

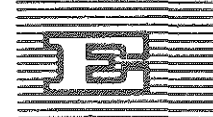
UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CN.3/L.69  
13 October 1967

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Fifteenth session  
26 February-8 March 1968

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Memorandum by the Secretary-General

1. Election of officers

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

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Commission may wish to modify the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/355) and to consider the sequence in which the items on the agenda should be discussed.

3. National accounts and balances

(a) The revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA)

The Commission will have before it "Proposals for the Revision of the SNA, 1952" (E/CN.3/356); the report (E/CN.3/357) of the third session of the group of experts on the document, in the light of the consultations with national statistical offices and other bodies; and a summary (E/CN.3/358) of any major unresolved questions in respect of the new system and of proposals for future work, including balance-sheets and regional accounts. The first document will give a complete and detailed description of the extended and revised SNA, including its adaptation to the circumstances of the developing countries. The Commission may wish to consider the system of national accounts delineated in the document as a set of new international guide-lines. The Commission may also wish to discuss the programme of future work.

(b) Progress reports on related aspects of statistics

The Commission will have before it progress reports on the work proceeding in respect of (a) the Material Product System (MPS) and links between the SNA and MPS (E/CN.3/362); (b) a system of income distribution statistics complementing the systems of national accounts and balances (E/CN.3/363); (c) techniques of common methods of valuation for purposes of international comparisons of the main aggregates of national accounts and related series (E/CN.3/364).

4. Balance-of-payments statistics

A progress report (E/CN.3/365), prepared by the Balance of Payments Division of the International Monetary Fund, will describe activities in this field over the past few years.

5. Classifications of kind of economic activity

(a) Revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all economic activities (ISIC)

The Commission will have before it a draft revised ISIC (E/CN.3/359) and a report (E/CN.3/360) summarizing the comments of national statistical offices on the draft classification and setting out any changes required in the draft ISIC.

(b) Other schemes of classification

A proposal (E/CN.3/361) in respect of a classification of enterprises according to kind of economic activity and the principles of a scheme of classifying commodities will be submitted for preliminary discussion by the Commission.

6. Industrial statistics

(a) International recommendations for a system of industrial statistics

A document (E/CN.3/366) will be submitted in response to the request of the Commission at its thirteenth session for the revision of the international recommendations for annual industrial inquiries and the development of recommendations for more frequent industrial inquiries. The document will also

propose some amendments to the existing recommendations for inquiries of a benchmark nature (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 17, Rev.1). The document was circulated for comments to selected national statistical offices and a summary (E/CN.3/367) of the comments received will also be submitted to the Commission.

(b) International recommendations for basic lists of industrial commodities

At its thirteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General "to prepare, in consultation with the regional economic commissions, international recommendations for the establishment of a basic list of selected industrial commodities for which industrial production data should be compiled and of materials for which data on consumption should be compiled" (resolution 6 (XIII)). A document (E/CN.3/368) on this subject will contain the proposal for a list of selected commodities for annual production statistics and will suggest possible directions for its further development.

(c) International recommendations on construction statistics

Work on the development of a set of recommendations for the compilation of construction statistics has been undertaken in the last two years. A document (E/CN.3/369) on this topic will present a set of recommendations for the approval of the Commission. The document was circulated for comments to selected national statistical offices and a summary (E/CN.3/370) of the comments received will also be submitted to the Commission.

(d) Progress report on industrial and distributive-trade statistics

This report (E/CN.3/371) will give a brief account of aspects of the work on industrial statistics other than under (a)-(c) above and on distributive-trade statistics. It will include a report on the 1963 World Programme of Basic Industrial Statistics and will make recommendations for a similar programme for 1973. It will deal with further work in the field of index numbers of industrial production, the publication of The Growth of World Industry, 1953-1965: National Tables (Statistical Papers, Series P, No. 4) and the compilation and publication of industrial commodity production statistics. In the field of distributive-trade statistics, it will describe work on both data collection and methodology.

