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**Statistical Commission****Thirty-second session**

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

**Provisional agenda and dates for the  
thirty-third session of the Commission****Activities of the functional commissions that are relevant to  
the work of the Statistical Commission****Note by the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report has been prepared in an effort to promote more harmonization and coordination in the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The purpose of the note is to inform the Statistical Commission on the ongoing activities of the other eight functional commissions that are related to the work of the Statistical Commission. For each commission, its report on its most recent session was analysed, as well as its formal multi-year programme, where available. The note focuses on statistics, data and information in a broad sense, and does not describe any topic in depth. This is a first effort at reviewing the work of the functional commissions that has statistical implications. For the thirty-third session of the Statistical Commission, efforts will be made to draw out the specific implications for international statistical work in two areas, namely those of the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The Commission may wish to take this information into account during its discussion of all related items at the present session, in deciding the agenda for its thirty-third session and in amending its multi-year programme.

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\* E/CN.3/2001/1.

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## I. Commission on Population and Development

1. The thirty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development was held in March 2000. Its special theme was “Population, gender and development”.

2. In its resolution 2000/1, entitled “Population, gender and development”, the Commission requested the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat to continue to incorporate gender perspectives in all its research on population policies, levels and trends, including the analysis of demographic, social and economic data disaggregated by age and sex, so that Governments may benefit by achieving a better understanding of the relationships between population, gender and development in the global context and through intercountry comparisons. It also requested the Population Division, in conducting these analyses, to pay particular attention to the gender dynamics and demographic implications of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, infant, child and maternal mortality, and ageing of populations; to improving the statistical description and analysis of the phenomena of all forms of discrimination and abuse against women and children, including sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence; and to the gender dimensions of migration.<sup>1</sup>

3. The Commission’s themes for its next sessions are:

(a) Population, environment and development (2001);

(b) Reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to HIV/AIDS (2002);

(c) Population, education and development (2003).

## II. Commission for Social Development

4. The thirty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development was held in February and March 2000. Its two special topics were “Contribution of the Commission to the overall review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development” and “Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups”.

5. In its resolution 38/1, entitled “Overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development”, the Commission reviewed, *inter alia*, the Summit’s quantitative targets. For the nine targets relating, for example, to education and mortality, for which the target date was 2000, available data indicate that progress in these areas remains unsatisfactory. Furthermore, the Commission noted that the compilation of broad-based and disaggregated data by national Governments, both qualitative and quantitative indicators, to evaluate progress in the areas covered by the targets, has presented an important challenge. In this regard, Governments may, as appropriate, seek assistance from international organizations. Since the Summit, efforts have been made to improve the quality, timeliness and country coverage of data. Additional issues that were discussed include poverty eradication and full employment. In the context of the discussion of the latter, the Commission mentioned the lack of universal measurement tools to evaluate women’s unpaid work.<sup>2</sup>

6. In connection with the second special topic, “Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups”, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of draft resolutions entitled “Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing” and “Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities”. With regard to the former resolution, additional information is provided in the report of the Secretary-General on existing statistical programmes in relation to selected United Nations special years and observances (E/CN.3/2001/15), which is before the Statistical Commission. Regarding the latter resolution, the Commission for Social Development recommended that the General Assembly urge the relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to work closely with the United Nations programme on persons with disabilities to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including activities at the field level, by sharing knowledge, experiences, findings and recommendations concerning persons with disabilities<sup>3</sup> (see also section III below on the Commission on Human Rights).

