

1999/8. Functioning of the Statistical Commission

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 8 (I) of 16 February 1946 and 8 (II) of 21 June 1946 concerning the establishment and terms of reference of the Statistical Commission and 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971, in which the Council further refined the terms of reference, and resolution 1306 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968, by which the Council established the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination and gave it its initial task,

Welcoming the series of reviews that the Statistical Commission has carried out since 1993 on its role and functioning and that of its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recognizing the need to provide for more continuity of the Commission's decision-making and oversight of the global statistical process,

Recognizing also the need for a more flexible and rapid response to emerging and topical developments in international statistics than is possible through the biennial meetings of the Statistical Commission,

Wishing to enable the Statistical Commission to carry out on a more continuous basis its role in following up the statistical implications of the major United Nations conferences and summits and the agreed conclusions of the high-level and coordination segments of the Economic and Social Council and of its resolutions, thus providing enhanced support to the Council in carrying out its own responsibilities in this area,

1. *Decides* that the Statistical Commission shall meet annually, beginning in 2000, for a period of four working days in New York, and decides that the small additional cost shall come from existing resources;

2. *Also decides* that, with immediate effect, the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination shall cease to function.

*39th plenary meeting
26 July 1999*