and Recommendations for a Population Census: Draft Recommendations for the 1970 Censuses" (E/CN.3/342) and the "Principles and Recommendations for a Housing Census: Draft Recommendations for the 1970 Censuses" (E/CN.3/343). For its information, the Commission also had the "Report of the Expert Group to Review the Draft Recommendations for the 1970 Population and Housing Censuses" (E/CN.3/344).
2. The Commission was informed that the drafts were revisions of first drafts which had been considered by the Commission at its thirteenth session. In accordance with Resolution 13 (XIII) of the Commission,<sup>1/</sup> the first drafts had been circulated to States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, to regional economic commissions, to other regional bodies, and to interested specialized agencies for their review. Further in accordance with the resolution, second drafts were prepared, taking into account the suggestions made by the Commission and the comments received as a result of the circulation of the first drafts. The second drafts were then reviewed by an Expert Group convened for this purpose, as explained in E/CN.3/344.
3. The recommendations of the Expert Group were embodied in the third drafts, which also took into account some additional comments on the first drafts, received too late for consideration by the Expert Group. The third drafts were, therefore, a synthesis of all the advice received by the Secretary-General.

<sup>1/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No.13, para. 136.

4. The Commission was informed of the continuing close co-operation with the regional economic commissions and with the Inter-American Statistical Institute, which had resulted in a reflection of regional needs in the world-wide draft recommendations.
5. The Commission expressed its gratitude for the work done by the members of the Expert Group. It specially endorsed their views in relation to the international programme of training which is designed (1) to provide direct expert advice to individual Governments upon request; (2) to promote and assist in the organization of national and sub-regional training centres on census organization and procedures, and (3) to organize, under the United Nations development programme, training and other assistance in data processing and regional seminars on organization and conduct of censuses.
6. In the course of the discussion of the draft recommendations (E/CN.3/342 and E/CN.3/343), it was pointed out that they would both play a basic role in the 1970 censuses, which are recognized as among the most complex operations to be undertaken by countries. The drafts were therefore welcomed as guides to countries planning to carry out censuses.
7. Recognizing the wide applications of the recommendations, a number of members made suggestions for editorial changes, to be made by the Secretariat, which they felt would clarify the concepts. In addition, a number of substantive changes were suggested; the latter are set forth below:  
PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A POPULATION CENSUS (E/CN.3/342)
8. It was suggested by one member that collection of statistical information on small establishments and small agricultural holdings be incorporated into the population census programme since these data tend not to be covered in economic and agricultural censuses. However, since this was already set forth as a possibility in paras. 32-33, the change in emphasis would involve inclusion in para. 167(a) and elsewhere of (1) name and address of establishments, and (2) (for employers) number of employees. This change was not, therefore, accepted.

9. It was suggested that the unit of enumeration in the population census should be the family, defined as the group of persons living together who are related and have a common budget, but this suggestion had been considered and rejected by the Statistical Commission at previous sessions and by the Expert Group on the grounds that the household is preferable as a unit of enumeration.

10. A question was raised as to the correctness of the definition in paragraph 143 of a "household" as regards the treatment of "boarders" and "lodgers". It was explained that the change in the definition whereby persons boarding with households were not considered as part of that household (whereas previously they were so considered) had been suggested by several countries in submitting their written comments on the first draft. The change had also been endorsed by the Expert Group as providing an easier approach for the enumerator and a more realistic reflection of national practices. The Expert Group also had pointed out that both boarders and lodgers pay for their food and lodging, like any household; the only difference is that the boarder takes his meals where he lives while the lodger takes them outside. Neither a boarder nor a lodger necessarily shares the other arrangements for living of his host household, nor does the boarder contribute to a common budget. Another reason in favour of the change is that it eliminates the necessity for the provision previously included in E/CN.3/330, para. 152, which said that "Households in which the number of boarders and lodgers exceeds five should be considered to be collective households". This classification of households as "private" or "collective" according to an arbitrary number (5) of boarders and lodgers, seemed undesirable to the Expert Group. The definition of household in document E/CN.3/342 was endorsed.