7. International work programme and co-ordination

(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination's Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities

The first session of the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, created by ACC at its forty-third session, took place in Rome from 10 to 13 July 1967. Representatives of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Inter American Statistical Institute participated in the meeting. The report (E/CN.3/372) of this meeting will be submitted to the Commission.

(b) Integrated five-year programme of international statistics

A report entitled "Integrated Five-Year Programme of International Statistics" (E/CN.3/351) was submitted to the Commission at its fourteenth session in pursuance of its resolution 15 (XIII). The Commission felt that this report had facilitated its examination of problems of co-ordination and expressed the view that similar reports should be presented to future sessions. A revised report (E/CN.3/373), extended to the year 1972 and entitled "Integrated Statement of International Statistical Programmes" (title modified at the request of the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities), will be submitted to the Commission.

(c) Co-ordination of world standards

The Economic and Social Council, having taken note of the report of the Commission on its fourteenth session, requested 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 fifteenth session, on the important interrelated fields of statistics for which world standards are desirable and on the practical methods by which the Statistical Commission could review and make recommendations on proposed statistical standards in these interrelated fields prior to their recognition as world standards" (resolution 1214 (XLII)). A report (E/CN.3/374) will be submitted to the Commission in pursuance of this resolution.

(d) Co-ordination of statistical questionnaires

A report (E/CN.3/375) will inform the Commission of the terms of Council resolution (1281 (XLIII)) with respect to all statistical questionnaires emanating from United Nations bodies.

(e) Relationships with non-United Nations inter-governmental organizations

A report (E/CN.3/376) will inform the Commission of the terms of Council resolution (1267 B (XLIII)) with respect to relationships between the Council's subsidiary bodies (of which the Statistical Commission is one) and non-United Nations inter-governmental organizations active in fields of concern to them.

8. Demographic and housing statistics

(a) Progress report on improvement in demographic statistics

This (E/CN.3/377) will describe the progress made in the promotion of the improvement of population, vital and migration statistics. Cross-reference will be made to E/CN.3/378 for details of developments in connexion with the 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programmes and to E/CN.3/388 for a proposed revision of the Principles for a Vital Statistics System.

(b) Progress report on the 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programmes

The (E/CN.3/378) will describe the development of the Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 44) and the Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Housing Censuses (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 45). A report on the number of censuses held 1965-1967 and proposed to be held 1968-1974 will be included, as will plans for training of upper- and middle-level census staff.

(c) Proposals for revising the Principles for a Vital Statistics System

In response to resolution 14 (XIII) of the Commission, a proposal (E/CN.3/388) will be submitted for the revision of the Principles for a Vital Statistics System (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 19), the international recommendations for the improvement and standardization of vital statistics, adopted by the Commission in 1953 and approved by the Economic and Social Council the same year.

(d) Progress report on improvement in housing statistics

This (E/CN.3/379) will be comparable to the report on demographic statistics under (a) above, with cross-reference to E/CN.3/378 for progress in the housing census programme. It will describe advances in current housing statistics and housing surveys and outline future plans.

(e) Progress report on computerization of demographic statistics

At its thirteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretary-General "to continue to study the collection, tabulation and analysis of population census statistics at the international level in the light of possible applications of electronic data processing, and to prepare a report on the scope of the project for a centre for population data and the procedures necessary to implement it" (E/4045, para. 163). In pursuance of this request, a report (E/CN.3/380) will set forth (a) progress in the current programme for verification, standardization, storage and retrieval of international demographic statistics, (b) prospects for utilization of this computerized data bank and (c) progress in developing a generalized or master programme for the 1970 censuses of population to permit processing of national censuses by computer with minimum recourse to experts on programming.

9. External trade statistics

(a) Progress report on the International Trade Statistics Centre and on the elimination of duplicate requests to Governments

This (E/CN.3/381) will be an account of the progress of the Centre since the fourteenth session of the Commission. The current status of (a) reporting by Governments, (b) capabilities of the new computer system IBM 7044 and 1401 installed at United Nations Headquarters in November 1965, (c) dissemination of the data and (d) special processing of data by computer at cost to meet the needs of Governments, international organizations, academic institutions and private firms will be described. Developments in the elimination of duplicate requests to Governments for external trade statistics will be reported.

