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Item 10 (c) of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: IMPLEMENTATION AND PROSPECTS

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Programme objectives, medium-term plan, 1978-1981, and work programme
of the Statistical Office of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3043 (XXVII) of 19 December 1972, approving on an experimental basis the new form of presentation of the United Nations budget and a biennial budget cycle, the Economic and Social Council on 10 January 1973 at an organizational meeting of the fifty-fourth session instructed its functional commissions (of which the Statistical Commission is one) "to state their programme objectives so that the Secretary-General can examine and elaborate the most effective and economical means of achieving the objectives in question and make appropriate recommendations in the biennial programme and budget and the medium-term plan". 1/
2. Pursuant to this instruction, the members of the Statistical Commission will have available the programme objectives and work programme of the Statistical Office for 1977-1978 and the medium-term plan for the period 1978-1981 (Conference room paper No. 2). This will provide the objectives of the Statistical Office together with a detailed description of the work programme through which the objectives will be implemented.
3. The Commission may wish to approve the objectives and work programme of the Statistical Office and request the Secretariat to implement the projects listed therein, taking into account the conclusions reached by the Commission at its nineteenth session.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1 (E/5367), p. 39, under the heading "Actions arising out of decisions of the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session".

4. Conference room paper No. 2 will reproduce a part of chapter XXIII (Statistics) of the Medium-Term Plan for the Period 1978-1981. 2/ This will permit the Commission to place the work programme for 1977-1978 in the perspective of the over-all long-term planning of the Statistical Office and thereby assist the Commission in its evaluation of the work programme.

5. In May 1976, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination reviewed the programme on statistics contained in chapter XXIII and "expressed satisfaction with the general conception and orientation of the statistics programme and commended the clear and intelligible way in which it was presented. The Committee strongly supported the programme, the high quality of which was widely recognized, and stressed its importance." 3/

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 6A (A/31/6/Add.1, vol. I), paras. 1874-1940.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/31/38), paras. 296-297.