



# **STATISTICAL COMMISSION**

## **REPORT ON THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION**

13–24 November 1972

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OFFICIAL RECORDS: FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION**

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**NOTE**

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## CHAPTER I

### ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

#### Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its seventeenth session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 13 to 24 November 1972.

#### Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of 21 of the 24 States members of the Commission (Ghana, Morocco and the Philippines did not send representatives), by observers from four States not members of the Commission and by representatives of specialized agencies and of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (see annex I).

#### Opening speeches

3. The Chairman welcomed Mr. J. Mosak, Deputy to the Under-Secretary of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs representing the Secretary-General, and the newly appointed Director of the United Nations Statistical Office, Mr. S. A. Goldberg. He felt that members of the Commission and official statisticians generally were fortunate in having as the new Director a person with such wide experience in statistical work. Moreover, Mr. Goldberg's many years of responsibility in a national statistical office would enable him to appreciate the problems countries sometimes had in meeting statistical demands from international organizations. The Chairman, on behalf of the Commission, wished Mr. Goldberg well in his new post.

4. The Chairman recalled that, when the Commission last met, members did not know that by the time of the seventeenth session, the former Director, Mr. P. J. Loftus, would have retired. Mr. Loftus had joined the United Nations in 1948, becoming Assistant Director, Deputy Director and finally Director of the Statistical Office - a position he had held for some 10 years. He had made great contributions to the development of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), the introduction of computers and, generally, furthering international statistical activities and co-ordination. His achievements in those fields would be a lasting monument to his work and, on behalf of the Commission, the Chairman expressed his warm appreciation and thanks to Mr. Loftus. The Chairman sent him the following telegram:

"Statistical Commission expresses its warm appreciation of your efforts in furthering international statistical activities and co-ordination over many years and the many achievements due to you. On behalf of myself and all members of the Commission, we wish you every happiness in your retirement."

5. At its 291st meeting, on 13 November 1972, the Commission observed a minute of silence in memory of Professor P. C. Mahalanobis and Mr. Raymond T. Bowman, former members of the Commission, and unanimously adopted a resolution concerning Professor Mahalanobis. (For the text, see chapter XIV).

6. The Commission similarly expressed deep sorrow at the death of Mr. Bowman and asked the United States delegation to write to Mrs. Bowman expressing the heartfelt condolences of the Commission.

#### Election of officers

7. At the 291st meeting, the Commission unanimously elected the following officers:

<u>Chairman:</u>	J. Ripert (France)
<u>First Vice-Chairman:</u>	J. Kazimour (Czechoslovakia)
<u>Second Vice-Chairman:</u>	R. Chander (Malaysia)
<u>Rapporteur:</u> <sup>1/</sup>	C. A. Moser (United Kingdom)

#### Agenda

8. At the 291st meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/418), as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes
  - (a) International statistical programmes, 1973-1977
  - (b) Electronic data processing and data banks
4. Statistics of the developing countries for the Second United Nations Development Decade
  - (a) Required statistics and methods and priorities of collection
  - (b) Technical assistance in statistics
5. Statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and wealth
6. Statistics of prices and quantities and national accounting in constant prices

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<sup>1/</sup> During Mr. Moser's brief absence from Geneva, Mr. T. P. Linehan (Ireland) served as Acting Rapporteur.

7. Revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)
8. Statistics of the distributive and related service trades
9. A system of demographic, manpower and social statistics
  - (a) The system and the basic series, classifications and social indicators of the subsystems
  - (b) Migration statistics
  - (c) Manpower statistics
10. Progress reports
  - (a) United Nations Statistical Office
  - (b) Balance-of-payments statistics
  - (c) Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies
11. Programme of work and priorities
  - (a) Publications of statistics
  - (b) Programme of work and priorities, 1973-1974
12. Time and place of the eighteenth session
13. Other business
14. Report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

## CHAPTER II

### CO-ORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

#### A. International statistical programmes, 1973-1977

9. For its discussion of the above item, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General entitled "International statistical programmes, 1973-1977" (E/CN.3/421 and Add.1), prepared in co-operation with the specialized agencies, and the report of the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination on its fourth session (E/CN.3/420), paragraphs 33 to 44 of which contained the results of the preliminary review of those programmes undertaken by the Working Group.
10. The Commission was informed that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its eighth session had welcomed the Commission's attempt to bring about a fully co-ordinated and integrated statistical programme in the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The Commission noted that the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination considered that "the presentation of the five-year programmes of international statistics in terms of major strategies of statistical development, as well as the provision of an increased amount of background information on the organization and work of the international statistical system, furnished an effective basis for long-term planning in the area of international statistics". 2/
11. The Commission was pleased to note that the Economic and Social Council welcomed the activities of the Commission in that area and had expressed approval of the Commission's work on international statistical programmes for the years 1971-1975. The Council considered that the presentation of the five-year programme of international statistical activities in terms of major strategies of statistical development, and the review of the high-priority statistical projects of the organizations of the United Nations system within the framework of such strategies, constituted an important contribution by the Commission towards the achievement of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade.
12. The Commission was informed that, in view of the favourable experience gained with the arrangements for the previous five-year programme and the approval by the Commission and the Council of the method of preparation, a similar joint report for the years 1973-1977, including the statements requested by the Commission at its sixteenth session on (a) the purpose, (b) the timing and (c) the resources required for each project was contained in the new report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/421 and Add.1).
13. The Commission noted that the five main policy objectives submitted in the report for comment and review were selected on the basis of an examination of the tasks set for the organizations in the United Nations system in general, and in the statistical areas in particular, for the period in question.

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2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 5, para. 41.



14. The Commission discussed the report in the light of the comments of its Working Group. The Working Group considered that the joint report was a clear and well-structured statement on the statistical programmes of the organizations concerned. In respect of the content and form of future reports, the Working Group felt it desirable that certain additional information on allocation of resources should be furnished by the organizations of the United Nations system. The additional information would facilitate the Commission's analysis of these programmes in even greater depth. The Working Group also requested the Statistical Office of the United Nations, in co-operation with the statistical services of the specialized agencies, to draw up an appropriate classification of statistical projects. In addition, it recommended that the Secretariat should explore the possibilities of securing the co-operation of organizations outside the United Nations system in furnishing data about their long-term statistical programmes.

15. The Commission supported the Working Group's continued interest in consultations designed to meet the statistical requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade by means of exchanges of views between producers and users of statistics and through regular meetings of the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC). A major step in that direction was the establishment of closer co-operation between the Committee for Development Planning and the Statistical Commission, which was an important prerequisite for any further work undertaken to meet the statistical requirements of the Decade. The participation of the Chairman of the Committee for Development Planning in the deliberations of the Commission at its seventeenth session was very helpful for the achievement of that objective (see also para. 55 below).

16. The Commission agreed that the thorough work of the Working Group in reviewing the programmes for the years 1973-1977 made the discussion of that comprehensive topic manageable within the limitations of the time available at the sessions of the Commission and expressed its appreciation of the efforts of the Working Group. The Commission expressed its approval of the Working Group's evaluation of the programmes contained in the report and of the further steps recommended for the preparation of future reports.

17. In the discussion of the general aspects of the report, the following additional points were emphasized:

(a) The availability of information on programmes and plans three to five years ahead was particularly important in view of the lesser degree of flexibility in respect of changing the programmes already budgeted and planned for the next two years.

(b) The inclusion of statistical projects undertaken by organizations not primarily involved in direct work on economic and social matters should be restricted to cases where the projects were of an over-all interest.

(c) The significance of programmes to establish the links between the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) in general and between their relevant subsystems and classifications should be stressed.

(d) The descriptions of the statistical programmes of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development should be included in future reports.

(e) The implementation of the integrated five-year programmes should be evaluated by the Working Group at its session preceding the Commission's eighteenth session. In order to facilitate the evaluation, the document on the next five-year programme should also include a report on the implementation of the current five-year programmes.

(f) To facilitate the co-ordination of national work aimed at participation in international statistical activities, a means of regular communication concerning programmes at the international level was needed, possibly along the lines of national "statistical reporter" publications.

(g) Statistics on income distribution, especially regarding the poorest strata of the population, should receive, wherever possible, high-priority treatment in the programmes of the different organizations.

(h) The establishment of a minimum list of development indicators should receive high priority and, if possible, be carried out in the 1973 work programme.

(i) The need to mobilize resources for the required expansion of key statistical activities was emphasized, especially in view of the heavy statistical requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

(j) Interest in the usefulness of a systematic approach to the various elements of the information flow in countries - from bookkeeping records through statistical reports to planning tasks and other relevant information - was expressed. The Commission noted that the forthcoming Second Interregional Seminar on Statistical Organizations (see paras. 214-218 below) could be a suitable occasion for an exchange of views on the matter.

(k) Projects that specifically assisted the development of smaller statistical offices were of considerable importance to numerous developing countries.

(l) Subsequent reports should include, in tabular form, resource-allocation information which would facilitate the comparison of the programmes presented for the future with the programmes executed in the base period. That information should extend to the programmes of the specialized agencies as well and, as far as possible, it should be presented in quantitative terms.

(m) Work on statistics of the environment should be developed in the years 1973-1977.

(n) Developing countries might wish to utilize some of the provisions and certain aspects of the methodology of the international statistical programmes for the years 1973-1977 as an aid in the preparation of their national development plans of statistics

18. The Commission heard with interest the statements of the specialized agencies giving up-to-date information on the various programmes covered in documents E/CN.3/421 and Add.1. In that connexion, the Commission also heard a progress report concerning UNESCO's work on the International Standard

Classification of Education, with special reference to measures taken to ensure co-ordination with related statistical classifications and programmes within the United Nations system. Several members stressed the usefulness of having copies of draft classifications, standards and questionnaires etc. sent for information directly to national statistical offices.

19. The Commission heard a statement on the work done by the Statistical Division of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) in the preparation of its long-term plans of statistics for 1973-1980. The Commission noted that representatives of the United Nations were invited to participate at the twentieth session of CMEA's Standing Committee on Statistics, where the matter would be discussed. The Commission was informed that the comprehensive long-term plan would cover all major fields of statistics and contain provisions in respect of World Population Year, 1974.

20. The representative of the International Statistical Institute made a comprehensive statement on the objectives and plans for the World Fertility Survey (see also paras. 136-137 below). He asked for the support of the Commission, recalling that the United Nations had designated 1974 as World Population Year and had called upon the world's scientific and policy-making communities to focus special attention on world population conditions.

21. The members of the Commission expressed their support of the activities envisaged in the framework of the World Fertility Survey. The Commission agreed that the understanding of the problems of fertility was of great importance for analysis and policy-making and, therefore, the Survey deserved the support of the Commission. The suggestion was made that the results of the fertility surveys should be of use not only in national situations where fertility was considered high, but also in countries where the decrease in fertility was of concern. It was understood that the formulation of population policies would, of course, remain a national responsibility. The aim of the surveys was to provide better statistical foundations for the formulation of such policies.

#### Conclusion

22. The Commission agreed on the following recommendations:

(a) To express its appreciation of the efforts of all the organizations that had co-operated in the preparation of the joint report, and its satisfaction at the considerable progress achieved in the co-ordination and integration of international statistical activities;

(b) To request the Secretariat, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, to furnish additional information for the subsequent five-year programmes, 1975-1979, concerning the use of resources for statistical purposes in the following aspects:

- (i) The balance between the benefits of the programmes planned for the developing countries and for the developed countries
- (ii) The balance between the subject matter to which the statistical programmes related

- (iii) The balance between the resources devoted to collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating statistics
- (iv) The balance between new programmes, continuing programmes and discontinued programmes
- (v) The share in the total resources for statistical programmes of the high-priority programmes set out in the report;

(c) To approve as the five main statistical policy objectives of the international statistical programmes for 1973-1977 the following:

- (i) Statistical work in connexion with the Second United Nations Development Decade
- (ii) The development of a co-ordinated body of demographic and social statistics
- (iii) The creation, maintenance and co-ordination of data banks of economic and social statistics
- (iv) The development of concerted efforts in technical assistance activities in statistics
- (v) The continuation of recurrent statistical activities;

(d) To request the Secretariat, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, to draw up an appropriate classification of statistical projects and to submit it for review to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its fifth session;

(e) To request the Secretariat to explore the possibilities of securing the co-operation of organizations outside the United Nations system in furnishing data about their long-term statistical programmes for purposes of the five-year international statistical programmes to be reviewed by the Commission at its eighteenth session;

(f) To request the Secretariat to report to the Commission's Working Group at its fifth session the results of the interagency consultations aimed at establishing a regular interagency means of communicating to individual countries information on international statistical developments;

(g) To request the Secretariat, in co-operation with the specialized agencies, to include in the document to be prepared on the 1975-1979 international statistical programmes an evaluation of the implementation of the programme approved by the Commission at its seventeenth session;

(h) To instruct the Commission's Working Group to follow up, during the preparation of the next five-year programmes, the comments contained on that subject in the current report of the Commission;

(i) To request the Secretariat, in the preparation and review of the United Nations programme and budget, to give consideration to the recommendations contained in the current report of the Commission concerning the development of statistical projects, emphasizing that properly applied statistical information could bring about considerable savings;

(j) To include UNESCO's International Standard Classification of Education as an item on the provisional agenda of the Statistical Commission at its eighteenth session.

#### B. Electronic data processing and data banks

23. For the discussion of the item, the Commission had before it the following documents: the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.3/422), the relevant parts of the reports of the Commission's Working Group on its third session (E/CN.3/419, paras. 5-22) and on its fourth session (E/CN.3/420, paras. 45-53), a paper prepared by the Secretariat of the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems and Related Activities and a note by the United Nations Population Division (Conference Room Paper No. 1).