(b) Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC)

This classification was discussed at the fourteenth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/341). The Commission felt that certain categories could not be uniquely and permanently made and, therefore, should be merged and that new categories such as that of fuel, power and lubricants and of transport equipment should be introduced. A revised version of the BEC (E/CN.3/382) will be submitted to the Commission. Comments from Governments will be included.

(c) Recommendations for the definition and statistical treatment of the main categories of commodities in the inward and outward flows of international trade

A report (E/CN.3/383), requested by the Commission at its thirteenth session, will be submitted bringing together all important elements affecting international comparability on which there have been recommendations or agreements, either explicit or implicit, by the Commission over the years. After the fifteenth session of the Commission, the Statistical Office of the United Nations will compile descriptions of national practices showing degree of adherence to or deviation from the Commission's recommendations.

(d) OECD's proposal for the reclassification of paper and paperboard (Division 64) in the Standard International Trade Classification, Revised

OECD has requested that Division 64 of the SITC be revised to meet its needs for production and trade data on paper and paperboard. The proposal involves making structural changes in the existing SITC. The Statistical Office of the United Nations has made a counterproposal which would serve OECD's needs without affecting the structure of the SITC; OECD has rejected this proposal. Both proposals have been circulated to Governments for their views. A document (E/CN.3/384) will summarize the comments and suggestions by Governments, based on which the Commission is expected to offer a solution to this problem.

10. International travel statistics

Pursuant to resolutions 4 (XIII) of the Commission and 1109 (XL) of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General appointed an Expert Group on International Travel Statistics, which met in Geneva from 26 to 30 June 1967

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"to study, in co-operation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Union of Official Travel Organisations, the methods and... the definitions most suitable for the purpose of improving statistics on tourism without increasing tourist formalities...". The report of the Expert Group (E/CN.3/385) will be submitted to the Commission which, in turn, is expected to submit its recommendations to the Council in 1968.

11. Population

A document entitled "Recent Activities in the Field of Population" (E/CN.3/386) will be submitted. This will describe the main activities of the Population Division since the Population Commission's thirteenth session and will include a résumé of the major recommendations made by the Population Commission at its fourteenth session (October-November 1967).

12. Statistics of research and development

The need for statistics in this field has become evident; the Commission will, therefore, have before it a document (E/CN.3/387) containing proposals for future work.

13. Frequency and length of sessions of the Commission and volume of documentation

A report (E/CN.3/L.70) will inform the Commission of the terms of Council resolution (1264 (XLIII)) with respect to the implementation of the recommendations on the above-listed subjects of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts to Examine the Finances of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies.

14. Other business

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

15. Report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

The report of the Commission on its fifteenth 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.



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Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CN.3/L.69/Corr.1  
4 January 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Fifteenth session  
26 February - 8 March 1968

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Corrigendum

Page 7, line 8

Replace item 9 (c) by the following text:

- (c) Recommendations for the definition and statistical treatment of the main categories of commodities in the inward and outward flows of international trade

A brief report (E/CN.3/383) will inform the Commission of the steps being taken to compile and publish a document summarizing recommendations on this subject.

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UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
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SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
LIMITED

E/CN.3/L.69/Corr.2  
29 January 1968

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
Fifteenth session  
26 February-8 March 1968

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Corrigendum

Page 5, line 25

Replace item 8 (c) by the following text:

"(c) Proposals for revising the Principles for a Vital Statistics System

A brief report (E/CN.3/388) will inform the Commission of the status of the revision of the Principles for a Vital Statistics System, prepared in response to resolution 14 (XIII) of the Commission. The revision, entitled "Recommendations for the improvement and standardization of vital statistics: draft proposals" (E/CN.3/388/Add.1), will not be available in time for substantive consideration by the Commission."

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