11. One member suggested that "language", "national and/or ethnic group" and "main source of livelihood" should be transferred to the "recommended" list shown in para. 167(a), while "place of birth", "children born alive" and "children living" should be transferred from the basic to the "other useful" list. The Commission was informed that the principle of classification of topics as "recommended" or "other useful" was that "recommended" should be those considered basic in all four regional programmes while "other useful" are those basic in less than four regional programmes. This principle was endorsed and had been adhered to except for literacy, school attendance and children living,

12. These three topics, although in the World recommended list, are not in the basic European programme and it was, therefore, suggested that they be (1) put in a special category, or (2) transferred to the "other useful" group. The Commission was informed that literacy and school attendance were considered of world-wide importance in connexion with economic and social development and the programmes of the United Nations and UNESCO to further this development by eradication of illiteracy. It was also noted that for school attendance, other sources, such as reliable school enrolment figures were not readily available in many countries. Similarly, collection of information on children living had been recommended by the Population Commission as a vital element in demographic research. Several countries, as well as the Expert Group, had recommended the inclusion of these three topics in the recommended list and it was for these reasons that it seems expedient to leave them in that category.

13. It was suggested that an editorial change in the boxhead of the list in paragraph 167(a) might make clearer the fact that countries need not investigate those recommended topics which are considered inappropriate to their particular circumstances.

14. The inclusion of the topic "main source of livelihood" in the world programme was questioned by two members, because of the difficulties of including the detailed questions necessary to elicit satisfactory information and the appropriateness of the census as the vehicle. It was explained that the principle set forth in paragraph 12 covered its inclusion since it was basic in the European programme.

15. It was suggested that "occupation" should be called "main occupation" and remain in the recommended list and that "secondary occupation" should be added to the "other useful" group. If this were done an explanation would have to be given of the criteria used to distinguish "main" from "secondary", that is, whether it is based on (1) time expended; (2) salary received; etc. The Commission rejected this for the reasons given in paragraph 12.

16. It was suggested that paragraphs 269-272 be deleted because of the impossibility of investigating "income" which is basic to the classification. The Commission did not endorse the suggestion for the reasons given in paragraph 12 and because it could not accept the reasons advanced for the suggestion.



17. It was suggested by two members that paragraph 275 be changed to conform to the European programme and recommend that, with the exception of seasonal and frontier workers, economically active persons should be enumerated in the country where they were employed. The Commission was informed that the document purposely avoided recommending the inclusion or exclusion of certain specific groups in the "total population" because of the varying practices and circumstances of countries in this respect. The Commission thought that while such foreign workers should be enumerated and appropriately classified in the tabulations of the census, it was not feasible to specify how they should be regarded from the point of view of the "total population".

18. The Commission agreed that a rubric "persons working abroad, (excluding seasonal and frontier workers)" might be added to the classification in paragraph 277.

19. It was suggested that the time reference period, mentioned in paragraph 283 be changed from one week to one year. It was noted that "one week" is the ILO recommendation for current activity, while for "usual activity" a longer period can be used, and the suggestion was rejected.

20. The Commission was informed that "income recipients" in paragraph 288 was not a category in the classification of "not economically active population" in the European programme because information on this is obtained from "main source of livelihood" - a topic basic in the European programme. Since "main source of livelihood" is not a "recommended" topic in the world programme the Commission decided to maintain "income recipients" in paragraph 288.

21. It was suggested that a table showing "households by size and socio-economic status of head" be added to paragraph 305. Such a table had been omitted deliberately because of the limited number of countries able to employ a socio-economic classification and this view was endorsed.

#### PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A HOUSING CENSUS (E/CN.3/343)

22. It was suggested that permanent buildings which were designed for residential purposes but which are used at time of census for other (business) purposes, should be counted in the housing census.

23. Similarly, doubts were expressed as to the correctness of including as living quarters places or premises that are in use as such at the time of the census even though they were not originally intended for habitation. The Commission considered that these changes were neither desirable nor practicable.

24. Several members mentioned the need to include "living floor space" area of rooms, as a recommended topic in paragraph 234, but the Commission noted that, since this topic was not recommended as "basic" in all regional programmes, it was not included in the world programme. It was also pointed out that the difficulties of obtaining the data would suggest the use of a sample survey for this purpose, rather than the census.