24. The Commission was informed that, since its sixteenth session, a new interagency electronic data processing centre had been established in Geneva - the International Computing Centre. Thus far, the United Nations had been the major user of the IBM 370/155 computer installed at the Centre. At United Nations Headquarters, the New York Computing Centre had also had a substantial upgrading in equipment from an IBM 360/40 computer to a 370/145 with a larger internal storage capacity. The increase in capabilities had been provided with no increase in rental charges.

25. A small part of the Statistical Office had been outposted to Geneva in order to prepare the international trade statistics for processing by the International Computing Centre and to control and check the processing. The Centre also tabulated national accounting statistics and prepared printouts for the Statistical Office for volume II of the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics.

26. The New York Computing Centre remained a very important facility for processing international statistics. In addition to the work done in the International Computing Centre, electronic data processing of the following types was currently being carried out by the New York Computing Centre for the Statistical Office: (a) special tabulations of trade and transport statistics; (b) industrial statistics; (c) national accounts statistics; (d) cost-of-living statistics; (e) demographic statistics; and (f) special projects, including computer work for the International Standard Industrial Classification, Standard International Trade Classification, the United Nations International Comparison Project, etc.

27. The Commission noted that the Statistical Office would continue to provide it and its Working Group with reports on the organizations, policies and arrangements for the electronic data processing of economic and social statistics and data banks in order that their views might contribute towards forthcoming decisions.

28. The Commission noted that the Working Group at its third session had expressed concern about the implementation of major changes in the electronic data processing of economic and social statistics and had emphasized that the way in which electronic data processing was organized and managed, and its impact on the statistical services of the United Nations, was a major concern of the Commission. The Working Group felt that the Commission could have given helpful advice on the consequences of the changes introduced.

29. The Commission noted that in addition to its functions, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1/8 of 16 February 1946 on the establishment of the Commission and as amended by Council resolution 2/8 of 21 June 1946, which indicated that the Commission should assist the Council in developing the central statistical services of the Secretariat and in advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information, Council resolution 1566 (L) also

"Recognizes the interest of the Statistical Commission and the Statistical Office in matters related to the use of computers in the United Nations system and draws attention to this field where further co-ordination is likely to be most required".

30. The Commission agreed with its Working Group in attributing considerable importance to the question of access to the data stored and to the need for efficient and economical services to countries. In the interest of the quality of such services, it was also important that appropriate clearance procedures by qualified statisticians should remain in effect to check the quality of the outputs.

31. The Commission was informed that since the report of the Secretary-General had been issued early in June 1972 there had been new developments, such as the increase in computing capacity at United Nations Headquarters. Further changes in the arrangements of the work of the Statistical Office for electronic data processing should, therefore, be preceded by a thorough analysis of all the pertinent factors. In view of the complexity of the issues and the shortness of time so far available to the new Director of the Office to study them, it was necessary for him to review all the pertinent factors during the next six months and to report his findings to the Working Group at its fifth session, in July 1973.

32. The Commission heard from the Director of the International Computing Centre that the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund had joined the initial three organizations (United Nations, United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization) as full participants in the Centre and that an extension of the Centre's services in the form of tabulation of national data, e.g., for census analyses for Gambia, was also in train. The Commission welcomed the substantial progress made in the work of the Centre and reiterated the importance it attached to the Centre's providing good services to countries as well as to international organizations.

33. The Commission agreed that the Statistical Office of the United Nations, in accordance with the recommendation made by the Working Group, should serve as an observer, as well as adviser to the representative of the United Nations, on the Management Committee of the International Computing Centre. That furnished the main channel through which the suggestions of the Commission and its Working Group could be brought to bear on the facilities and activities of the Centre.

34. The Commission heard statements by its members on various points concerning the location of the activities of the Statistical Office of the United Nations at Geneva and in New York. The Commission also noted the matters relevant to that issue in the note by the Population Division, which expressed great concern that demographic statistical work should continue to be carried out in New York. The statement of the representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on the other hand, stressed the advantage of having direct access and proximity to the international trade statistics now processed in Geneva.

35. The Commission also discussed problems related to the transfer of data processing in trade statistics to Geneva, in particular the delays experienced in obtaining data for 1971. It was requested that the promised review of the subject by the Director of the United Nations Statistical Office should take into account those disappointing experiences.

36. The Commission was informed that the issue of data for the international trade of the developed countries had indeed been delayed by a few months. After the transfer of the work from New York to Geneva, the processing was hindered by lack of software servicing in the transferred branch of the Statistical Office. That caused serious problems because the programmes previously used in New York were applicable to the IBM 7044 model used there. All the programmes had to be rewritten for the 370/155 computer in Geneva. Moreover, the clerical staff involved in the processing of the data had to be newly recruited and trained in Geneva. Finally, the computerization of the trade publications for all countries necessitated the elimination of at least some of the backlog of data of the developing countries. The Secretariat assured the Commission that the situation would improve rapidly.

37. The Commission considered various aspects of data banks, including the inventory of international data bases which was being prepared by the Statistical Office and the statistical services of the specialized agencies. The Commission emphasized that the relationship of the inventory to the master list of international statistical series needed to be clearly defined. While the Commission noted that the inventory would include information only on computerized data files, while the list would contain references to all statistical series compiled internationally, the need for a coherent approach to the two was emphasized. It was important that the time-table envisaged for the inventory, i.e., completion by the end of 1972, should not slip too much. The Secretariat confirmed that the questionnaire seeking information on data banks was sent only to international bodies, and would not be sent to countries.

38. The representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave information on the data processing activities of its Bureau of Statistics, particularly with regard to the recently completed comprehensive documentation materials. He explained the main features of the IMF Data Fund, which was a general-purpose data bank for the storage, updating and manipulation of financial and general economic time series relevant to the work of his organization. He outlined the Data Fund procedures concerning inputs and the harmonization and preparation of national source statistics, the "automatic update" system that generated from the input materials derivative data for publication or other uses, the general calculation capabilities of the system, and its linkages with other systems, and the output routines that produced either original or derivative data in various printed and other forms. Mention was also made of the availability of published materials

(International Financial Statistics, Direction of Trade) in the form of tape subscription. A comprehensive User's Manual, describing the general data-base concepts, system capabilities and regular products of the Data Fund, was available for those interested.

39. The Director of the Statistical Office indicated that the location of the Office was a matter of the greatest importance to its future. As a consequence, decisions in regard to the location of any specific activity of the Office should not be made in a piecemeal fashion, as that could be prejudicial to the eventual optimum location of the Office as a whole. That was why it was essential to make a comprehensive review before any further changes were undertaken. In the review, the various relevant elements should be analysed and proposals should be made in the light of the analysis. The matter was complex because, to be effective and efficient and provide relevant service to users, a statistical office must not only have access to efficient computer services but must also be able to manage its human resources in such a way that they could communicate systematically with users and with each other and interact effectively with the computer. Furthermore, while physical computer facilities - especially rented ones - could fairly easily be increased and decreased in relation to needed capacity, it was much more difficult to make shifts in location of people.

40. Some members stressed the paramount importance of close links between users and producers of statistics and felt strongly that, whatever happened, nothing should be done to separate the United Nations Statistical Office and, in particular, those of its personnel involved in substantive statistical work, from the central policy and decision-making groups of the United Nations in New York. On another aspect of organization, some delegates raised questions about the possible inefficiency of having two separate computing centres. The Director undertook to take account of those points in his review.

41. The Commission agreed that, in view of the forthcoming review, it was not feasible to finalize its recommendations at the present session. It was desirable that an objective review of the matter, taking into account all aspects of cost, efficiency and effectiveness, should be carried out as quickly as possible. The review should cover services to and relations with users, national and international, including matters regarding the links with the various parts of the Secretariat served by the Statistical Office, and questions concerning the desirable location of the various statistical operations.

#### Conclusion

42. The Commission agreed on the following recommendations in respect of data processing and data banks of economic and social statistics:

(a) That a review of the electronic data processing of economic and social statistics in the United Nations be undertaken by the Director of the United Nations Statistical Office with a view to further discussion of the matter by the Commission at its eighteenth session;

(b) That a first report on the subject be produced for discussion by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its fifth session; the role was a very important one for the Working Group and its terms of reference had been modified accordingly (see paras. 206-207 below);



(c) That priority be given to work on the inventory of international data bases, to be carried out in co-operation with the specialized agencies;

(d) That work on the list of international statistical series be concluded as soon as possible, in such a way that it would be fully co-ordinated with the inventory of computerized data bases, and that the work be done in co-operation with the specialized agencies.

## CHAPTER III

### STATISTICS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

#### A. Required statistics and methods and priorities of collection

43. The Commission discussed the statistics required for the review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy of the Second United Nations Development Decade 3/ and the major steps needed to strengthen the statistical services of the developing countries for that purpose, basing its discussion on documents E/CN.3/419, paragraphs 28-40, E/CN.3/423 and Conference Room Paper No. 2.

44. The Commission noted the importance that the Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Development Planning attached to strengthening the statistical services of the developing countries, an importance that was reflected in the International Development Strategy. That those services should be strengthened was indeed fundamental to the collection and preparation of adequate data for the reviews and appraisals of the Development Strategy that the developing countries and the agencies of the United Nations family were undertaking. The Chairman of the Committee for Development Planning, who had been invited to take part in the session, called attention to major gaps in the available statistics required for those purposes. The statistics on such topics as employment, unemployment and underemployment, the distribution of income and of consumption, education and health and many other topics fell far short of the data needed in respect of the social objectives of the Development Strategy: the available national accounting data were also deficient. The Committee recognized that filling the main gaps in data was vital both for the tasks of review and appraisal at the international level and for improving national statistical systems as such. What was needed was a progressive and systematic building of strong statistical services in the developing countries, and the Committee offered its co-operation to the Statistical Commission in promoting and assisting those endeavours. The Commission warmly welcomed the co-operation of the Committee in the concerted and intensified efforts that needed to be undertaken in order to assist the developing countries to strengthen their statistical systems.

45. The Commission noted that the elements of the International Development Strategy set out in terms of goals and targets in the annex to document E/CN.3/423 had been agreed by the appropriate agencies and were not for discussion by the Commission. What remained for discussion was the selection of indicators and series needed for judging progress towards those targets. The Commission felt that the preliminary list of economic and social indicators set out in the annex furnished a useful starting point for the formulation of guidelines in respect of the major series of data wanted nationally and internationally in order to monitor progress towards the

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3/ General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV).

objectives of the Strategy. However, misgivings about the indicators were expressed by a number of Commission members, notably those representing developing countries. Doubts were expressed about the appropriateness of some of the indicators, about the concepts implied in some and about the feasibility of producing the necessary data. A number of additional indicators not currently listed were regarded as suitable candidates for the final list. More generally, it was felt that greater attention should be devoted to indicators in respect of the social objectives of the Strategy and to selecting series which closely fitted in with the economic and social arrangements in the developing countries. It was agreed that, in the final choice of indicators, the criteria of practicability and reliability of the data that could be compiled, should be given careful attention. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the importance of having unambiguous indicators (i.e., whether the series measured success or failure in attaining goals) in relation to elements of the Development Strategy. In view of the probable length of the list of desirable indicators, of differences in urgency of need for the data and of problems of producing reliable series, clear priorities should be given in the guidelines. The views of those who would use the indicators in the review and appraisal exercises should be sought in setting the orders of priority as well as in selecting the series.

46. The Commission considered that the work of formulating a definitive list of indicators, in consultation with the interested specialized agencies, national statistical offices and users of the data should, if feasible, be completed in 1973. That would make it possible to use the list in the mid-decade review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy. In order to meet the desired time-table for the work, the list of indicators should be considered at the fifth session of the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination. The Commission also thought that it would be valuable to issue a statistical publication on the indicators as part of the mid-decade review.

47. The Commission emphasized that, in order to compile the series of indicators required for the review and appraisal of the objectives and policies of the International Development Strategy, it was desirable to have adequate bodies of general-purpose basic economic and social statistics. The series of indicators was one product of the basic statistics; they yielded, in addition, much other valuable information. A primary task during the Second Development Decade was, therefore, the improvement and expansion of the statistical systems and services of the developing countries. Adequate technical assistance from the agencies of the United Nations family and individual Governments, in the form of country experts, regional and interregional advisers, training of statistical staff, workshops, seminars and working groups, was required for that purpose. Developing countries should also be encouraged to formulate annual (as well as longer-term) plans for the systematic development of basic economic and social statistics as integral and fully co-ordinated parts of national plans for economic and social development. The latter step would help to make clear to the authorities the importance of good statistics in the planning and furthering of economic and social development and should help in obtaining adequate resources for the statistical work of the Government.

48. The Commission stressed that, in improving and expanding statistics, statisticians in developing countries (and indeed in all countries) should devote attention to utilizing data which might be derived from administrative records. Such records could often provide effective sources of information. It was also important that the attention of policy-makers and administrators in developing

countries should be drawn to the important statistical by-products that administrative records could yield and indeed that, in developing such records, account should be taken of their potential statistical uses.

49. The importance of assessing and taking account of the reliability of the data produced was also agreed. More information was needed about the reliability of the statistics submitted by Member States to the United Nations Statistical Office. One suggested approach was that the Office should cross-check the consistency of related figures submitted to it, carry out more complete analysis of the data and call the attention of national offices to any problems. It was proposed that it might also be worth while obtaining from the national offices data for comprehensive aggregates such as gross national product (GNP) on the extent to which they were based on collected figures as opposed to imputations. It was agreed that the Office should work on the matter with the help of a consultant and that a brief report should be submitted to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination.

50. The Commission noted that only a few of the series of indicators listed in the annex of document E/CN.3/423 were not covered by international standards or guidelines.

