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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

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ANNOTATIONS

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will elect at its first meeting a Chairman, ~~two~~ Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur to serve from the beginning of the twenty-first session of the Commission to the beginning of the twenty-second session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The item on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were considered by the Commission at its twentieth session 1/ and by the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its eighth session (E/CN.3/536, paras. 4-48).

A number of changes were made by the Working Group: the document on transport statistics other than shipping (included by the Commission under subitem 3 (c)) was deleted (*ibid.*, para. 13); the scope of the document on the treatment of capital in the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) (subitem 4 (b) of the Commission) was extended (*ibid.*, para. 19); the scope of the document on methods of collecting and compiling consolidated statistics of all arrivals and departures and further work in the field of international migration statistics (subitem 7 (f) of the Commission) was extended (*ibid.*, para. 30); the item entitled "Statistical organization" (item 9 of the Commission) was deleted (*ibid.*, para. 34); the name of the document on international technical co-operation in statistics (subitem 10 (a) of the Commission) was changed (*ibid.*, para. 65). In addition, the Working Group deleted the Commission's subitem 10 (d), entitled "Improving social statistics in developing countries", but requested that certain information on the subject should be included under the subitem on the National Household Survey Capability Programme (*ibid.*, para. 39). The Working Group suggested, moreover, that a document containing alternative proposals for the future work of the Commission should be prepared for discussion under the item entitled "Other business" (*ibid.*, paras. 6 and 47).

A number of editorial changes and changes in the sequence of subitems were also made in order to improve the logical presentation of the documentation to the Commission.

Documentation

"Organization of the work of the session" (E/CN.3/L.90)

3. Industrial, energy, transport and international trade statistics(a) Industrial statistics

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission draft international recommendations on the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics. Part I will

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979 Supplement No. 3 (E/1979/23), chap. XIII.

cover the general statistical objectives of the Programme, including sections on the history of the recommendations, the nature and purpose of the Programme and the general character of the Programme (scope, statistical unit, coverage, classification systems, reference period, list of items and priorities and publication of results). Part II will comprise a manual on the organization and conduct of industrial censuses; it will include sections on preliminary steps and major considerations, needs and uses of industrial statistics, general planning and organization, industrial directories, small establishments and household units, sampling, pre-testing, management and budget, questionnaires and other data-collection forms, collection of data, data processing, tabulation of data, review of tabulated data and publication of results.

Documentation

"Draft international recommendations on the 1983 World Programme of Industrial Statistics" (E/CN.3/537)

(b) Energy statistics

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report reviewing the publications of the Statistical Office which contain information on energy and outlining changes made and/or planned during the period 1979-1981. The report, will also outline the progress made in the work recommended by the Commission at its twentieth session, namely, the development of national, regional and global energy balances, the amendment and circulation of a consultant's report and the preparation of a handbook of international conversion factors. ^{2/} It will discuss the development of energy balances in the light of quantity/quality response to the energy questionnaire; the preparation of a new publication on energy balances; co-operation and co-ordination in exchanging data; and continuing problems in definitions, classification and measurement.

Documentation

"Progress report on energy statistics" (E/CN.3/538)

(c) Transport statistics

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report on the progress made in updating (from 1969 to 1975) the Results of a Pilot Study in Maritime Transport for the years 1966-1968 ^{3/} and in promoting the uniform system of collecting economic statistics of shipping, including the preparation of a manual for the implementation of that system.

^{2/} Ibid., para. 23.

^{3/} United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XVII.9.

Documentation

"Progress report on shipping statistics" (E/CN.3/539)

(d) International trade statistics

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a proposed revision of International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions. ^{4/} This will take account of the comments made by the Commission at its twentieth session, ^{5/} as well as those of an expert group which will meet from 31 March to 4 April 1980. Although the revised version will have the same basic structure and content as the earlier publication, it will include some important changes; for example, (a) the possibility of linking the general to the special system of trade and vice versa; (b) emphasis on the country of origin as far as the partner country is concerned; and (c) the replacement of the Brussels definition of value (Convention on Valuation of Goods for Customs Purposes) with the definition of the transaction value agreed within the framework of the negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Documentation

Concepts and definitions in international trade statistics, (E/CN.3/540)

4. National accounts and balances

(a) System of National Accounts (SNA)

The Secretary-General will submit two documents to the Commission. One of these documents will discuss the development of SNA; the content will depend on the outcome of a number of meetings scheduled to be held in 1980 in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and by the working party on national accounts of the Conference of European Statisticians and the expert group on SNA). The other document will discuss the problems of reconciliation of SNA and the Balance of Payments Manual. ^{6/} It will identify the nature and statistical importance of existing differences and then discuss whether the differences are important as far as the uses of the data relevant to national accounting are concerned. It may be possible to include the reactions of the expert group on SNA, scheduled to be convened in April 1980.

