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STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Nineteenth session
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION
OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

(to be held at New Delhi, 8 to 19 November 1976)

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ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

A chairman, two vice-chairmen and a rapporteur will be elected to serve from the beginning of the nineteenth session of the Commission to the beginning of the twentieth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda - E/CN.3/469L

With the exception of items 4 (a) and 8 (b), all items on the provisional agenda were agreed by the Commission at the eighteenth session. ^{1/} These two additional items were recommended for inclusion in the agenda by the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination. For details of the Working Group's consideration of the agenda, see E/CN.3/470, paragraphs 3-36. The Commission may wish to modify the provisional agenda and/or the sequence in which the items should be discussed.

+ "Notes on the prov. agenda" (Conf. Rev. Paper No. 1)

3. Co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes:

(a) Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination

Pursuant to Commission resolution 1 (XVI) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1306 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968, the Commission's Working Group held its sixth session at Geneva from 30 June to 1 July 1975. The report of the session will be before the Commission.

Documentation

"Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination; report of the sixth session" (E/CN.3/470 and Corr.1 (English only))

(b) International statistical programmes, 1977-1981

*C.R.P. #3
"Major policy objectives"*

At the eighteenth session, the Commission considered a report covering 1975-1979 and indicated that similar reports should be prepared in the future. ^{2/} Such a report, organized according to six main statistical policy objectives, will be before the Commission as a joint report of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Documentation

"International statistical programmes, 1977-1981" (E/CN.3/471)

+ Add. 1 +

^{1/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5603), chap. XIV.

^{2/} Ibid., para. 27.

4. Technical assistance for the improvement of statistics in the developing countries:

(a) Basic problems and issues

The Commission's Working Group recommended the inclusion in the agenda of the nineteenth session of an item on co-ordinating and rendering more effective statistical assistance to developing countries (see E/CN.3/470, para. 7). A document, briefly summarizing the basic issues, will be prepared by the members of the Working Group from ^{no!} Brazil, Kenya and Malaysia.

At the eighteenth session, the Commission expressed its interest in the prospects for the follow-up action to the African Census Programme in terms of developing household survey capabilities in African countries. 3/ Subsequently, the Economic Commission for Africa developed and elaborated proposals for an African Household Survey Programme. A report has been prepared by ECA, summarizing the proposals and the progress achieved in enlisting support for them.

Documentation

"Basic problems and issues" (E/CN.3/472 and addendum ~~and 2~~)
"African household survey capability programme" (E/CN.3/473)

Malaysia Kenya (cancelled)

(b) International technical assistance in statistics, 1977-1981

At the eighteenth session, the Commission considered a report covering 1975-1979 and requested that a similar report be prepared for 1977-1981. 4/ Such a report, organized by major types of activities, will be before the Commission as a joint report of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Documentation

"International technical assistance in statistics, 1977-1981" (E/CN.3/474)

5. Economic statistics:

(a) Price and quantity statistics

At the seventeenth session, the Commission requested that a system of price and quantity statistics be developed. 5/ Draft guidelines will be before the Commission.

3/ Ibid., para. 54.

4/ Ibid., para. 35.

5/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5236), para. 195 (a).

Documentation

"Draft guidelines on principles of a system of price and quantity statistics"
(E/CN.3/475)

(b) Energy statistics

The Commission will have before it a document containing, inter alia, an elaboration of the conceptual framework for the extension and enhancement of energy statistics with a view to standardizing and harmonizing definitions, terminology and methodology. A detailed description of the extension of statistical work in this field will be included.

Documentation

"Towards a System of Integrated Energy Statistics" (E/CN.3/476)

(c) System of national accounts and balances

The progress report on the work of the Statistical Office (see item 10 (c) below) will contain a section on plans and progress of a review of the national accounts and balances and the results of the Interregional Seminar on a Revised System of National Accounts (Caracas, 8-19 December 1975). In addition, the Commission will have before it a report on welfare-oriented measures to supplement the national accounts and balances, requested by the Commission at the eighteenth session, 6/ as well as a summary of the recommendations made by an Expert Group on that report.