51. Questions were, however, raised on the suitability of the available international standards or guidelines to the economic and social concerns, arrangements and circumstances of developing countries. The standards or guidelines were often based on the common experience of well-developed systems of statistics; even the practice of restricting those standards or guidelines to concepts, definitions and classifications and modifying and simplifying them for purposes of the developing countries might not be sufficient. In any case, it was essential to prepare technical manuals which discussed in some detail the adopted standards and guidelines and the sources and methods of collecting and compiling the data and their uses in the light of the institutional arrangements and circumstances of the developing countries. The Commission felt that it would be desirable to review the existing international standards and guidelines in terms of their suitability for use by the developing countries.

52. Questions were raised about possible differences between national needs and requirements arising from international development. It was hoped that such differences would be infrequent, since the international standards and guidelines were formulated in terms of the highest common denominator of national practices and views. It was recognized that countries might find it necessary to make modifications, alterations, etc., in applying the standards and guidelines to their own needs and circumstances and it was firmly agreed that, should there ever be a conflict, the needs of countries should be regarded as paramount.

#### Conclusion

53. The Commission, apart from the specific recommendations and actions noted above, carefully summarized its general approach. The essential points in that approach were agreed to be:

(a) That work related to statistical needs of developing countries should have very high priority in the years ahead and that, in that context,

the statistical needs related to the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade should have a front place in the statistical programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

(b) That efforts should be made to ensure that policy-makers in developing countries fully appreciated the importance of statistics for development and planning purposes and of the need for adequate funds to achieve such statistics and that countries should be encouraged to draw up regular (annual and longer-term) development plans for statistics as integral parts of development plans, so that the importance of good statistics would emerge clearly;

(c) That international bodies like the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development should be approached with a view to enlisting their co-operation in furthering the general development of statistical systems in countries;

(d) That, in relation to the selection of indicators, work towards a new list should proceed at maximum speed, and that the views of developing countries in particular should be sought and given the most careful attention; that, moreover, priority should be given to those indicators which would be most helpful in relation to the policy targets of the International Development Strategy, which were urgent from the viewpoint of international comparability and which were feasible from the point of view of collection. In establishing priorities, the relevant bodies of the United Nations and the Committee for Development Planning should collaborate;

(e) That, in developing international standards and guidelines, every effort should be made to ensure that they were appropriate to the needs of developing countries and that, if necessary, special standards and guidelines might need to be established;

(f) That, wherever possible, international requirements and national needs should be satisfied simultaneously but that, in case of conflict, the latter should prevail;

(g) That, in view of the immensity of the task involved in all of the above, an approach based on three layers might serve as a guide:

- (i) To begin with, all efforts should be made to exploit more completely and effectively data already available but not fully utilized
- (ii) Important remaining gaps should be filled by surveys, which could produce significant advances within two to three years
- (iii) Work on building and implementing the conceptual blue-print needed for the comprehensive statistical systems would proceed simultaneously

Approaches (i) and (ii) would produce results well within the Development Decade; in the case of (iii), however, while the approach was also essential to progress

under (i) and (ii), the completion of the full system would fall beyond the Decade. In regard to the more comprehensive systems, it was particularly important to ensure that the needs of developed countries were not imposed on developing countries and that, in developing those systems, the problems of the less advanced countries were the dominant consideration.

54. Finally, it was agreed that a revised version of document E/CN.3/423 would, if possible, be submitted to the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination in July 1973, before which the views of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities as well as of individual countries would have been sought and incorporated.

55. The Commission agreed that the Committee for Development Planning should be invited to be represented at the sessions of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination for the discussions of the statistical requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

#### B. Technical assistance in statistics

56. The Commission was informed that the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1566 (L), paragraphs 6 and 7, requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations system of organizations,

"... to undertake... concerted action to assist the developing countries in strengthening their statistical systems as the basis for their development plans and the evaluation of their economic and social progress;" and

"... to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-second session,... a report on the existing technical assistance of the United Nations system of organizations to the developing countries as well as on the steps envisaged to assist those countries in improving their statistical services with a view to meeting the requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade'.

57. The Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/5099), as well as a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/424), the latter containing references to the proceedings of the Economic Committee of the Council and of the Council itself and the conclusions reached.

58. The Commission welcomed the effort of the United Nations Statistical Office and the statistical services of the specialized agencies in preparing materials for the report of the Secretary-General. It considered that the report, which contained a summary of past trends and possible future directions in technical assistance in statistics, together with a more detailed review of the present situation, would be of considerable help in analysing the key issues.

59. The Commission also had before it the views on the subject contained in paragraphs 23-32 of the report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination on its fourth session (E/CN.3/420).

60. The Commission welcomed the assistance offered by the Committee for Development Planning in indicating for which topics the development of statistical indicators was most urgent from the point of view of technical assistance.

61. The Commission noted that the Chairman of the Committee for Development Planning, who was present at the meeting, supported the idea of establishing a long-term scheme of technical assistance activities, the proposal that countries should be urged to indicate fully and explicitly what their statistical development needs were and the suggestion that national governments in developing countries should give greater emphasis to the development of their statistical services both as an integral part of their development planning activities and in their requests for technical assistance.

62. The Commission shared the view of the Chairman of the Committee for Development Planning that faster progress depended on adequate resources being made available for technical assistance in statistics. The Commission noted that the Chairman of the Committee shared the views of the Secretary-General on the growing need for resources in that area, and the Commission itself expressed its strong conviction that many of the developments in statistics judged vital for national economic and social needs would be jeopardized if present trends in technical assistance provisions continued. The Commission again emphasized the important role statistics played in economic and social development and the need to use all opportunities for conveying that idea to administrators and policy-makers in individual countries.

63. The commission considered that, in order to provide efficient and effective technical assistance in statistics to meet the requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade, and given present programming and financing arrangements in the United Nations system, it was important to achieve better co-ordination and integration of technical assistance activities in statistics. As the Working Group had pointed out at its fourth session, the adoption of country programming had led the decision-making process for technical assistance projects to become more decentralized; in view of that fact, the preparation of regular reports on trends in technical assistance in statistics over, say, a five-year period was now indispensable if the Commission was to discharge effectively its function of advising the Council on matters of statistical development.

64. The Commission considered that an integrated scheme of technical assistance in statistics should cover all the main forms of technical assistance, including advisory services, training, technical guidance and programme formulation, support and evaluation. The Commission agreed that assistance activities financed from all sources available for such purposes in the United Nations system should be included in the integrated scheme.

65. The Commission expressed the hope that, for the review of work towards an integrated scheme, information would also be available on technical assistance from donors outside the United Nations system, including the bilateral assistance of governments.

66. The Commission agreed that provision should be made for a representative of the United Nations Development Programme to be present at the fifth session of the Working Group, and at future sessions of the Commission, to participate in the discussion of technical assistance matters in statistics.

67. The Commission was informed that at the seventh session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, to be held in February 1973, the preparation of a report on the proposed integrated scheme of technical assistance in statistics would be one of the central topics for discussion.

68. The Commission recognized that the aim of the proposed work was to help in co-ordinating the planning and carrying out of technical assistance activities in statistics, and emphasized that the involvement of the Commission and its Working Group would not impair the responsibilities of the respective organizations within their areas of jurisdiction.

69. The Commission considered that the proposed scheme should include all the important projects of the United Nations family of organizations and systematically describe their objectives, interrelationships and duration. It should show, as far as possible, quantitative information on the activities described; for example, the level of expenditures, the number of advisers, the scope of training activities, the strength of supporting personnel, the number of seminars, the issue of manuals to be used in the developing countries.

70. It welcomed the suggestion that the Secretariat should obtain descriptions of particularly successful projects of international technical assistance experts and agreed that the dissemination of information on the benefits of technical assistance in statistics was desirable, especially if it included a quantitative evaluation.

71. The Commission agreed that the shortage of skilled statistical personnel was a basic handicap in the development of statistics in many countries and expressed the view that the relatively low importance sometimes attached to governmental statistical activities could be a serious obstacle to progress in overcoming that handicap.

72. The provision of international experts, though often desirable and helpful, was not the ultimate answer to the lack of trained statistical personnel in developing countries. Increased efforts in training were required, both at the international and national levels, to increase the supply of national statistical personnel in developing countries.

73. The Commission agreed that the quality of the experts recruited internationally was of paramount importance. Widespread concern was expressed that advisers were sometimes insufficiently experienced for the tasks facing them. There was also sometimes a tendency for them to try to transplant procedures and methods from their own countries without taking adequate account of the special conditions of the countries in which they were working and of the problems of local statistical systems.

74. The Commission agreed that the right approach in technical assistance was to use experts and outside help only as long as was absolutely necessary, and to establish sufficient expertise in the country itself as quickly as possible in order to make further assistance unnecessary. For that reason, training activities were of the greatest importance both for training professional statisticians and for training users in statistical methods and application.



75. The Commission recognized that the greatest need of some developing countries was for skilled people who could be switched from one statistical area to another in accordance with prevailing priorities, rather than for highly specialized staff. That was relevant both from the point of view of the type of training provided internationally and the type of experts needed. However, the Commission recognized that there were many difficulties in recruiting experts who met all the requirements.

76. Statisticians should become involved in the growing number of interdisciplinary teams for development, which were often composed primarily of economists, demographers, sociologists and political scientists. Statisticians in developing countries could give much help to such teams, and their participation alongside principal users of statistics would in turn be helpful to them.

77. The Commission agreed that, while the adequacy of resources available for assistance was indeed a key problem, attention should also be paid to improving efficiency in assistance activities. The Commission considered that the proposed integration and co-ordination of effort should help towards that end. Attention should also be paid to ensuring an appropriate geographical balance of technical assistance activities and to meeting the requirements of the least developed among the developing countries.

78. The Commission agreed that it was important to ensure that promised technical assistance became available quickly. Delay experienced in the recruitment of experts was a great problem. Another problem derived from the increasingly complex international machinery involved in the administration of aid. Thirdly, the provision of funds for strictly earmarked purposes often led to inefficiency and delays.

#### Conclusion

79. The Commission agreed on the following recommendations on technical assistance in statistics:

(a) That an integrated five-year scheme of technical assistance in statistics by the members of the United Nations family be formulated, in co-operation with the specialized agencies;

(b) That attention be called to the importance for the developing countries of including long-term (e.g. four-to-five-year) as well as, ideally, annual plans for the improvement of national statistical services and data in development plans and of including in those plans statements of likely future needs for technical assistance in statistics;

(c) That an item on the preparation of an integrated scheme of technical assistance activities in statistics be included in the agenda of the fifth session of the Working Group;

(d) That the report on the integrated scheme be reviewed by the Commission's Working Group at its session preceding the eighteenth session of the Commission and by the competent interagency bodies in the light of the Commission's comments at its seventeenth session.

## CHAPTER IV

### STATISTICS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME, CONSUMPTION AND ACCUMULATION

80. The Commission based its discussion of a system of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation on documents E/CN.3/425, E/CN.3/426 and E/CN.3/426/Add.1/Rev.1. Document E/CN.3/425 presented a draft system of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation; document E/CN.3/426 was a report containing the recommendations of an expert group concerning the draft system set out in E/CN.3/425; document E/CN.3/426/Add.1/Rev.1, which was submitted by the Central Statistical Board of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in consultation with certain other countries with centrally planned economies, set out the tables to be included in the system of income distribution and related statistics on the links between it and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS).

81. The Commission considered that the draft system in document E/CN.3/425, modified and elaborated in the light of the recommendations in documents E/CN.3/426 and E/CN.3/426/Add.1/Rev.1 and the recommendations and comments of the Commission as set out below, furnished valuable guidelines for the long-term development of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption, and accumulation and took due account of both the MPS and the SNA (System of National Accounts). The comprehensive framework of household accounts, which were linked with the SNA and MPS, should help to promote the systematic collection and compilation of statistics on the distribution of income and consumption required for such purposes as devising income policies and assessing the levels of living of various groups of the population. The Commission considered that, in view of the current state of income distribution and related statistics when measured against the comprehensive and detailed data encompassed in the guidelines, it would take countries, even those with well-developed systems of statistics, a considerable period of time to evolve the full system. It was noted that, at an appropriate future time, the guidelines would be used in the collection of selected income distribution and related statistics on an internationally comparable basis.

82. The Commission recommended the following modifications and elaboration of the draft system (E/CN.3/425), in conjunction with those proposed in the report of the expert group and in that of the countries using the MPS:

- (i) The four groups of the socio-economic classification, employers and own-account workers in agriculture and also employers and own-account workers outside of agriculture, should be raised to major groups, since they were important distinctions in the case of both developed and developing countries;
- (ii) Additional tables should be included in the system on data cross-classified according to socio-economic classes and size of income;
- (iii) The technical annex to the guidelines should include a discussion of the sources, methods and problems of gathering the data of the system, in addition to summary measures of distribution of income and consumption.

83. It was also suggested that it would be useful to find substitutes for the terms "total consumption of the population" and "total income of the population", since the word "total" was misleading. The attention of the Commission was called to the different meanings of "primary income" in the draft system and in the MPS.

84. The Commission stressed the need to prepare a version of the draft system for the use of the developing countries. It was important that the countries should gather and compile at least rudimentary statistics on the distribution of consumption and income, in view of the requirements for the data in assessing the levels of living of the population. The full system was too complex and elaborate to furnish suitable guidance for that purpose. Also, some of the approaches, concepts and classifications of the system might not fit the institutional arrangements and the realities of the existing circumstances of the developing countries. For example, a different balance needed to be struck between data on consumption and data on income than that contained in the full system. Information on the possession of various durable household goods would, in certain instances, be a better guide to level of living than unreliable direct income estimates. The classification by social and economic categories should be studied, particularly for developing countries. The Commission also considered that it was necessary to devote considerable attention to the problems of gathering the data and the priorities to be assigned to that work in the guidelines for the developing countries. A technical manual was needed on those and other aspects of inquiries into the distribution of consumption and income.