7. The Commission's multi-year programme of work for 2002-2006 is to be adopted at its thirty-ninth session in 2001.

### **III. Commission on Human Rights**

8. The fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights was held in March and April 2000.

9. In its resolution 2000/9, entitled "Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights", the Commission decided to reiterate its request to the High Commissioner to organize, in 2001, the year of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Covenant, a workshop to identify progressive developmental benchmarks and indicators related to the right of education.<sup>4</sup>

10. In its resolution 2000/44, entitled "Traffic in women and girls", the Commission stressed the need for a global approach to eradicate trafficking in women and children and the importance, in this regard, of systematic data collection and comprehensive studies, including on the modus operandi of trafficking syndicates.<sup>5</sup>

11. In its resolution 2000/45, entitled "Elimination of violence against women", the Commission encouraged Governments and the United Nations system to ensure greater international cooperation in and national attention to acquiring data and developing indicators on the extent, nature and consequences of violence against women and girls, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for combating this violence. In the same resolution, the Commission repeatedly addressed the necessity of sex-disaggregated data, for example on the causes and effects of violence against women.<sup>6</sup>

12. In its resolution 2000/51, entitled "Human rights of persons with disabilities", the Commission invited Governments and non-governmental organizations to collect and collate appropriate information and data on persons with disabilities to assist the formulation of effective policies to address the issues of equality.<sup>7</sup>

13. In its resolution 2000/53, entitled "Internally displaced persons", the Commission welcomed the establishment of the global internally displaced persons database.<sup>8</sup>

14. In its resolution 2000/85, entitled "Rights of the child", the Commission called upon States to strengthen efforts to improve national systems for the collection of comprehensive and disaggregated data, including gender-specific data, for all areas covered by the Convention.<sup>9</sup>

15. In its resolution 2000/86, entitled "Human rights and thematic procedures", the Commission requested the thematic special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and working groups to include regularly in their reports gender-disaggregated data, and if possible to include age-disaggregated data.<sup>10</sup>

### **IV. Commission on the Status of Women**

16. The forty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held from 28 February to 2 March 2000. Its two thematic topics were "Follow-up of the Fourth World Conference on Women" and "Comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action".

17. In a panel discussion on emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men, difficulties in collecting comprehensive and comparable data on violence against women, particularly in domestic violence, were pointed out, and the need to continue efforts for the development of a working methodology for the collection of such data was emphasized.<sup>11</sup>

18. During its 2001 session, the Commission will adopt a multi-year programme for 2002-2005. Following the provisional agenda for the next session, there will be two thematic issues on the agenda, in addition to the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing 1995 and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century". The two thematic issues are "Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS" and "Gender and all forms of discrimination, in particular racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance".

## V. Commission on Narcotic Drugs

19. The forty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held in March 2000.

20. The Commission repeatedly addressed the issue of data problems, mostly the lack of data altogether or the lack of quality in existing data. In general, the Commission emphasized the necessity of sound, precise and balanced data<sup>12</sup> as well as the use of similar definitions.

21. In its resolution 43/1, entitled "Streamlining the annual reports questionnaire", the Commission changed the annual reports questionnaire mainly to avoid any duplication with the biennial questionnaire. The Commission requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to further revise the questionnaire and to use information technology to assist countries with more efficient submission of the annual reports questionnaire on drug abuse. It also called for a more meaningful analysis and dissemination of the data. The Commission took note of the consensus reached by technical experts at a meeting, held in Lisbon in January 2000, on the principles, structures and indicators for drug information systems<sup>13</sup> (see also E/CN.7/2000/CRP.3).

22. In its resolution 43/2, entitled "Follow-up to the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction", the Commission reaffirmed the importance of using similar definitions, indicators and procedures, as detailed in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.<sup>14</sup> In the deliberations, UNDCP's role was defined, inter alia, as to provide assistance for the establishment of national information systems, to include data on regionally and internationally recognized core indicators and to support countries and regions in developing data-collection capacity. The Commission noted that the response to problems is sometimes hindered by the lack of reliable data. There is, therefore, a critical need to invest in improved data-collection systems, for example in the case of methamphetamine abuse in Asia. Central to the UNDCP global programme is the development of a package of core indicators in support of regional data-collection networks and assistance to countries in developing methods suitable to their own national contexts for reporting on the drug abuse situation in a comparable and credible fashion.<sup>15</sup>

23. In its resolution 43/7, entitled "Enhancing regional cooperation through a regional database on drug-related crimes", the Commission also requested the Executive Director of UNDCP to take steps to ensure the provision of assistance, subject to the availability of voluntary contributions, for the establishment in Tehran of a south-west Asian regional database on drug-related crimes.<sup>16</sup>