Documentation

"Statistical Office of the United Nations" (E/CN.3/498)

"The feasibility of welfare-oriented measures to complement the national accounts and balances" (E/CN.3/477)

"Summary of recommendations of the Expert Group on Welfare-oriented Supplements to the National Accounts and Balances and Other Measures of Levels of Living"
(E/CN.3/477/Add.1)

(d) Public sector statistics

The Commission will have before it a document jointly prepared by the Bureau of Statistics of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations Statistical Office, reviewing the significant differences between IMF's draft "Manual on government finance statistics" and the United Nations "Draft manual on

6/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement, No. 2 (E/5603), para. 137.

/...

public sector statistics" and making proposals for reconciling the differences and for relating and co-ordinating the final versions of the manuals. Another document will consist of a detailing to a third level of the classification of the purposes of government in the System of National Accounts (SNA). This detailing of the classification in table 5.3 of A System of National Accounts 7/ is included in the programme of work approved at the eighteenth session of the Commission. 8/

Documentation

"Reconciliation of the United Nations 'Draft manual on public sector statistics' and the International Monetary Fund draft 'Manual on government finance statistics'" (E/CN.3/478)

"Draft detailing of the classification of the purposes of government" (E/CN.3/479)

(ST/ESA/STAT/S2)

6. Social and demographic statistics

(a) 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme

On the recommendation made by the Statistical Commission at the eighteenth session, 9/ the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1947 (LVIII) on 7 May 1975, requesting the development of a 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme. In accordance with the decision adopted by the Commission at the eighteenth session that there should be an interim report on the Programme at the nineteenth session, 10/ a progress report will be before the Commission.

In accordance with a decision of the Working Group (see E/CN.3/470, para. 19), a document on the application of cartography to censuses, prepared by the member of the Working Group from Kenya, will also be before the Commission.

Documentation

"1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme" (E/CN.3/480)

~~"Application of cartography to censuses"~~ (E/CN.3/481)

in the work of a national statistical office"

(b) Migration statistics

At the seventeenth session, the Commission considered the question of the improvement of international and internal migration statistics and, in particular, proposals for revising the existing international recommendations on the former and

7/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.69.XVII.3, pp. 87-89.

8/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5603), annex I, sect. II, project 2.4.

9/ Ibid., chap. I, draft resolution I.

10/ Ibid., para. 60.

tentative proposals for guidelines on the latter. The Commission considered that further work was required on both topics. 11/ Accordingly, revised draft recommendations on international migration statistics and a report on internal migration statistics will be before the Commission.

The Commission's Working Group agreed (see E/CN.3/470, para. 25) that a document on the improvement of statistics on the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries should also be before the Commission, prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1904 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, in particular paragraph 5 in which the Council requested the Secretary-General "to examine ... the most suitable means of improving statistics on the migration of highly qualified persons and to submit appropriate recommendations to the Committee on Science and Technology for Development ...".

Documentation

"Draft recommendations on statistics of international migration" (E/CN.3/483)

"Statistics of internal migration" (E/CN.3/484)

"The improvement of statistics on the outflow of trained personnel from developing to developed countries" (E/CN.3/485)

(c) Tourism statistics

At the seventeenth session, the Commission included in the work programme the preparation of simplified and phased draft guidelines 12/ because the Guidelines for Tourism Statistics, prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 13/ did not suggest a phased programme for the development and improvement of these statistics and could not be fully applied in the short run in a number of countries. A document will be before the Commission on draft guidelines for the use of Governments on a simplified and phased programme of statistics of tourism; another document will contain the views of national statistical offices and interested international agencies on the guidelines.

Documentation

"Draft guidelines on statistics of international tourism" (E/CN.3/486)

"Summary of comments on 'Draft guidelines on statistics of international tourism' (E/CN.3/486)" (E/CN.3/487)

(d) Strategy for further work on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics

The Commission's Working Group agreed (see E/CN.3/470, para. 27) that a

11/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5236), paras. 118-126.

12/ Ibid., para. 198 (f) (iii).

13/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.II.D.9.

strategy document should be prepared on the present state and possible further development of SSDS. Such a document will be before the Commission.

Documentation

"Strategy for further work on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics"
(E/CN.3/489)

- (e) Framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics in developing countries

At the eighteenth session, the Commission considered a note on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics for developing countries and welcomed the fact that a consultant was preparing a paper on this topic. ^{14/} The Commission will have before it a draft framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics for developing countries.