#### Conclusion

85. The Commission recommended the following programme of work on income distribution and related statistics:

- (i) The full system, as adopted by the Commission, should be published and circulated to Governments and interested international agencies for use as guidelines in the long-term development of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation;
- (ii) Suitable draft guidelines should be prepared on statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation for the use of the developing countries, with the assistance of an expert, if necessary, and in consultation with the national statistical authorities of those countries; a report on the work should be submitted to the Commission at its eighteenth session;
- (iii) A technical manual should be prepared for the use of developing countries on the purposes, problems, concepts, definitions, classifications and methods of collection and compilation of statistics of the distribution of household income, consumption and accumulation; the Commission noted that the manual was already included in the programme of work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.

## CHAPTER V

### STATISTICS OF PRICES AND QUANTITIES AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTING IN CONSTANT PRICES

86. In discussing statistics of prices and quantities and national accounting in constant prices, the Commission had before it documents E/CN.3/427 and E/CN.3/428. The former dealt with the objectives, scope, framework and contents of an integrated system of traditional and national accounting series of prices and quantities. The latter document discussed the concepts, problems and methods of gathering and compiling prices and quantity series.

87. The Commission noted that the integrated system, presented in a tentative form in the two documents, was intended to furnish, eventually, consistent and correlated draft guidelines on both national accounting in constant prices and on the various series of traditional index numbers of prices and quantities. Those guidelines would fill the gaps in, or bring up to date, the available international guidance concerning the series. For example, the existing guidelines on national accounting in constant prices were not specific enough; those on index numbers of industrial production and producers' prices were out of date; international recommendations were unavailable on index numbers of the volume of activity of construction, of the distributive trades or of services. The integration of national accounting in constant prices and the traditional index numbers of price and quantities was designed to maximize the use of the same data in compiling those series, to avoid inconsistencies in the results obtained and to facilitate the joint use of the series in economic analysis. While recognizing the many advantages of a coherent system of constant-price national accounting series and traditional price and quantity index numbers, the Commission stressed that integration could not be carried to the point where it included all price and quantity series required for purposes of making, carrying out or evaluating economic policies.

88. The following general comments were made in respect of documents E/CN.3/427 and E/CN.3/428:

- (i) The presentation was too much dominated by the input-output approach and, in many instances, failed to take account of urgent practical problems.
- (ii) The proposed system was not flexible enough to cover certain important series useful for economic policy. It was questionable whether in all cases consistency could be maintained between other statistical work and price and quantity indexes or the production and expenditure sides of constant-price national accounts.
- (iii) Insufficient attention was paid to the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS).
- (iv) More attention should be devoted to such practical problems as pricing of unique and heavy capital goods, constant-price data on government

activities, adjustments for quality changes and the deflation of indirect taxes. The promotion of development of solutions to those problems would be more important than developing a full system.

- (v) Index number formulae should be discussed in the light of the uses to which the series of index numbers were to be put, in addition to the formal properties and the problems of compilation of the indices.
- (vi) The weight base of index numbers should be shifted once every five years. Series of chained index numbers where the weight base was shifted even more often had certain practical and analytical advantages.
- (vii) The draft system was too ambitious regarding the proposed frequency for many constituent series.

89. The Commission considered that the work on statistics of prices and quantities should continue, with priority being given to national accounting in constant prices. A study of national practices in respect of national accounting in constant prices, and perhaps in respect of traditional index numbers of prices and quantities, would furnish a useful basis for the further work. It was suggested that separation of the discussion of national accounting in constant prices from the discussion of traditional index numbers of prices and quantities might clarify the presentation of the system. The Commission indicated that more attention needed to be devoted to the purposes for which the statistics were required and the practical problems of gathering and compiling the series in further work on the system. The system in relation to the MPS should also be the subject of more consideration.

90. The Commission requested that a report on work in that field be submitted at its eighteenth session. The report should cover the study of country practices in respect of national accounting in constant prices.

## CHAPTER VI

### REVISION OF THE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION (SITC)

91. The representative of the Secretariat called the Commission's attention to the item of the work programme that had led to the second revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). <sup>4/</sup> After referring to the basic principles recommended by the group of experts on the revision of the SITC at their first session, in 1969, he went on to indicate the developments that had taken place in the revision of the SITC since the sixteenth session of the Commission.

92. A preliminary draft of the SITC, Rev.2, based on the results of the first session of the group of experts and on the views of the Commission, had been prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to Governments and international organizations for comment. The preliminary draft and the comments received had been discussed by the group of experts at their second session, held from 5 to 9 June 1972, following which a second draft (E/CN.3/429) had been submitted to the current session of the Commission for comment.

93. The representative of the Secretariat explained that the second draft could not be considered final, since it was still being considered by a working party of the Customs Co-operation Council, which wished to maintain the existing correspondence between the SITC and the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature (BTN).

94. The working party of the Customs Co-operation Council was examining (a) the correspondence between the SITC, Rev.2 and the BTN headings, (b) the possibility of customs authorities' using the new headings in SITC, Rev.2, and (c) the inclusion of additional explanatory notes to cover the new headings created by the revision of the SITC.

95. The working party had already examined a large number of the new headings in the second draft, and it was hoped that it would complete its work by March 1973. The final text of the second revision of the SITC would be presented to the Commission at its eighteenth session: the expert group on the revision of the SITC would assist in its preparation if necessary. Since the Customs Co-operation Council could not approve the new BTN/SITC, Rev.2 before the Commission had adopted the final draft of the SITC, Rev.2, it could not take a final decision before June 1975 and therefore the new SITC could not be applied before 1 January 1976.

96. The representative of the Customs Co-operation Council informed the Commission of the work they were doing on developing a harmonized commodity description and coding system for use in international trade. The very detailed structured nomenclature (8,000 to 10,000 items) would be developed from the BTN and the SITC.

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<sup>4/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10, para. 159 (23).

97. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe reported on the work undertaken by a working group on the establishment of a correspondence key between the SITC, Rev.1, and the trade classification of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

98. The Commission took note and expressed its appreciation of the work of the Secretariat on the revision of the SITC and was pleased to note the co-operation at the working level between the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Customs Co-operation Council.

99. The Commission approved the general framework of the SITC, Rev.2 and agreed that a further revision should be presented at its eighteenth session. The Commission also endorsed the proposed time-table outlined by the Secretariat.

100. The Commission supported the view that a one-to-one correspondence between the SITC and the BTN should be maintained. At their first session, the group of experts had decided to abandon that idea on the grounds that certain BTN items had become unimportant in international trade or had lost their economic significance because of changes in the pattern of trade in the last 10 years. The Commission requested that the Customs Co-operation Council should, where possible, eliminate such items from the BTN.

101. The Commission was concerned that developing countries were not able to participate in CCC's working party and that, in consequence, the views of developed countries were too prominent in discussions. The Commission requested the Secretariat to take account of the lack of balance and to take the necessary measures to ensure that the point of view of all countries was taken into consideration in the revision of the SITC.

102. The Commission also expressed concern because primary products did not receive the same degree of detailed classification as manufactured products. The Commission asked the Secretariat to make any necessary adjustments to avoid such imbalances.

103. The representative of the Secretariat pointed out that, as in the case of the SITC, Rev.1, countries could expand or contract the SITC, Rev.2 for their own statistical purposes. Countries might find that, for certain classes of commodities, the pattern of their trade did not justify providing the full SITC detail. Another difficulty was that some countries might not wish to disclose certain detailed information because it was confidential. In such cases the countries might wish to contract the SITC, Rev.2 by showing data only at the next higher level or in some other way consistent with the structure of the new SITC. On the other hand, a number of countries might wish to distinguish more details of a given item than were provided in the SITC.

104. The Commission felt that a study of the relations between the various nomenclatures for goods and services and their production (SITC, BTN, ISIC (International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities), ICGS (International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services)) was necessary in order to link data on production, foreign trade and the domestic uses of goods and services. The Commission also noted that several countries were moving towards integrated classification systems, and ideas on those would also be useful.

105. The Commission agreed that, meanwhile, all efforts should be made to establish conversion keys to correlate the various international classifications. The Commission noted the importance of continued work in establishing conversion keys between the trade classification of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and other related classifications, because of the importance of relating the relevant foreign trade data.



## CHAPTER VII

### STATISTICS OF THE DISTRIBUTIVE AND RELATED SERVICE TRADES

106. The Commission discussed the revision of the international recommendations on statistics of the distributive trades and services, basing itself on document E/CN.3/430 and on tables giving data on national practices in that field. The document proposed revisions in the existing standards, in the light of recent developments in national practices, and in the related international standards for classification by kind of economic activity, for industrial statistics and for national accounting.

107. The Commission approved, in general, the approach adopted in document E/CN.3/430 and welcomed, in particular, the distinction made between the programmes for developed countries and those for countries whose statistics were less developed. Several members of the Commission pointed out that the proposed recommendations were too ambitious. In the case of the developing countries, in particular, there were great difficulties in obtaining even a minimum amount of information on the activities of the distributive and service trades. The large number of small units, the high rates of birth and death within those units and the absence of any records of transactions made it difficult to obtain any information for a large part of those fields of activity. The Commission therefore considered that there was a pressing need to supplement the international recommendations in that field by a technical manual, which should deal, *inter alia*, with methods and problems of collection and the types of inquiries to be used. There was also a need for practical help in applying appropriate methods of collection.

108. The following points were made on specific aspects of the draft recommendations:

- (i) It was desirable to expand and improve the discussion on the purposes for which statistics of the distributive and service trades were required.
- (ii) While it was agreed that the establishment, or a similar unit, was a suitable statistical unit in the case of most of the data covered in the recommendations, it was suggested that certain items, for example expenditure on fixed assets and changes in stock, could be more easily gathered in respect of the enterprise. It was suggested that the advantages of using the enterprise, as well as the establishment, as a statistical unit should be given more consideration. In that connexion, the Commission noted that the use of the enterprise, and the kinds of data for which the enterprise was a suitable statistical unit, was being studied as part of the item relating to enterprise statistics in the Commission's programme of work.

- (iii) It was proposed that the recommendations should be more closely related to the definitions of the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS), as well as those of the System of National Accounts (SNA), in particular in the case of classification by kind of activity and the distinction between material and non-material services.
- (iv) The usefulness of employment figures as a criterion of size, in the distributive and service trades, was questioned. The value of sales would be a better criterion for classifying establishments by size in these trades.
- (v) Where infrequent inquiries were the only source of business registers, it would not be possible to give annual or more frequent information on the number of units, as requested in the report.

109. The Commission considered that the points listed in paragraph 108 above and other questions arising in respect of the detailed contents of the draft recommendations should be studied further before the recommendations could be adopted. The Commission requested that document E/CN.3/430 should be circulated to national statistical authorities for further comments and that, in the light of those comments, a revised version of the draft recommendations should be submitted to the Commission at its eighteenth session. The Commission considered that an expert group should be convened, if necessary, to study the revised draft before the final recommendations were adopted.

110. The Commission also requested that work should start as soon as resources permitted on a technical manual on the planning and conduct of surveys of the distributive trades and services.

## CHAPTER VIII

### A SYSTEM OF DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL STATISTICS

#### A. The system and the basic series, classifications and social indicators of the subsystems

111. The Commission's discussions of a system of demographic and social statistics were based on document E/CN.3/432.

112. The Commission considered that substantial progress had been made during the past two years on the work of developing a system of demographic and social statistics. The basic statistics, classifications and social indicators of the subsystems had been listed and had been fused with the framework of the system. Thus, document E/CN.3/432 furnished guidance for the co-ordinated development of a wide range of coherent demographic, manpower and social statistics. At the same time, it was stressed that the framework and structure of the system was intended to be flexible and that it allowed countries to choose the approaches to the development, collection and compilation of statistics that best fitted their needs and circumstances. It was noted that in some cases individualized data systems based, to a considerable extent, on administrative records and the use of identification numbers were being established; in other cases, data from household sample surveys and administrative records were being linked more loosely at the level of groups of individuals or households. In the case of the latter approach, it would be necessary to use retrospective or longitudinal inquiries in order to forge links at the level of individuals.

113. Members of the Commission expressed various views on the approach to social indicators taken in document E/CN.3/432. Social indicators were conceived in the report as summaries, simple or complex, of the basic series of the system designed to monitor conditions of living of social interest or concern, to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of social services or to ascertain explanatory factors for existing social conditions. A number of members of the Commission felt that the concept was too broad and that social indicators should be thought of as series related to specific policy goals and social concerns. Those goals and concerns should first be defined and the series derived from them rather than from the elements of the system. Other members of the Commission believed that, in view of the diversity in social problems and concerns among countries, it was not desirable to narrow the concept of social indicators in that sense and that the statistics were needed to detect and identify social problems and to build simulation models. It was suggested that, in order to avoid confusion, it would be desirable to find a new term to describe the summary series of the system.

114. In the course of the discussion of social indicators, the Commission was informed of the work of the Nordic countries and of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the subject. That organization had almost completed the first stage of its work, which consisted of the definition of a list of social concerns, and it was felt by several members to have made significant

progress. The second stage would consist of delineating social indicators for the various concerns; in the third stage, data would be sought on a selection of those indicators.

115. Some members of the Commission believed that document E/CN.3/432 assigned too dominant a role to demographic aspects in accounting for social conditions. In their view, insufficient attention was devoted to the impact of employment and the other economic circumstances on social conditions.

116. The Commission noted that, because of lack of resources, it had not been possible to prepare a version of the system of demographic and social statistics specifically adapted to the needs and circumstances of the developing countries. The Commission considered it important that a draft of the system suitable for use by the developing countries should be prepared as soon as possible, with the aid of a consultant. There was also a widespread view that the full version of the system was too complex; some of the concepts and series of the system were not suited to the circumstances of the developing countries; and it was impracticable for those countries to develop a number of parts of the system in the foreseeable future. The Commission noted that a working group in the Asian region had discussed the full system and that future working groups on the full system in the Latin American and perhaps African regions should be of assistance in preparing a draft of a suitable version of the system for the use of the developing countries. The Commission stressed that future work in that field should give priority to the needs and problems of developing countries and that all efforts should be made to produce flexible methods. Moreover, attention should be given to problems of basic data collection.