24. In its resolution 43/10, entitled "Promotion of regional and international cooperation in the fight against the illicit manufacture, trafficking and consumption of synthetic drugs, in particular amphetamine-type stimulants", the Commission stressed the necessity of reliable and comparable data enabling an objective understanding of the nature and magnitude of the problem of synthetic drugs and a proper evaluation of the effectiveness of countermeasures. It also requested UNDCP to assist in establishing a regional system so as to collect reliable and comparable data to enable the assessment of national and regional trends in both the nature and magnitude of drug abuse.<sup>17</sup>

## VI. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

25. The ninth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in April 2000.

26. During the deliberations on the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention and on strategic management and programme questions, the necessity of a timely distribution of questionnaires was stressed. The Commission noted that the timely distribution of questionnaires was desirable in order to give Member States sufficient time to respond. Speakers underlined that the processing of such questionnaires should be done in such a way as to allow sufficient time for States to initiate consultations with all national agencies concerned.<sup>18</sup>

27. The Commission has established a procedure by which, each year, the Commission decides on the prominent theme for its subsequent session. The priority theme for the tenth session is "Progress made in global action against corruption".

## VII. Commission on Science and Technology for Development

28. The fourth and most recent session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development was held in May 1999. The main theme was “Science and technology partnerships and networking for national capacity-building”.

29. In a panel on biotechnology, it was noted that additional information and a database covering a wider spectrum of genetically modified organisms are needed in order to better understand both the pattern of development and the possible implications of such organisms for the environment.<sup>19</sup>

30. The Commission approved a text entitled “A common vision”, in which it expressed its concerns that the world of the twenty-first century will be one in which access to knowledge is expanding and becoming less costly. Determining the accuracy and quality of information will become more difficult. As the coverage of patent and copyright protection expands ever more widely to include life forms and data banks, there is a need to raise the legitimate question whether a proper balance is being struck between providing an incentive to invest in knowledge-creation and maintaining the tradition of openness and free exchange of scientific information.<sup>20</sup>

31. There is no formal multi-year programme. The substantive theme of the Commission’s next session will be “National capacity-building in biotechnology”.

## VIII. Commission on Sustainable Development

32. The eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was held on 30 April 1999 and from 24 April to 5 May 2000.<sup>21</sup> Detailed information on the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development on indicators is provided in the report of the Secretary-General on existing statistical programmes in relation to selected United Nations years and observances (E/CN.3/2001/15), which is before the Statistical Commission.

33. According to the Commission’s multi-year programme of work for 1998-2002, the themes for the 2001 session are “Atmosphere and energy” (as sectoral theme); “Information for decision-making and

participation” and “International cooperation for an enabling environment” (as cross-sectoral theme); and “Energy and transport” (as economic sector/major groups). The 2002 session will be dedicated to the 10-year comprehensive review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 5 (E/2000/25)*, chap. I, sect. A, resolution 2000/1, paras. 1 and 2.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 6 (E/2000/26)*, chap. I, sect. C, resolution 38/1, annex, paras. 7 and 15.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. A, draft resolution II, para. 5.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 3 (E/2000/23)*, chap. II, resolution 2000/9, para. 12 (b).

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2000/44, eighth preambular paragraph.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2000/45, paras. 6 and 15 (g).

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2000/51, para. 26.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2000/53, para. 17.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2000/85, para. 10.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 2000/86, para. 5 (e) and (f).

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2000/27)*, annex I, para. 6.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 8 (E/2000/28)*, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II, para. 3.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. C, resolution 43/1, final preambular paragraph and paras. 4 and 5.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 43/2, third preambular paragraph.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. III, sect. B.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, chap. I, sect. C, resolution 43/7, para. 3.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, resolution 43/10, final preambular paragraph and para. 10.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 10 (E/2000/30)*, chap. IV, para. 28 and chap. V, para. 37.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 11 (E/2000/31)*, chap. III, para. 8.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 9.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 9 (E/2000/29)*.