Documentation

"A draft framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics for developing countries" (E/CN.3/490)

- (f) Promoting the improvement of social statistics in developing countries

As part of the discussion at the eighteenth session on the character of a framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics for developing countries (see item 6 (e) above), the Commission approved the preparation of a strategy paper on improving social statistics in developing countries, for consideration at the nineteenth session. ^{15/} This document will be before the Commission.

Documentation

"Promoting the improvement of social statistics in developing countries"
(E/CN.3/482)

- (g) Social indicators

At the eighteenth session, the Commission considered draft guidelines on social indicators and concluded that the guidelines should be amended and circulated to national statistical authorities, regional commissions, interested specialized

^{14/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5603), para. 85 (b).

^{15/} Ibid., para. 85 (c) and (e).

agencies and other international bodies for comments and, in the light of the comments received, a revised version of the guidelines should be prepared and submitted to the Commission. 16/ These revised draft guidelines will be before the Commission.

Documentation

"Draft guidelines on social indicators" (E/CN.3/488)

7. Environment statistics

At the eighteenth session, the Commission requested "a review of the character and co-ordination of the activities of the various international agencies on statistics of the environment". 17/ This review will be before the Commission, the original version having been considered by the Commission's Working Group (see E/CN.3/470, paras. 42-46). The Commission will also have before it draft guidelines on the main features of the statistics on the material balances of energy and non-energy commodities and on the issue and abatement of pollution in a coherent body of statistics of the environment. The broad outline of the guidelines was approved by the Commission at the eighteenth session. 18/

Documentation

"Co-ordination of ~~environment~~ statistics" (E/CN.3/491) *Add. 1*

"Draft guidelines ~~for~~ statistics ~~of~~ materials/energy balances" (E/CN.3/492)

"The feasibility of welfare-oriented measures to complement the national accounts and balances" (E/CN.3/477, chap. IV)

8. International standard classifications:

(a) International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services (ICGS)

At the eighteenth session, the Commission requested that a revised draft ICGS be considered at the nineteenth session. 19/ Such a revision will be before the Commission.

Documentation

"International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services" (E/CN.3/493)

16/ Ibid., para. 80.

17/ Ibid., para. 92 (d) (i).

18/ Ibid., para. 92 (b).

19/ Ibid., para. 125 (c) (iv).

Intro. + parts I, II, III, IV

(b) Expert Group on Harmonization of Statistical Classifications

The Commission's Working Group recommended (see E/CN.3/470, para. 33) the inclusion of an item on the report of the meeting of the Expert Group on Harmonization of Statistical Classifications (held at United Nations Headquarters, September-November 1974) in the agenda of the nineteenth session. The report of the Expert Group will be before the Commission; another document will contain a summary of comments on the report by national statistical offices and international organizations.

Documentation

"The harmonization of statistical classifications; report of a meeting of an Expert Group" (ST/ESA/STAT/78)

"Summary of comments on the report of the Expert Group on Harmonization of Statistical Classifications" (E/CN.3/494)

9. Statistical organization

A document will be before the Commission summarizing various issues of statistical organization for purposes of discussion and the selection of topics for further work in this field.

Documentation

"The organization of national statistical services; a review of major issues" (E/CN.3/495)

10. Programme objectives: implementation and prospects:

(a) Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies

A progress report will be before the Commission, summarizing the statistical work of the regional commissions and of the Inter-American Statistical Institute.

Documentation

"Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies" (E/CN.3/496)

+ Add. 1
+ Corr. (E only)

(b) Statistical work of the specialized agencies

A progress report will be before the Commission, summarizing the statistical work of the specialized agencies.

Documentation

"Statistical work of the specialized agencies" (E/CN.3/497)

(c) Statistical Office of the United Nations

A progress report will be before the Commission summarizing the work of the Office; another document will contain the programme objectives, medium-term plan, 1977-1981, and the work programme of the Office.

Documentation

"Statistical Office of the United Nations" (E/CN.3/498)

"Programme objectives, medium-term plan, 1978-1981, and work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations" (E/CN.3/499)

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+ "Conf. Rm. Paper #2"

11. Other business

The Commission may wish to discuss matters not covered under other items of the agenda.

12. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Commission

(E/CN.3/L)

A draft provisional agenda will be presented to the Commission during the nineteenth session. The Commission may wish to modify the draft as necessary, based on the decisions made during the session.

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

The report of the Commission on the nineteenth session will be prepared by the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the Secretariat.

E/CN.3/L ... + Addenda