#### Conclusion

117. The Commission approved the following programme of work on the system of demographic and social statistics during the next two years:

- (i) The delineation of social indicators within the framework of the system would be assigned high priority with a view to presenting final draft guidelines on social indicators for consideration by the Commission at its eighteenth session. The document would take account of the work of the specialized agencies and other international organizations on social indicators; it would deal with the purposes, concepts, place in the system, criteria of selection and methods of construction of social indicators, in addition to listing the series of social indicators themselves. The document should be prepared in consultation with the specialized agencies and national statistical authorities. The Commission stressed the importance of obtaining the views of the developing countries and recommended that the draft guidelines should be considered in 1974 by the Expert Group on a System of Demographic and Social Statistics and that arrangements should be made for the participation of an adequate number of experts from the developing countries.
- (ii) Preparation and publication of a preliminary comprehensive technical document on the system as a whole in order to present the results of the work thus far: the work should be carried out with the assistance of a consultant and of the expert group, in 1973, with adequate representation

from the developing countries. The publication would be a valuable source of information on the system and would furnish a useful basis for further work. It should deal, inter alia, with the following aspects of the system: the linkages and other connexions between the subsystems; the methods of gathering the basic data of the system; and analytical techniques, in particular elementary model building. Attention should be directed in the document to the linkages between demographic conditions, education and the labour force and the correlations between demographic conditions, employment and levels of living. So that it would be clear that the publication was a preliminary version of a system which was in the process of evolution and had not been adopted by the Commission, it should be entitled "Towards a system of demographic and social statistics".

- (iii) Preparation of a draft version of a system of demographic and social statistics suitable for use by the developing countries, with the assistance of an expert and in consultation with the interested specialized agencies and the national statistical authorities. That version should pay particular attention to the methods of collection of basic data of certain components of the system, for example, population, education and health, and should include appropriate technical guidance. The work should be assigned high priority and should be reported on to the Commission at its eighteenth session.
- (iv) Continuation of the work on the framework, structure and accounts of the system and on the definition of the series of basic statistics and classification of the subsystems.

#### B. Statistics of international and internal migration

118. The Commission considered the question of statistics of international and internal migration, basing its discussion on documents E/CN.3/434 and E/CN.3/435. The former document made proposals for revising the existing international recommendations in the light of the purposes for which the statistics were required and in the light of national experience with current standards; the latter put forward tentative draft international guidelines on internal migration statistics in the light of the need for, and the problems of gathering, such data. Both focused on methods of gathering migration statistics. The Commission also had before it Conference Room Paper No. 3, which contained comments of the Population Division of the United Nations on the documents. The Commission agreed to treat statistics of international and internal migration as two separate subjects.

#### International migration

119. The Commission stressed the need for international standards for statistics of international migration. Immigration accounted for important additions to the population and labour force in the case of a number of countries and raised problems of assimilation and of education, housing, etc. Emigration eased the population and employment problems of other countries but reduced the already scarce supply of professional and technical personnel in the case of the developing countries. The Commission felt that for purposes of assessing the significance of

such movements and dealing with the national and international questions to which they gave rise, relatively frequent - at least annual, but preferably quarterly or monthly - data were needed on an internationally comparable basis. It was also recommended that the discussion in document E/CN.3/434 of the need for, and of the content and tabulations of, statistics of international migration should be elaborated.

120. The Commission pointed out that in revising the standards for statistics of international migration it was important to give attention to statistics on tourists and to other movements across national borders, for example, movements of seasonal workers and visitors for commercial, health or educational purposes. In order to identify international migrants, it was necessary to define the ways in which they differed from other categories of persons crossing national borders. The definition of international migrants hinged on the length, as well as the purpose, of stay in the country of arrival. It was pointed out that in a number of countries the legal definition of residence specified periods of less than one year, which was the criterion for length of stay laid down in the existing international recommendations, and it was suggested that account should be taken of the legal definitions in specifying the length of stay in the international recommendations. Attention was called to the need for international work, at the appropriate time, on statistics for tourists and for those commuting to work.

121. The Commission considered that document E/CN.3/434 overstated the value of sample field inquiries and censuses and understated the value of frontier controls, alien working permits, social security and other records and population registers in generating statistics of international migration. Censuses could only yield infrequent data on the number and characteristics of net immigrants over a period of time and on the amount of net migration during the period, after adjustments had been made for births and deaths. Where there was a considerable amount of migration between given countries, comparisons of comparable census data on past place of residence might be a useful way of measuring the number and characteristics of net migrants from one country to the other during the period in question. Relatively large samples were required in the case of more frequent field inquiries needed for gathering data on immigrants and net migration and such inquiries would be costly. On the other hand, data on the number and selected characteristics of immigrants and emigrants could be gathered frequently where adequate frontier controls existed; statistics were gathered from that source in many countries. Some countries which had alien working permits, social security registration systems or population registers had successfully used those sources of information in order to compile frequent data on immigrants and sometimes on emigrants. It was suggested that use might be made of samples of immigrants identified from those registers or records for purposes of field inquiries to gather unregistered additional information on the characteristics of immigrants.

122. The Commission recommended that a study should be prepared of national practices in the collection and compilation of statistics of international migration. The study would furnish a valuable basis for revising existing international standards on statistics of international migration. The Commission indicated that document E/CN.3/434 should be modified and elaborated in the light of its comments and of the study of national practices.

## Internal migration

123. The Commission considered that international guidance on statistics of internal migration could be valuable to countries in improving and expanding such data. Countries required the statistics for such purposes as measuring the substantial movement of population from rural to urban areas or from depressed to prosperous areas, and assessing the demands on public and social services and the other economic and social problems engendered by the shifts in population. However, the Commission believed that the need for, and possibilities of, international comparability were not as great in the case of internal migration statistics as in that of international migration statistics. Internal migration was less a matter of international concern and the desired statistics would necessarily vary significantly from one country to another. Nevertheless, the sharing and distillation of national experience and views in the form of international guidelines would be of value to countries in developing their internal migration statistics.

124. The Commission members had a brief exchange of experiences and views on the methods of gathering internal migration statistics. It was noted that population registers had been successfully used by some countries to gather data on an annual and less frequent basis. In another case, information from administrative controls on movements from one part of the country to another yielded the required data. In many countries, sample field inquiries and censuses were the only source of information on internal migration. Some problems arising from internal migration, such as the demands for municipal facilities, were confined to known specific areas, and censuses of those areas could yield the required information.

125. The Commission recommended that a study should be prepared of national practices in the definition, collection and compilation of internal migration statistics. The study would be a means of exchanging national experiences and views concerning those statistics and would serve as a basis for improving the international guidelines in respect of statistics of internal migration proposed in document E/CN.3/435. The Commission noted that it would be necessary to gather new information from countries on their practices and views for purposes of the study.

## Conclusion

126. The Commission recommended that two studies of national practices - one for statistics of international migration and the other for statistics of internal migration - should be carried out by the Secretariat; based on those studies, revised standards for statistics of international migration and guidelines for statistics of internal migration should be drafted in consultation with national statistical offices and interested international organizations. Reports on the draft standards and guidelines should be submitted to the Commission at its eighteenth session.

### C. Manpower statistics

127. Document E/CN.3/433 was prepared by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) following a recommendation of the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its third session. While it was included in the agenda under the item concerning a system of demographic and social statistics, it was not drafted in that framework. The ILO intended to draft another document on the aspects of the system concerning manpower and conditions of work statistics, but the task had not yet been completed. The main object of document E/CN.3/433 was to review the evolution of manpower statistics and to indicate the general directions in which work would proceed during the next 10 years. Essentially, the task envisaged was (a) to continue, and if possible develop, the collection, publication, and dissemination of current data on employment and unemployment and (b) to assist the developing countries to establish or improve the manpower statistics necessary for the preparation, implementation and evaluation of economic and social development programmes.

128. From that point of view, the ILO intended:

(a) To determine clearly the statistical needs of planners and other users of manpower statistics;

(b) To assemble all existing data on manpower, assess their reliability and use them to prepare the required estimates;

(c) To assist in exploiting the data collected in censuses or other surveys but not yet processed;

(d) To determine the fields in which the developing countries should undertake supplementary surveys in order to obtain the basic data needed;

(e) To assist the developing countries in undertaking the supplementary inquiries and in putting the results at the disposal of users.

The scale on which the tasks would be undertaken would depend on the resources available. Those from the regular budget of the ILO would most probably be insufficient, and there was little hope at the current stage that the funds would be increased in the near future: however, financing by other sources was envisaged and might make a major contribution to the development of manpower statistics.

129. Other work of the ILO in the field of manpower statistics concerned labour force projections, collaboration in the work to be done by the United Nations on the integrated system, research on the effects of population increase on employment and determination of a basic programme of manpower statistics for developing countries. On the latter point, the Commission was informed that the Twelfth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, which had first been scheduled for April 1971 and had been postponed sine die for financial reasons, was now scheduled to be held in Geneva from 16 to 26 October 1973. The agenda had been somewhat amended and the first item would be a general review of labour statistics, divided into two parts: (a) the objectives and programmes of labour statistics; and (b) a basic statistical programme of labour statistics for developing countries.



130. The Commission was also informed of the relevant activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Recent developments included greater emphasis on the study of the flow of pupils through the educational system, the elaboration of the International Standard Classification of Education and the collection for the first time of data on the qualifications of staff involved in education.

131. Considerable emphasis was given by members to the need for a reassessment of the labour force concept in the context of developing countries. Underemployment, rather than unemployment, was involved and experience had shown that the labour force concept devised for and successfully applied in developed countries was not the most appropriate one for developing countries. It was recognized that the extreme difficulty of obtaining income data added to the problem of devising suitable criteria for measuring underemployment. It was also recognized that even in developed countries the measurement of the characteristics of the labour force had become more complex.

132. Attention was drawn to the growing need for more information on such matters as the educational level and skills of the unemployed or the underemployed, measures of "conditions of life" associated with work, e.g. industrial accidents, routine monotonous tasks etc., occupational distribution of the labour force and the flow from education to employment. The need for detailed and elaborate data for the forecasting of labour requirements was underlined.

133. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the continuing work of the ILO in the field of manpower statistics and the direction in which future work was planned, with the emphasis on developing countries. It noted that the implementation of some plans might be adversely affected by lack of funds. The Commission welcomed the effective co-operation between the ILO and UNESCO in fields of common concern, such as statistics of vocational training. It would welcome reports from the two organizations on further work in those fields for consideration at its eighteenth session.

## CHAPTER IX

### PROGRESS REPORTS

#### A. United Nations Statistical Office

134. The Commission had before it a progress report on the United Nations Statistical Office (E/CN.3/436), covering its work between the sixteenth and the seventeenth sessions of the Commission. The Commission considered that the background information contained in the report was useful for appraising the work in general and for viewing the individual projects in the broader context of the whole set of activities described in the document.

135. The Commission noted that, for a number of the projects listed, separate reports had been submitted and were discussed under other items of the agenda. For the remainder, the review of document E/CN.3/436 provided an opportunity to discuss the progress made.

136. The Commission was informed of progress on two projects after the completion of the document in July 1972. The first was the World Fertility Survey, sponsored by the International Statistical Institute in collaboration with the United Nations and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (see also paras. 20 and 21 above). The Survey was planned as a major international research programme to be conducted in conjunction with World Population Year, 1974. Its purpose was to assess the current state of world knowledge on fertility and family planning and to promote new, nationally representative and internationally comparable sample surveys in as many countries of the world as possible.

137. The Commission was informed that United Nations participation in the Survey was being organized through the Population Division, the Statistical Office and the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut. It also noted that the Statistical Office was represented on each of three functional committees: (a) the Programme Steering Committee, (b) the Regional Co-ordinating Committee and (c) the Technical Advisory Committee.

138. The Commission was also informed of the preliminary results of the inquiry on national participation by developing countries in the 1973 World Programme of Industrial Statistics. Up to the end of October 1972, 51 countries had indicated their plans to participate in the Programme recommended by the Commission, and five countries had indicated that they did not plan to participate. Thirty-nine of the participating countries had indicated that they would adopt a year between 1972 and 1974 as the reference year for the survey.

139. The Commission noted with satisfaction the very substantial amount of work carried out by the Statistical Office during the period under review and the significant progress made in many parts of its work programme. The Commission also appreciated that, given the difficult circumstances under which the Office had been working recently, considerable extra effort had been required from the staff to achieve the output summarized in the document.

140. Although the Commission noted the progress in co-ordination of statistical activities of the organizations in the United Nations system, there was felt to be a need for some further efforts in that respect. It was suggested that the Commission should, in the future, receive reports on the harmonization of statistical standards. In particular, the reports should provide the basis for evaluating progress in the harmonization of the statistical standards of the United Nations and of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

141. The Commission considered that for its eighteenth session, in addition to the progress report on the Statistical Office, an integrated progress report on the statistical activities of the organizations of the United Nations system should be prepared. It expressed the wish that the draft of the report should be discussed by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination at its session immediately before the Commission's eighteenth session. The request of the Commission for such a progress report was a logical outcome of its concern with integrated long-term planning of all statistical activities in the United Nations system. In view of the co-operative spirit shown by the specialized agencies in preparing the integrated five-year programmes (which had required substantial efforts by all the organizations), the Commission hoped that they would react favourably to the suggestion.

142. It was felt that future progress reports on the Statistical Office should also include indications of the resources and time-scale of the various projects. The Commission considered that, with the introduction of programme budgeting in the United Nations, the Statistical Office would be better placed to furnish such information to the Commission at its eighteenth session for work during the next two years.