^{4/} United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.XVII.16.

^{5/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 3 (E/1979/23), paras. 30-36.

^{6/} International Monetary Fund, Balance of Payments Manual, fourth edition (Washington, D.C., 1977).

Documentation

"Future directions for work on the System of National Accounts (SNA)"
(E/CN.3/541)

"Relationship of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) to the
International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments Manual" (E/CN.3/542)

(b) Links between the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of
Balances of the National Economy (MPS)

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report on the work carried out on a variety of topics relating to this subject. It will include proposals for the improvement and elaboration of the conceptual framework for the intersystem comparisons and a discussion of the feasibility of application for intersystem comparisons of the System of Indicators of Non-Material Services (SINS), developed recently by the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. The report will also review the work currently under way on surveying national practices (in the context of the SNA/MPS comparisons) in the compilation of production, consumption and capital formation accounts and balances.

Documentation

"Progress report on SNA/MPS comparisons" (E/CN.3/543)

5. International Comparison Project (ICP)

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report giving the status of the phase III comparisons; the aims, methodology and status of the 1979-1984 round of comparisons; information on other methodological tasks (for example, the preparation of a manual for participating countries); and the requirements for completing the 1979-1984 round.

Documentation

"International Comparison Project (ICP) developments" (E/CN.3/544)

6. International economic classifications

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report on the progress made in the revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and in other work in the field of classification, namely, co-ordination with other organizations and the publication of several classifications.

Documentation

"Progress report on ^{the} harmonizing ^{ation of} economic classifications" (E/CN.3/545)

7. Social and demographic statistics

(a) 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report on activities at the national and international level in connexion with the Programme, including the preparation of Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses; 7/ census collection and processing methodology; a study of census staffing and cost requirements and work towards the elimination of sex-based stereotypes in national censuses and related statistics. The report will also provide information on the censuses taken in 1975-1979, those planned for 1980-1984 and the technical co-operation rendered in connexion with the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme.

Documentation

"Progress report on the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme"
(E/CN.3/546)

(b) Civil registration and vital statistics

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a review of the progress made throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries, in the improvement of civil registration systems and vital statistics, including work undertaken by the Statistical Office. The review will cover such aspects as the preparation of standards and recommendations, the provision of detailed guidelines or handbooks for implementing the standards, the organization of seminars and working groups for the exchange of experience among national officials, the promotion of training for national personnel, the provision of fellowships for training abroad, the provision of technical advisers and other technical and financial assistance and the dissemination and use of the improved statistics.

Documentation

"Progress report on civil registration and vital statistics" (E/CN.3/547)

(c) Housing and related statistics

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report which will trace the evolution of the present programme of the Statistical Office in housing and related statistics, identify the major uses and users of such statistics, describe the interrelationships with other fields of statistics and attempt to define the scope of the subject-matter. The report will contain proposals for future work.

7/ Statistical Papers, series M, No. 67 (to be issued as a United Nations publication).

Documentation

"Status report on and plans for the improvement of housing and related statistics" (E/CN.3/548)

(d) International migration statistics

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report containing a discussion of a proposed phased national programme for the collection, tabulation and publication of migration statistics, proposals for a co-operative international programme for the exchange and dissemination of immigrant stock data and a discussion of priorities for further work.

Documentation

"Strategy for implementation of recommendations on international migration statistics" (E/CN.3/549)

(e) Classification of age

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report giving information on present national practices relating to age classifications (in data collection, storage and presentation), existing international age classifications and the classifications recommended for 12 different subject areas at three different levels of detail.

Documentation

"Draft guidelines on age-group classifications" (E/CN.3/550)

(f) Classifications of size and type of locality and urban/rural areas

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report identifying users and uses of data classified by the size and type of locality and urban/rural. The report will deal with national definitions of urban/rural areas; identifiability of localities by size of population; determination of locality boundaries; availability of data on the size of the labour force in agriculture, as well as on population density for different types of localities and different types of geographical units defined for statistical purposes. In addition, existing national and international classifications of urban/rural areas by size and type of locality will be reviewed and further steps concerning the work will be outlined.

