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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note 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 sixteenth session to the beginning of the seventeenth session of the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Commission may wish to modify the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/391) and to consider the sequence in which the items on the agenda should be discussed.

3. Co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes

(a) Report on the consultations between a working group of the Statistical Commission and the representatives of the United Nations and the specialized agencies

In accordance with resolutions 9 (XV) of the Commission and 1306 (XLIV) of the Economic and Social Council, a meeting between a working group of the Commission and the representatives of the United Nations and the specialized agencies took place at Geneva from 10 to 13 March 1969. The report (E/CN.3/392) on the consultations will be before the Commission. It was agreed that a second meeting should immediately precede the sixteenth session of the Commission; an oral or written report on the second meeting will be presented to the Commission.

(b) International statistical programmes, 1970-1974

A report (E/CN.3/393) entitled "International Statistical Programmes, 1970-1974", based on material furnished by the statistical divisions of the international organizations concerned and in the detail recommended during the March 1969 consultations (see (a) above), will be before the Commission. The report will be discussed at the fourth session of the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (tentatively scheduled for October 1969), as well as at the second round of consultations (see (a) above). An oral or written report on these discussions will be presented to the Commission.

4. Integrated system of demographic, manpower and other social statistics

The Commission will have before it an outline (E/CN.3/394) of proposals in respect of the objectives, scope, framework and content of an integrated system of demographic, manpower and other social statistics and in respect of a plan of work on this subject. The Commission may wish to comment on these proposals.

5. Developments in national accounts and balances and related subjects

A report (E/CN.3/395) will be presented to the Commission on (i) progress since the fifteenth session in introducing the new System of National Accounts (SNA) and in using it and the System of Material Product Balances (MPS) for purposes of international reporting and formulating co-ordinated bodies of basic statistics and (ii) plans for work in respect of national accounting. The Commission may wish to comment on this report.

6. System of Material Product Balances (MPS) and links between the MPS and the System of National Accounts (SNA)

(a) Final version of the MPS

The Commission will have before it a description of MPS (E/CN.3/396) adopted by the Standing Commission on Statistics of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

(b) Progress in defining links between MPS and SNA

A report (E/CN.3/397) will be presented to the Commission on the delineation of links between the new SNA and MPS and on the data required to pass from one system to the other. The Commission may wish to comment on this work.

7. The balance-sheet and revaluation accounts of SNA

Proposals concerning the definitions, classifications and standard accounts and tables in respect of the balance-sheet and revaluation accounts of the new SNA will be presented (E/CN.3/398) for comment by the Commission.

8. Statistics of the distribution of income and wealth

The Commission will have before it two documents, "National practices in statistics of the distribution of income, outlays and wealth" (E/CN.3/399) and "A draft complementary system of statistics on the distribution of income and wealth" (E/CN.3/400). The first will furnish a comparative analysis of the collection and compilation of these data; the second will consist of proposals in respect of the structure, concepts and definitions, classifications and tabulations of an integrated system of statistics of the distribution of income outlays and wealth which complements the systems of national accounts and balances. The Commission may wish to comment on these proposals and to consider the further work required in order to formulate international guidelines in respect of this area of data.

9. Statistics of prices and quantities

Two documents will be presented to the Commission on the results of the work carried on for purposes of developing international guidelines in respect of the index numbers and other series of an integrated system of prices and quantities statistics which fits into the framework of the national accounts and balances. The first (E/CN.3/401) will deal with the concepts, definitions and classifications of this system; the second (E/CN.3/402) will concern the methods of gathering and compiling these series. The Commission may wish to comment on these reports and to consider the plan for further work on this subject.

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10. Balance-of-payments statistics

A progress report (E/CN.3/403), prepared by the Balance-of-Payments Division of the International Monetary Fund, will describe activities in this field over the past two years.

11. Central directories of establishments and enterprises

A brief outline (E/CN.3/414) of the uses of such directories and the problems of constructing them will be before the Commission.

12. Recommendations for the 1973 World Programme of Industrial Statistics

Draft recommendations dealing with various aspects of the 1973 World Programme of Industrial Statistics will be distributed for comment to countries and interested regional and international organizations. The recommendations will cover (i) the general statistical objectives of the 1973 Programme (E/CN.3/404), (ii) a standard list of products and materials for use in commodity reporting (E/CN.3/405) and (iii) the organization and conduct of the inquiry (E/CN.3/406). Summaries of the comments received on the draft recommendations will be before the Commission (E/CN.3/404/Add.1, E/CN.3/405/Add.1 and E/CN.3/406/Add.1).

13. Development of recommendations of statistics of the distributive and service trades

At its fifteenth session, the Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a study of national practices and experiences in distributive and service trade statistics to serve as a basis for the revision and extension of the present international recommendations in this field. The Commission will have before it this study (E/CN.3/407), together with a summary of comments (E/CN.3/407/Add.1) received from national statistical offices and the regional economic commissions.

14. External trade statistics

(a) Classification by Board Economic Categories (BEC)

A revised version (E/CN.3/408) of the BEC classification, reflecting modifications in the light of the comments of the Commission at its fifteenth session, will be before the Commission for possible adoption.

(b) Revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

At its fifteenth session, the Commission felt that in order to ensure the usefulness over time of SITC, periodic revisions should be undertaken in conjunction with revisions of the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature if feasible. A brief progress report (E/CN.3/409) on the revision of SITC will be before the Commission.

(c) Analysis by mode of transport

A demand for external trade statistics analysed by mode of transport has been felt for many years. A document (E/CN.3/410) describing recent developments in these statistics and the level of detail required will be before the Commission, which may wish to call the attention of Governments to this demand and to request that data analysed by air, ocean and inland transport be made available to the International Trade Statistics Centre of the United Nations Secretariat.

15. Demographic and housing statistics

(a) Recommendations for improvement and standardization of vital statistics

In response to resolutions 14 (XIII) and 11 (XV), the Commission will have before it a revised draft of "Recommendations for the improvement and standardization of vital statistics" (E/CN.3/411) and the comments of the Population Commission at its fifteenth session (November 1969) on these "Recommendations" (E/CN.3/411/Add.1). The Commission may wish to consider approving these "Recommendations" as a new international standard, replacing the 1953 Principles for a Vital Statistics System.

(b) Migration statistics

The need for improving migration and travel statistics, both international and internal, has recently been expressed in connexion with several diverse activities of the United Nations, including, inter alia, the work on nomads, the "brain drain", tourism, population projections and urbanization. A report (E/CN.3/412) will inform the Commission of the scope and intensity of this interest and set forth proposals for a work programme in this area.

(c) Progress report

This report (E/CN.3/413) will give a brief account of the progress achieved in furthering the aims of the 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programmes, as well as developments since the fifteenth session of the Commission in improving current demographic and housing statistics.

16. Time and place of the seventeenth session

The Commission may wish to indicate the time and place of the seventeenth session which would best further the smooth functioning of the Commission and the effective implementation of the work programme.

17. Programme of work and priorities

A document presenting the future work programme and priorities will be prepared by the Secretary-General during the sixteenth session of the Commission, reflecting the decisions made by the Commission.

18. Other business

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

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

The report of the Commission on its sixteenth 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.