143. The Commission emphasized that the progress reports of statistical activities should be related wherever possible to specific items in the agreed programmes of work. The biennial progress reports on activities of the Statistical Office were important both in relation to past and to future work programmes. In relation to programmes adopted at a preceding session, the evaluation of progress in terms of the goals then set was of particular interest. With regard to programmes for the future, the lessons learned during the period under review were important.

144. The Commission considered the desirability and feasibility of studying the impact on countries of various international statistical programmes. Resources allocated to international statistical projects at the international level were by no means the only expenses involved in the implementation of those programmes. The impact on resources at the national level was often substantial. While the participation of countries in projects was voluntary, decisions taken by international bodies to launch individual projects should be made with due consideration of their costs (in terms of labour, money and time), nationally as well as internationally.

145. The Commission noted, however, that there were practical difficulties in obtaining such information. In respect of cost at the national level, there was a question whether the costs to original respondents to surveys should be included and, if so, on what basis. In view of the differences in national budgeting and accounting procedures, international comparability of national costs, which was certainly desirable, would be hard to achieve. But, since international inquiries often led to greater national expenditures than anticipated, a preliminary study of the subject by the Secretariat would be valuable.

146. The Commission took note with satisfaction of the work progress of the United Nations Statistical Office, as reported in document E/CN.3/436.

#### B. Balance-of-payments statistics

147. The Commission discussed a progress report of the International Monetary Fund (E/CN.3/437), reviewing developments in the Fund's work on balance-of-payments statistics since its sixteenth session.

148. The Commission was pleased to note that the number of countries reporting balance-of-payments statistics had increased from about 70 in volume 13 of the Balance of Payments Yearbook to about 100 in volume 22.

149. The Commission was informed that the Fund had, in effect, withdrawn a final draft of the fourth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual and planned to prepare a temporary draft supplement to the third edition of the Manual. The marked change in the approach to the balance of payments that was adopted in the draft of the fourth edition had given rise to apprehensions that national compilers of balance-of-payments statistics would be inconvenienced and international comparability of the data would suffer. The draft supplement to the third edition of the Manual would pass through two revisions in the light of the comments of national compilers before it was finally issued. The Commission attached great importance to the draft supplement and hoped that it would be completed as quickly as possible.

150. A new draft of the fourth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual was expected to be prepared in about one and a half years' time, in consultation with national balance-of-payments statisticians. A working group of national compilers of the data, including representatives of the developed and developing countries, was to be convened for that purpose. It might also be necessary to convene working groups of technicians to help deal with difficult special problems.

151. In some countries, balance-of-payments statistics were not the responsibility of the central statistical services. In view of the close relations between balance-of-payments and other statistics and, in particular, the national accounts, the Commission expressed the wish that, in such cases, the central statistical services should also receive, for information, the documents prepared for the supplement to the third edition of the Manual and for its fourth edition, as well as a copy of the time-table of meetings. The Statistical Office of the United Nations would facilitate the procedure by furnishing the Fund with the names and addresses of the statistical offices concerned.

### C. Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies

152. The Commission considered a progress report covering the statistical activities of the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) between its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions (E/CN.3/438). The Commission also heard the statements of the chiefs of the statistical services of the regional economic commissions.

#### Economic Commission for Europe

153. The Commission welcomed the close relations between the statistical activities of the Economic Commission for Europe and those of the United Nations Statistical Office. Many projects carried out in Europe were related to the current or planned work of the Statistical Commission. The Commission was informed that, in many cases, substantive papers for the meetings of the working groups in Europe were prepared by the Statistical Office in New York.

154. The Commission took note of the activities designed to meet specific needs in Europe, such as the project to exchange national experiences in electronic data processing. It welcomed the fact that the information gathered and maintained in Geneva could be made available to any country outside the region interested in obtaining such materials.

#### Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East

155. The Commission welcomed the progress made in the statistical activities of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in respect of statistical compilation and analysis, statistical methods and standards and statistical training. During the period under review, the second, third and fourth issues of the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Far East were published. The third issue of the Yearbook, for 1970, included, for the first time, the available data relating to China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and Papua New Guinea.

156. It was brought to the attention of the Commission that the considerable time lag in bringing out the Yearbook, which had been due to the publication's being printed away from ECAFE, was gradually being reduced. However, there was still a delay in issuing Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Far East, due to delays in the receipt of detailed trade data from a few countries.

157. The Commission noted that the Asian Statistical Institute had concluded its first general course and its first advanced course (on world economic censuses and related inquiries) in March 1971. The second general course had commenced in June 1971 and ended in March 1972, as had the second advanced course (on evaluation, analytical processing and use of census data). Note was also taken of the efforts by the ECAFE secretariat to organize a roving subregional statistical training programme at the primary and intermediate levels for the Khmer Republic, Laos and the Republic of Viet-Nam. They were being organized by an expert provided by the Government of France and the training courses were expected to

begin shortly. The secretariat had been providing a limited amount of on-the-job training for a few officials. The Commission noted with concern that shortage of resources might jeopardize a number of important ECAFE activities, and already certain training activities, seminars and engagements of regional advisers were threatened.

#### Economic Commission for Latin America

158. The Commission was informed that the statistical activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) were co-ordinated with the over-all programme of the United Nations Statistical Office and that progress was being made in promoting both the development of national statistics and the improvement of international comparability. The programme covered participation in the regional technical assistance programme, the organization of seminars and working groups and the maintenance of close contact with regional activities of the specialized agencies and with the Inter-American Statistical Institute.

159. The Commission noted that the statistical series concerning member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America related to all the main fields of activity, namely, population and social questions, national accounts, foreign trade and balance-of-payments, mining, manufacturing, construction and electric power, transport, manpower, prices and, through the Joint ECLA/FAO Agriculture Division, agriculture and animal husbandry. Close contact was maintained with the United Nations Statistical Office, the specialized agencies and national statistical offices.

160. The Commission welcomed the fact that in the ECLA region the United Nations Fund for Population Activities was currently financing the following regional advisers: two in the field of population and housing census (one for South America and the other for Central America); one in sampling, for population and housing censuses; one in vital statistics; and one in data processing. In addition, an adviser in cartography had been applied for.

161. The Commission noted that the ECLA programme had suffered from a shortage of resources and that one important meeting, that of a working group on national accounts, had had to be postponed.

162. The Commission's attention was drawn by some members to the important activities of the Inter-American Statistical Institute in training national statisticians and to the contribution those activities made to technical assistance for the region.

#### Economic Commission for Africa

163. The Commission was informed of the progress made in the statistical activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), particularly in the field of general economic statistics, where advisory missions were undertaken in connexion with trade statistics and computerization of data. A regional seminar concerned with commodity classifications and the principal problems of African countries in recording trade data had been held. The Commission noted that a study on the

terms of trade of developing Africa had been completed ahead of schedule and that work continued on industrial statistics methodology for use under African conditions. A survey of distribution statistics was currently being undertaken. The Commission was informed that an Economic Information Section had been added to the Statistics Division in 1971, resulting in better co-ordination and development of statistical and related publications.

164. The Commission noted that officials from ECA had recently visited 22 selected African countries for the purpose of collecting current data and promoting the speedier circulation of material from national sources. That had considerably improved the availability of data at ECA, which was important not only for statistical publications and analysis, but also for projects such as the annual Economic Survey of Africa and the appraisal of progress during the Second United Nations Development Decade.

165. In the context of technical assistance work, the Commission was pleased that the training programme in statistics had continued at the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics in Morocco and at the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics in Uganda, as well as at the lower-level Statistics Training Institute in Cameroon. The East African Statistical Training Centre had been taken over by the East African Community when United Nations assistance had come to an end. Previous middle-level centres in Ethiopia and Ghana had already been absorbed by local universities.

166. The Commission was concerned because shortage of funds had had some effect on the 1972 programme of the Economic Commission for Africa. A meeting on external transactions had been cancelled and a secretariat report would take its place. A training seminar on industrial statistics had been postponed, though the documentation was complete. It was hoped that the meeting would be held in 1973.

#### Conclusion

167. The Commission commended the very valuable and significant efforts shown in the progress report on the statistical activities of the regional economic commissions. However, it noted with concern that problems of inadequate resources were endangering progress in statistical work in all the regions. That raised general issues about technical assistance support, which the Commission discussed on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General (E/5099) (see paras. 56-79 above).

## CHAPTER X

### PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

#### A. Publications of statistics

168. For the discussion of that item the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Publications of statistics" (E/CN.3/439 and Add.1). In document E/CN.3/439, the relevant proposals of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) 5/ were shown for each major topic pertaining to statistical publications.

169. The Commission was informed that the JIU report had been submitted directly to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session. In accordance with Assembly resolution 2886 (XXVI), the Economic and Social Council decided to transmit the relevant recommendations of the JIU report to those of its subsidiary bodies that would meet before the Council's fifty-third session, in July 1972. Hence, the recommendations in the JIU report pertaining to statistics, together with the comments of the Secretary-General, 6/ were brought to the attention of the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, at its fourth session.

170. The comments of the Working Group on the JIU report were also before the Commission (E/CN.3/420, paras. 4-22). Since the Council had met immediately after the fourth session of the Working Group, those comments had been submitted directly to the Council but as they were substantive in nature the Working Group emphasized that it would be necessary for the Commission at its seventeenth session to review the recommendations of the JIU report concerning statistics.

171. The Commission was informed that the Council had considered the recommendations of the Working Group and, in its resolution 1713 (LIII), had endorsed the views of the Working Group on the necessity of continuing the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Yearbook in their present form and frequency but had also instructed the Commission to give high priority to the further consideration of recommendation 9 of the JIU report, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly should consider the adoption of the following programme to reduce duplication in the collection, processing and publication of statistics:

"(a) Duplication of storage and processing by the United Nations family should be avoided through agreement on a single schedule of statistics to be collected from Member States; and through delegation of responsibility to the

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5/ See A/8362.

6/ See A/8540.



Inter-Organization Board, (IOB) for assigning data submitted according to this schedule, to 'data banks' of the ICC /International Computing Centre/ being moved to Geneva, and also to the 'data banks' of other parts of the United Nations family as considered appropriate;

"(b) IOB would be held responsible for conferring with members of the ACC and with the Publications Board when data are requested for a publication which will seriously duplicate data already published elsewhere;

"(c) Duplication between ESA /Department of Economic and Social Affairs/ and the regional commissions (other than ECE) should be reduced through an agreement that the commissions would concentrate on (i) assembling commodity data on intraregional trade by countries for purposes of action programmes designed to expand such trade, and (ii) assembling all available statistics on developing countries (except detailed commodity trade data) in one volume for each country in the region."

172. In order to facilitate the Commission's discussion of the JIU report and in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group, a table had been prepared listing the statistical publications of the United Nations Statistical Office with indications of periodicity, timeliness, contents, circulation and cost (E/CN.3/439/Add.1).

173. The Commission considered that in the JIU report undue emphasis was given to reducing expenditures on the publications of statistics, because little or no account had been taken of the obligations of the United Nations to satisfy the wide range of requirements for internationally comparable statistics. The Commission pointed out that in the user survey organized by the JIU Inspector, the publications of the United Nations Statistical Office were appraised as being amongst the most useful ones.

174. The Commission considered that the requirement to eliminate any unnecessary duplication that existed in the collection of statistics from governments was a justified one. The Commission also agreed that a review of recurrent statistical publications of the United Nations, suggested in the report of the JIU, should be undertaken from time to time.

175. It was emphasized that as a result of the work of the Commission, its Working Group and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, duplication in the collection and processing of statistics had been gradually eliminated. There was, however, duplication in the collection and processing of data between the substantive and statistical divisions of some of the specialized agencies and between other organizations - for example, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Economic Community - and the members of the United Nations family. Also the timing of the distribution and the requested return dates of questionnaires left much to be desired.

176. The Commission considered that continued efforts were needed, by the Commission itself, its Working Group and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, to identify and rectify any deficiencies in the co-ordination of the definitions and classifications of the statistics sought and in the timing of the various questionnaires.

177. The Commission also favoured the suggestion of the Working Group that the Statistical Office of the United Nations, in co-operation with the statistical services of the specialized agencies, should examine the possibility of drawing up a list of the questionnaires to be sent to national statistical authorities during a particular year. Such a list would be useful to national statistical offices.

178. The Commission considered that the use of one single comprehensive schedule to collect all of the statistics required by the United Nations family was unrealistic and impracticable. The single schedule recommended by JIU would be a very long, forbidding questionnaire, which would result in a serious increase in non-response and in marked delays in gathering, processing and publishing the data. Data-reporting to international organizations was not centralized in many countries, and the use of one schedule covering many fields of inquiry would cause confusion. Even apart from that, the data required for the various sectors did not become available at the same time and delays would cumulate. Moreover, the frequency of reporting varied from monthly to annual.

179. In the discussion, the following comments, were made:

(a) Whether or not one single questionnaire would be used, the recommended centralized collection of all international statistics would be a useless exercise unless the statistical services of the United Nations and the specialized agencies were combined in one secretariat. Collected data must be scrutinized by trained statisticians, and only such staff was capable of preparing the data for electronic data processing, of specifying and checking the computer services required and of dealing with the output. Thus, centralization of data collection within the United Nations system could not be undertaken without the centralization of statistical personnel.

(b) Centralization of data collection would require substantial changes in the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies in so far as statistical services were concerned. In those agreements, the agencies recognized the United Nations as the central agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization, dissemination and improvement of statistics serving the general purposes of the international organizations and the United Nations recognized the agencies' responsibilities for the same operations in their special spheres of activity.

(c) The role envisaged by the JIU for the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems and Related Activities (IOB) was not in accordance with the functions foreseen for that body and was also contrary to the plans accepted at the fourth session of the Board, in September 1972, and approved by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination at its last session, which explicitly excluded work in the collection and distribution of statistics.

(d) The recommendation that the IOB should parcel out the statistical series for storage and publication was impracticable and would raise serious obstacles for the compilation and dissemination of statistics.