Documentation

"National practices in classifications of size and type of locality and urban/rural areas (E/CN.3/551)

(g) Links among economic, social and demographic statistics

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report covering the rationale for the development of integrated macro- and micro-data structures, the

structure of a framework for social and demographic statistics, practical considerations in establishing a linked data base, applicability under restrictive data laws and applicability to developing countries.

Documentation

"Role of macro- and micro-data structures in the integration of demographic, social and economic statistics" (E/CN.3/552)

8. Environment statistics

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report describing the work undertaken on the preparation of guidelines on the environmental concerns affecting human settlements, land, energy, natural resources and pollution; the compilation of a directory of country practices; which will provide an integrated information base; regional workshops; national pilot studies; the survey of existing international data and gaps therein; the preliminary format and structure for the organization of data and possible collection of statistics; and co-ordination measures. The report will also contain an outline of future work and will set priorities for the next steps to be undertaken.

Documentation

"Progress report on environment statistics" (E/CN.3/553)

9. Technical co-operation

(a) Training of statistical personnel

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a comprehensive review of major training activities undertaken in the world, including the activities of regional and national training centres, and various seminars, workshops and short courses organized by the specialized agencies and other international bodies.

Documentation

"Review of training of statistical personnel" (E/CN.3/554)

(b) Statistical data processing

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report covering current technical co-operation activities in statistical data processing, census and survey data processing, software development and dissemination, innovations in transferring statistical data processing technology and co-ordination and dissemination of information on the use of computer-based technology. The report will also include an appraisal of the current development of hardware and its relevance to and implications for statistics in developing countries.

Documentation

"Progress report on statistical data processing" (E/CN.3/555)

(c) National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP)

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report on the progress of NHSCP, which will include details on the extent to which the first country projects are being established; a discussion of organizational and logistical questions especially as related to co-ordination, fund-raising activities and future prospects; and proposals for future work.

Documentation

"Progress report on the National Household Survey Capability Programme
~~(NHSCP)~~" (E/CN.3/556)

(d) International technical co-operation in statistics, 1976-1985

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report on the activities of the United Nations system, several organizations outside the system and a number of countries in all areas of technical co-operation in statistics during the period 1976-1985.

Documentation

"International technical co-operation in statistics, 1976-1985" (E/CN.3/557)

10. 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 eighth session at Geneva on 29 and 30 October 1979 and will submit to the Commission a report thereon.

Documentation

"Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination; report of the eighth session" (E/CN.3/536)

(b) Review of achievements in co-ordination in selected areas and international statistical programmes, 1981-1985

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a report on achievements in co-ordination in selected areas of statistics (transport, energy, industrial production, education, fisheries and prices). The report will describe selected international statistical programmes directed towards meeting the major statistical policy objectives approved by the Commission at its twentieth session, 8/ as well as the high-priority programmes of various international organizations. This will be a joint report of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

8/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 3 (E/1979/23), para. 220.

Documentation

"Review of achievements in co-ordination in selected areas and international statistical programmes, 1981-1985" (E/CN.3/558)

11. Programme objectives: implementation and prospects

(a) Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a progress report on the statistical work of the regional commissions and the Inter-American Statistical Institute.

Documentation

"Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies" (E/CN.3/559)

(b) Statistical work of the specialized agencies

The Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a progress report on the statistical work of the specialized agencies and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Documentation

"Statistical work of the specialized agencies" (E/CN.3/560)

(c) Statistical Office of the United Nations

The Secretary-General will submit two documents to the Commission. One will be a progress report on the work of the Office; the other will be a note presenting programme objectives, the medium-term plan for 1980-1983 and the work programme of the Office.

Documentation

"Statistical Office of the United Nations" (E/CN.3/561)

~~"Programme objectives, medium-term plan, 1980-1983 and work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations" (E/CN.3/562)~~

1982-1983

Proposed draft

12. Other business

At its eighth session the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination suggested that the Commission might wish to review its objectives, priorities and methods of operation "in the light of the new substantive issues at the national as well as the international level, reflecting changing requirements for statistical information" (E/CN.3/536, para 6). As suggested by the Working Group (*ibid.*, para. 47), the Secretary-General will submit to the Commission a document containing alternative proposals for the future work of the Commission and its method of operation, based on comments received from members of the Commission and other participants in the sessions of the Commission.

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

Documentation

"Proposals for the future work of the Statistical Commission and its methods of operation" (E/CN.3/563)

13. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, a draft provisional agenda for the twenty-second session will be presented to the Commission during the twenty-first session. The Commission may wish to modify the draft as necessary, based on the decisions made during the session.

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

The report of the Commission on its twenty-first session will be prepared by the Rapporteur, with the assistance of the Secretariat.