25. It was suggested that "Private ownership" in the classification of ownership in paragraphs 304-306 be sub-divided into (1) used for own needs and (2) leased to others. The attention of the Commission was called to the fact that "tenure" is treated in paragraphs 312-314 and that it is recommended that the two should not be confused. It was also pointed out that tabulation No.13 would provide the required information.

26. The Commission adopted the "Principles and Recommendations for a Population Census" and the "Principles and Recommendations for a Housing Census" as modified as being suitable on a world basis and requested the Regional Conferences of Statisticians to conform to the regional recommendations as far as practicable. It emphasized the important contributions that they would make to the improvement of the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of statistical information required to chart the progress made towards achieving the objectives of the United Nations Development Decade. It also stressed the need for increased and continuing assistance to countries, under the 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programme, to encourage them to take censuses around 1970 and to assure the adequate implementation of the recommendations in their censuses.

The following resolution was adopted:

Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population and  
Housing Censuses

The Statistical Commission

Requests the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following draft resolution:

Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population and  
Housing Censuses

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the report of the fourteenth session of the Statistical Commission and the adoption by the Statistical Commission of principles and recommendations for population censuses and housing censuses to be taken around 1970,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1710 (XVI) of 19 December 1961 on the United Nations Development Decade, which requests the Secretary-General to develop proposals for the intensification of action in the fields of economic and social development with particular reference to the need to review facilities for the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of statistical and other information required for charting economic and social development and for providing a constant measurement of progress towards the objectives of the Decade,

Recognizing the important role of population censuses and housing censuses as primary sources of basic national data for achieving the above-mentioned purposes,

Further recalling its resolution 1054 B (XXXIX) of 16 July 1965, which (a) requests the Secretary-General to proceed with the development of 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programmes and (b) recommends that States Members of the United Nations undertake to carry out population and housing censuses during the period 1965-1974 and that they take into account the international recommendations in order that the censuses may meet national requirements and facilitate the study of population and housing problems on a world-wide basis,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to publish the Principles and Recommendations for a Population Census and the Principles and Recommendations for a Housing Census and to distribute copies to States Members of the United Nations

and members of the specialized agencies, to regional economic commissions and other appropriate regional bodies, and to specialized agencies;

2. Further requests the Secretary-General to give assistance to Governments in the implementation of these principles and recommendations by mobilizing all available resources to help in the very large task of meeting the needs of countries in this area, as by the revision of the Handbook of Population Census Methods, the preparation of a handbook of housing census methods, the preparation of a technical manual on methods of evaluating population and housing census results, and the provision of technical advice and fellowships under the Technical Co-operation Programme.

UNITED NATIONS  
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DRAFT REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
ON THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION HELD  
AT GENEVA FROM 10 to OCTOBER 1966

Addendum

I. OTHER BUSINESS

1. In the course of its session, frequent reference was made to the absence or inadequacy of translations, into languages other than English, of the documents before the Commission at its 14th session. The Commission emphasized that it was essential that adequate arrangements be made for the translation of Commission documents for the 15th session.

II. CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

2. In accordance with resolution 1272 (XIII) of the General Assembly and resolution 742 II (XXVIII) of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission considered a memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/L.67) on control and limitation of documentation. It was noted that the documentation presented at the Commission's 14th session amounted to 853 pages as compared with 1619 pages at the 13th session. This reduction was brought about by the fact that the agenda for the fourteenth session had been limited to certain urgent items and to the fact that the time lapse between the thirteenth and fourteenth sessions was eighteen months, whereas that between the twelfth and thirteenth sessions had been three years.

### III. DATE OF NEXT SESSION

3. The Commission took note of Economic and Social Council resolution 936 (XXXV) which inter alia:

"1. Requests the regional economic commissions, the functional commissions and the standing committees of the Council to review the number and timing of their meetings and of those of their subsidiary bodies with a view to eliminating all those which are not essential and to reducing the frequency of others...;

"2. Further requests these commissions and committees to include in their next reports to the Council a statement of the results of this review and of the considerations on which they are based...".

4. The Commission was informed of the revised arrangements on the timing of the regular meetings of the Economic and Social Council. The Commission expressed the view that its work programme would require that the fifteenth session of the Commission should be held in the spring of 1968 and recommended that arrangements be made for its meeting to be held in New York at that time.