## Conclusion

180. In respect of publications of statistics the Commission unanimously agreed:

(a) To inform the Council that it approved in full the views on the JIU recommendations expressed by the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination in the report on its fourth session;

(b) To advise the Council that the adoption of JIU recommendations 9 (a) and 9 (b) would result in a serious deterioration in the completeness, reliability, timeliness and usefulness of the economic and social statistics of the United Nations;

(c) To advise the Council of the desirability of implementing JIU recommendation 9 (c), regarding the concentration and basic form of regional statistical publications;

(d) To reassure the Council that the Commission was actively engaged in achieving the elimination of any unnecessary duplication in the collection of statistics by international agencies.

### B. Programme of work

181. The Commission considered its future programme of work, basing its discussion on documents E/CN.3/L.74 and E/CN.3/L.74/Add.1 and supplementary oral information furnished by the Secretariat.

182. The Director of the United Nations Statistical Office summarized the objectives of the programme as being (i) to collect, compile and issue internationally comparable statistics; (ii) to furnish statistical services to the United Nations Secretariat; (iii) to prepare methodological studies for purposes of international standards and guidelines and for purposes of the exchange of national practices and experiences; (iv) to furnish substantive support to technical assistance in statistics; (v) to promote the co-ordination of the statistical activities of the United Nations family and other international organizations; and (vi) to service the Statistical Commission, the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, and regional seminars, working groups and other meetings.

183. The Director felt that in considering the programme of work, it was necessary to bear in mind that the Statistical Office was quite a small office. It had some 140 people on its staff, about 65 of them in the professional category (not including technical assistance experts working in countries).

184. In amplifying the main responsibilities of the Statistical Office set out in paragraph 182 above, the Director said that he intended to make a comprehensive review of the Office's output in the form of publications, computer tapes and special compilations, and that the review would cover contents, usefulness, costs and appearance, as well as efficiency of production flow and computerization. He stressed the importance of continuing work on statistical standards, concepts and methodology and of their dissemination. He emphasized the high priority to be given, in line with the Commission's views, to the needs of developing countries, if at all possible without any loss of momentum in serving developed countries.

The importance of technical assistance, including activities related to the Second United Nations Development Decade, would figure prominently in future programmes. Continuing efforts would be made to promote collaboration and harmonization of programmes and activities between the various statistical branches of the United Nations family. The special services provided to the United Nations Secretariat by the Statistical Office would be strengthened wherever possible, and efforts made to build stronger bridges with policy-makers, analysts and administrators within the Secretariat. Naturally, implementation of the many tasks falling on the Statistical Office would depend on the continued co-operation of Member States in providing information and help, and generally on the resources available.

185. The Commission believed that the document represented a great improvement on earlier presentations of the draft work programme. It was recommended that in future data should be added on the estimated man-months to be spent on each project of the programme and, wherever possible, on the costs of programmes as a whole.

186. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the work the Statistical Office was producing, and approved the draft work programme outlined in the paper and the broad directions of future developments described in the statement by the Director of the Office. The Commission agreed, in particular, that priority should be assigned to projects designed to meet the statistical requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade and to help strengthen the statistical services of the developing countries. Emphasis should be given to the practical problems and methods of gathering and compiling data, in the light of the problems, experience and circumstances of developing countries. A specific example was a study of the use and design of retrospective queries and of methods of dealing with errors in response, but greater prominence might generally be given to data collection problems. The Commission emphasized the importance of rapidly completing the work on international guidelines on series of indicators for reviewing the International Development Strategy, at least in good time for the collection and compilation of data for use in the mid-Decade review.

187. The Commission emphasized the importance of the Office's work on the methodology of economic and social statistics and expressed appreciation of the work that had been completed on the systems of national accounts and that was being conducted on related bodies of economic statistics and on a system of demographic and social statistics. In view of the length of time required to complete such large-scale projects, it might sometimes be desirable to subdivide them into separate stages, in the hope that useful results might emerge sooner. It would also be desirable to explore whether there were ways of telescoping the chain of consultations, discussions and papers often involved in bringing projects to fruition. The suggestion was made that more attention might well be devoted in the future to organizational and administrative questions, such as statistical legislation, statistical use of administrative data, timeliness programmes, and so forth, in which the Statistical Office could give valuable leadership.

188. The Commission hoped that the views it had expressed on programmes and priorities would prove helpful in future planning and also in formulating the forthcoming budget of the Statistical Office. The Commission stressed, however, that changes in direction should not be abrupt, partly because many urgent projects were in progress and should not be jeopardized, and partly because commitments for others had been made; moreover, the small and specialized staff available made

abrupt changes undesirable. The Commission agreed that the reports to its eighteenth session would give an opportunity of reviewing how far it had been possible to implement its suggestions or recommendations.

189. On a more general point, the Commission felt that, although the burdens of international statistical activities - replying to questionnaires, studying documents and attending meetings - falling on national statistical offices had been reduced by the improved machinery for co-ordination and other measures taken by the members of the United Nations family and other international agencies, attention should continue to be devoted to exploring whether there were any avoidable overlaps between international statistical activities.

190. In relation to the sessions of the Commission, it was felt that an effort should be made to focus on major questions of statistical programmes, policies and methodology that should be reflected in the documents prepared for the Commission and also in the provisional annotated agenda, which might try to indicate the issues that should be the subject of discussion and conclusions for each item.

### Conclusion

191. The Commission approved the programme of work; it realized that the programme was an ambitious one, but believed that its various components were needed in the context of economic and social development and therefore expressed the view that, while keeping in mind the need for economy, the importance of the work programme justified a reasonable extension of resources. 7/ The programme of work approved by the Commission was as follows:

#### A. General

192. Advice and assistance in giving effect to existing standards and guidelines for national and international statistics and exchange of information on problems of methodology and application in respect of the following areas of statistics:

Demographic statistics, including population censuses and surveys and vital and migration statistics;

Housing statistics, including censuses and sample surveys and current statistics;

Industrial statistics, including industrial censuses and sample surveys, basic, annual and more frequent statistics and index numbers of industrial production;

Energy statistics;

Construction statistics, including basic, annual and more frequent data;

Distributive-trade and service-trade statistics, including censuses and sample surveys and basic, annual and more frequent statistics;

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7/ For a statement of financial implications, see annex II.

External trade, transport and tourism statistics;  
National accounts and balances;  
Government finance statistics;  
Statistics of prices and quantities;  
Statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation;  
Basic statistics for use in programmes of economic and social development;  
Classifications by kind of economic activity.

B. Programme formulation and direction

193. The specific activities under this component are:

(a) Formulation and direction of the statistical services of the United Nations;

(b) Promotion of the co-ordination of the statistical activities of the United Nations system of organizations;

(c) Advice in the formulation of programmes of technical assistance for developing countries;

(d) Servicing the Statistical Commission, the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and furnishing statistical services to the Committee on Contributions, the Expert Committee on Post Adjustments and other bodies of the United Nations;

(e) Co-ordination of computer services for the statistical programme as a whole; development of computer programming, processing and dissemination of international statistics; gradual extension of electronic data processing and data banks for international statistics, in co-operation with the specialized agencies; expansion of generalized computer programmes;

(f) Review, with the assistance of an expert group of national statisticians and a consultant, of the statistical publications of the Statistical Office with a view to improving their content, timeliness and rapidity of issue and the efficiency of their compilation;

(g) Design and application of methods and techniques of improving the checking and evaluation of the reliability of data gathered and compiled by the Statistical Office and of publishing information in that respect, with the aid of a consultant.

C. Development statistics, basic statistical series and co-ordination

194. The specific activities under this component are:

(a) Promotion of a co-ordinated statistical programme for the United Nations system:

- (i) Preparation, jointly with the other organizations of the United Nations system, of a programme of international statistics for consideration by the Commission at its eighteenth session
- (ii) Preparation, jointly with the other organizations of the United Nations system, of an integrated programme of technical assistance for consideration by the Commission at its eighteenth session
- (iii) Publication, jointly with the other organizations of the United Nations system, of the Directory of International Statistics;

(b) Promotion of co-ordinated and integrated data banks of economic and social statistics: preparation, jointly with the other organizations of the United Nations system, of an inventory of data banks of economic and social statistics;

(c) Development of statistics for purposes of reviewing and appraising the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade:

- (i) Development, in 1973, of guidelines on statistics for economic and social progress during the Second United Nations Development Decade and compilation and issue of internationally comparable statistics for these purposes
- (ii) Convening of a Second Interregional Seminar on Statistical Organization in 1973
- (iii) Revision of the Handbook of Statistical Organization 8/
- (iv) Maintenance and development of publications dealing with statistical methods, with particular reference to describing the practices of national offices in solving problems of collection, processing, analysis and dissemination, paying special attention to the needs of the developing countries;

(d) Development and application of methods of comparing real product to assist Governments in planning, programming and research: international comparisons of the real product and the purchasing power of currencies;

(e) Development of environmental statistics: preparation of a study on the requirements for, and character of, statistics of the environment, with the assistance of consultants;

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8/ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 54.XVII.7.

- (f) Publication of basic series of international statistics:
- (i) General statistics: publication of a wide variety of statistics in the Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics
- (ii) Publication of a 1973 supplement to the Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics;

D. National accounts, finance and prices

195. The specific activities under this component are:

(a) Introduction and review of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and links to the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS):

- (i) Review of progress made in introducing the new SNA
- (ii) Development of rules for establishing links between corresponding concepts of the new SNA and MPS and for estimating common aggregates of the SNA and MPS
- (iii) Improvement of the comparability of statistical data of Member States having different economic and social systems in order to contribute to the development of mutually advantageous economic ties between them;

(b) Development of a system of income distribution and related statistics:

- (i) Publication of international guidelines on a system of statistics of distribution of income, consumption and accumulation, complementary to the national accounts and balances
- (ii) Preparation, with the aid of a consultant, of a version of the system of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation for the use of the developing countries, for presentation at the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission;

(c) Development of national and sector balance-sheets: formulation, with the aid of experts, in co-operation with the International Monetary Fund and in consultation with national statistical offices, of draft international guidelines on the definitions, classifications and standard accounts and tables of the national and sector balance-sheets and revaluation accounts of the SNA, including stocks of fixed assets as a factor of production, or presentation at the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission;

(d) Development of technical manuals: preparation and publication of technical manuals on: (i) data in current prices on the production, income and outlay and capital finance accounts of the SNA; (ii) household accounts and the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation; (iii) national accounting in constant prices and quantity and price statistics; (iv) the flow-of-fund and balance-sheet accounts of the SNA; and (v) regional accounting;



(e) Development of a system of price and quantity statistics within the framework of the national accounts: preparation of studies of national practices in national accounting in constant prices and in traditional index numbers of prices and quantities, for presentation at the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission; based on the discussions of statistics of prices and quantities at the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission and on studies of national practices, preparation - if feasible - of draft international guidelines on national accounting in constant prices and on index numbers of prices and quantities, with the advice and assistance of an expert group and in consultation with national statistical authorities;

(f) Development of a system of demographic and social statistics correlated with the national accounts:

- (i) Preparation of draft international guidelines on a full series of social indicators and on a series of social indicators for the use of the developing countries, within the framework of a system of demographic and social statistics, with the advice and assistance of an expert group, in co-operation with the interested specialized agencies and in consultation with national statistical offices: a report on this work is to be submitted at the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission
- (ii) Preparation of a provisional comprehensive technical publication on a system of demographic and social statistics, with the advice and assistance of a consultant and an expert group
- (iii) Preparation of draft international guidelines on a co-ordinated and coherent body of demographic, manpower and social statistics for the use of the developing countries, with the assistance of a consultant, in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned and in consultation with national statistical offices; this draft will pay particular attention to the methods of collecting basic data on important components of the system and will include appropriate technical guidance; a report on the subject is to be submitted at the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission
- (iv) Continuation of work on international guidelines in respect of a full system of demographic and social statistics as a whole - concepts, framework, basic series, definitions and classifications, in addition to social indicators;

(g) Development of a system of statistics of research and development expenditure in the framework of national accounts and balances: formulation of the concepts, definitions and classifications for statistics of research, development and prospecting needed to fit in with the systems of national accounts and balances, in co-operation with the Conference of European Statisticians and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(h) Assistance to countries in establishing central directories of establishments and enterprises: preparation of a technical report on the objectives, concepts and contents of central registers of economic units and on the methods of constructing and maintaining these registers;

(i) Development of classifications:

(i) Preparation of a draft classification of all goods and services, in consultation with interested international agencies and national statistical offices; a final draft of the classification is to be submitted at the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission;

(ii) Formulation of (a) a classification of the cost structure of production, gross fixed capital formation of the national accounts and balances according to function, and (b) a more detailed version of the purpose classification of SNA in respect of government and private non-profit bodies;

(j) Dissemination of national accounts data processed by computer:

(i) National accounts statistics: the Statistical Office will continue to publish national accounts data in the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, the Statistical Yearbook and the Yearbook of Housing Statistics

(ii) Rebasings to the year 1970, the national accounting aggregates in constant prices presented in the publications of the Statistical Office; the weight and comparison basis would be shifted every 10 years thereafter

(iii) Public finance statistics: the Statistical Office will continue to publish public finance data in the Statistical Yearbook;

(k) Dissemination of experience in and knowledge of methodology of sample surveys: review and publication of recent advances in sample survey practice for the use of national statistical offices;

(l) Development of guidelines for conducting sample surveys: the operational aspects of sample surveys are to be covered in volume III of A Short Manual on Sampling, 9/ tentatively entitled Practical Aspects of Sample Design;

(m) Assistance in servicing the General Assembly Committee on Contributions: unpublished data will continue to be produced, principally for servicing such users of national accounts data as the Committee on Contributions, various units of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international organizations;

(n) Provision of substantive support for technical co-operation field programmes and projects.

#### E. Demographic and social statistics

196. The specific activities under this component are:

(a) Making demographic statistics more readily available for social planning and scientific research:

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9/ Vol. I. Elements of Sample Survey Theory (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.72.XVII.5); Vol. II. Computer Programmes for Sample Designs (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.71.XVII.4).

- (i) Demographic and social statistics: the Statistical Office will continue to publish demographic and social statistics in the Demographic Yearbook, the Population and Vital Statistics Report, the Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics
  - (ii) Publication of a new issue of the Compendium of Social Statistics, 10/ for use in connexion with the mid-decade review and appraisal of the Second United Nations Development Decade;
- (b) Making housing statistics more readily available for social planning and scientific research: compilation and publication of the Yearbook of Housing Statistics;
- (c) Improvement of the quality and extension of the coverage of demographic statistics:
- (i) Completion of the Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods 11/
  - (ii) Revision and issue of the Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods 12/
  - (iii) Preparation of a study of national practices in the collection and compilation of international migration statistics; on the basis of comments made at the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission and of the study of national practices, drafting of international guidelines on international migration statistics, in consultation with national statistical authorities; a report on this work is to be submitted at the eighteenth session of the Commission
  - (iv) Preparation of a study of national practices in the collection and compilation of internal migration statistics; on the basis of comments made at the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission and of the study of national practices, drafting of international guidelines on internal migration statistics, in consultation with national statistical authorities; a report on this work is to be submitted at the eighteenth session of the Commission
  - (v) Preparation of a world demographic atlas, with a view to publication in time for World Population Year, 1974;
- (d) Improvement of the quality and extension of the coverage of housing statistics: study of housing sample survey methods;
- (e) Provision of substantive support for technical co-operation field programmes and projects.

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10/ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 67.XVII.9.

11/ Part III, Topics and Tabulations for Housing Censuses (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.XVII.6); Part VI, Sampling in Connexion with Population and Housing Censuses (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.70.XVII.9).

12/ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XVII.1.

F. Industrial statistics

197. The specific activities under this component are:

(a) Making statistical data available on an internationally comparable basis on the industrial, construction and distributive-trade activities of all countries: the Statistical Office will continue to publish The Growth of World Industry, and World Energy Supplies and issue industrial statistics in the Statistical Yearbook and the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics; the first issue of a new annual publication on construction statistics is to be published in 1973; the issue of statistics of the distributive trades and services is to be expanded;

(b) Development of methods and guidelines for the organization and improvement of statistics of industrial activities, construction and the distributive trades, particularly in the developing countries:

(i) Drafting of revised international standards on statistics of the distributive trades and services, in the light of comments made at the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission and in consultation with national statistical authorities; a report on this work is to be submitted at the eighteenth session of the Commission

(ii) Publication of a manual on the organization and conduct of surveys of the distributive trades and services

(iii) Revision of the International Recommendations for Construction Statistics 13/

(iv) Fourth revision of the Bibliography of Industrial and Distributive-Trade Statistics 14/

(v) Rebasng of index numbers of industrial production and employment to 1970;

(c) Provision of substantive support for technical co-operation field programmes and projects.

G. International trade statistics

198. The following specific activities are included under this component:

(a) Compilation and issue of international trade data: publication of external trade statistics in Commodity Trade Statistics, the Yearbook of International Trade Statistics, the World Trade Annual and Supplement, the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the Statistical Yearbook; preparation of tabulations of data by Broad Economic Categories (BEC);

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13/ United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.68.XVII.11.

14/ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 67.XVII.20.

- (b) Second revision of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC): on the basis of the comments of the Statistical Commission and the Customs Co-operation Council, continuation of the work on revision of the SITC, with a view to presenting a final draft at the eighteenth session of the Commission;
- (c) Compilation of external trade statistics by mode of transport;
- (d) Preparation of reports on the trade of Southern Rhodesia in order to help the Security Council to evaluate the effectiveness of the imposed economic sanctions;
- (e) Construction of balance-sheets of important commodity flows: compilation and publication of a network of world trade flows by country for about 200 individual commodity groups;
- (f) Preparation of manuals and development of guidelines:
- (i) Publication of a description of national practices in the collection and compilation of external trade statistics
- (ii) Development of guidelines for compiling transport statistics and revision of International Standard Definitions for Transport Statistics <sup>15/</sup>
- (iii) On the basis of the comprehensive guidelines for tourism statistics issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, <sup>16/</sup> preparation of simplified draft international recommendations on statistics of tourism, in co-operation with the Conference of European Statisticians;
- (g) Revision of weighting pattern of the price indexes for primary commodities;
- (h) Provision of substantive support for technical co-operation programmes and field projects.

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<sup>15/</sup> Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 8.

<sup>16/</sup> Guidelines for Tourism Statistics (United Nations publication, Sales No.: E.71.II.D.9).

## CHAPTER XI

### TIME AND PLACE OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

199. The Commission considered the time and place of its eighteenth session and agreed, in principle, to a suggestion that the session be held in a developing country. It was understood that an official invitation would have to be received from a host Government and that the host Government would need to provide all the necessary conference facilities and to bear any cost in excess of that incurred at the United Nations either in New York or at Geneva.

200. The Commission requested that its eighteenth session be held as early as possible in October 1974 in view of the difficulties experienced by various members in attending meetings later in the year.

## CHAPTER XII

### OTHER BUSINESS

#### A. Financial and administrative matters

201. The Commission took note of a statement prepared by the Secretary-General on the increasingly adverse effects of the critical financial situation of the United Nations on the reputation of the Organization, as well as on the efficiency and effectiveness of its future operations. The Secretary-General indicated that, for 1973, the level of budget estimates should demonstrate maximum self-restraint and fiscal care by the Secretariat. He indicated, in particular, that even where a legitimate case could be made for strengthening offices and departments he would not seek the necessary provisions for such purposes until current difficulties had been resolved. In addition to the support of the Secretariat, the Secretary-General was trying to enlist the support of all United Nations bodies where new programmes and activities were originated, *inter alia*, the Statistical Commission. The Secretary-General stated that he did not feel that the policy of financial restraint necessarily meant that new programmes and activities could not be undertaken but rather that one should seek to accommodate new responsibilities within the staff resources available on completion of prior tasks and by the assignment of a lower order of priority to certain continuing activities. The Secretary-General hoped that the members of the Statistical Commission would wish to assist him in attaining objectives which, in his view and in present circumstances, were in the best interests of the Organization.

202. The Commission was informed of the very considerable reduction in the number of pages of pre-session documentation, from nearly 1,800 pages for the sixteenth session to under 1,200 pages for the current session, calculated on an equivalent-spacing basis. That was in response to the economy measures undertaken by the United Nations over the past few years, as well as to the aim of reducing the volume of documentation that nations were expected to study.

203. The Commission was also informed of the relevant contents of General Assembly resolution 2836 (XXVI) and of Economic and Social Council resolution 1623 (LI), both of which called for the preparation of reports that were action-oriented and contained precise information on the work done by the reporting organ, on the conclusions reached and on the recommendations made. The subsidiary bodies of the Council, of which the Statistical Commission was one, were informed that their resolutions should normally be in the form of drafts for adoption by the Council. The Commission noted that the latter point represented a change in its procedure, and some concern was expressed about its possible implications.

204. As at its fifteenth and sixteenth sessions, the Commission once again agreed to dispense with summary records.

B. Working Group on International Statistical Programmes  
and Co-ordination

205. The Commission recognized the increasing importance of its Working Group in the execution of the Commission's work. At the current session, as at the previous one, the Commission had decided to refer a number of issues to the Working Group for discussion at its next session, and it had become clear that the Working Group, in addition to its scheduled 1973 session, would also need to meet in 1974 before the Commission's eighteenth session. The Commission agreed that the Working Group should, in addition to dealing with specific items submitted to it, constitute a means of maintaining closer contact between the Statistical Commission and the Statistical Office of the United Nations.

Terms of Reference

206. The Commission therefore agreed that the terms of reference of the Working Group, established in accordance with resolution 1306 (XLIV) of the Economic and Social Council, should be modified. The modification was necessary in particular in the light of the discussions at the sixteenth session of the Commission and in the light of Council resolution 1566 (L) on the co-ordination of international statistical activities.

207. The Commission agreed that the terms of reference of its Working Group should be as follows:

- (i) To deal with questions of policy, co-ordination and priorities of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system;
- (ii) To constitute a means by which the Statistical Commission could maintain contact, between biennial meetings, with the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations and of the statistical services of the specialized agencies;
- (iii) To consider current questions, relating to the United Nations family, of organization, policies, arrangements and priorities for the electronic data processing of economic and social statistics, including data banks;
- (iv) To consider questions regarding the statistics required for purposes of the reviews and appraisals during the Second United Nations Development Decade.

208. The Commission agreed that the Working Group should meet annually to examine the issues within its terms of reference.

Composition

209. The Commission discussed the composition of the Working Group with particular regard to the statistical requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

210. It was proposed that the Working Group should be composed of the members of the Commission's Bureau, i.e. the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur; the representatives to the Commission of the two major contributors to



the budget of the United Nations; and one representative to the Commission from a developing nation from among the members of each of the following economic commissions: the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa, unless they were already represented in the Bureau.

211. The Commission agreed that the composition of the Working Group should be as follows:

J. Ripert (France), Chairman  
R. Chander (Malaysia)  
S. S. Heyer (Kenya)  
J. Kazimour (Czechoslovakia)  
I. Kerstenetzky (Brazil)  
C. A. Moser (United Kingdom)  
J. Shiskin (United States)  
L. M. Volodarsky (USSR)

212. The Commission also agreed that if any of the representatives of a developing nation, i.e. R. Chander, S. S. Heyer or I. Kerstenetzky, were unable to participate in a particular session of the Working Group, their places should be taken by N. T. Mathew (India), M. E. M. Mukasa (Uganda) and P. L. Venegas Borges (Venezuela), respectively.

#### Fifth session

213. The Commission agreed that the Working Group should next meet in Geneva, from 2 to 4 July 1973, and that in addition to items included in the terms of reference listed in paragraph 207 above, the Working Group should consider:

- (a) Classification of international statistical projects;
- (b) Results of the inter-agency consultations concerning the establishment of an International Statistical Reporter.

#### C. Topics to be considered at the Second Interregional Seminar on Statistical Organization

214. The Chairman of the Commission nominated the following ad hoc working party to devise a list of topics for discussion at the Seminar:

L. I. Boeri de Cervetto (Argentina)  
R. Chander (Malaysia)  
J. Kazimour (Czechoslovakia)  
M. E. M. Mukasa (Uganda)

215. The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. J. Ripert (France), presided at the two sessions of the ad hoc working party, held on 20 and 22 November 1972. The Rapporteur of the Commission, Mr. C. A. Moser (United Kingdom), and the Acting Rapporteur, Mr. T. P. Linehan (Ireland), also participated, as did representatives of the Statistical Office and of the statistical divisions of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa.

216. The ad hoc working party reviewed the draft outline of topics submitted to the Commission (E/CN.3/423, para. 46) and recommended the following revised outline to the Commission:

- A. Types of statistical organization and related matters
  - (i) Centralized and decentralized statistical systems  
(also including questions of integration and co-ordination, both by organizational means and by statistical systems)
  - (ii) Statistical services in the government hierarchy  
(also including relations with other departments, regional organizations, field services, ministerial responsibilities, committee systems etc.)
  - (iii) Organization by function and by subject matter
  - (iv) Statistical legislation, confidentiality issues and questions of objectivity  
(also including issues related to computerization, data linkage etc.)
- B. Relations of statistical offices with users of statistics
  - (i) The needs of, and relations of statistical offices with, different kinds of users  
(e.g. in government and industry in the academic and research world)
  - (ii) Development planning and statistics  
(including the relations between planners and statisticians and the place of statistical development programmes in over-all national development plans)
  - (iii) The role of statistical services in economic and social analysis
- C. Effective organization of statistical services
  - (i) Planning, programming and budgeting of national statistical activities  
(including the organizational implications of the needs for coherent continuing programmes of economic and social statistics and for their systematic evaluation)
  - (ii) Relations to primary sources of statistical information  
(in government, research and industry and amongst the public)
  - (iii) The implications of computerization of statistics for the efficient organization of activities  
(also including questions relating to comprehensive computerized information systems)
  - (iv) Issues concerning the recruitment, status and training of statisticians

- D. International statistical guidelines and the use of technical assistance
- (i) The obtaining and use of advisory services, and links with agencies administering assistance
  - (ii) Participation in international training activities
  - (iii) The use of technical guidance  
(including meetings, manuals and other means)
- E. Organization of data production and dissemination
- (i) Approaches to, and organization of, the collection of data  
(including the use of censuses, surveys and administrative data)
  - (ii) Compilation, data processing and storage  
(including the development of criteria for computerizing specific statistical operations)
  - (iii) Dissemination of statistical information

217. The Seminar was planned for directors of national statistical offices, and its basic purpose would be made clear when invitations were sent to countries. The directors concerned would then also be asked to provide written statements in advance of the Seminar to describe their national practices regarding the various topics on the agenda; the statements would serve as background material for discussions at the Seminar.

218. The Commission was informed that the Seminar would be held at Ottawa, Canada, from 3 to 12 October 1973. The Commission expressed its sincere appreciation of the agreement of the Government of Canada to host the Seminar. It was hoped that additional sources of financing the Seminar would be mobilized by the Secretariat to supplement the funds provided by the United Nations Development Programme so that more than 20 countries - the number at present envisaged - would be able to take part. The Commission agreed that the list of topics in paragraph 216 above would make a suitable programme of discussions for the Seminar. It also requested revision of the Handbook of Statistical Organization; 17/ taking into account the results of the discussions at the Seminar.

### CHAPTER XIII

#### ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

219. At its 308th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the report of its seventeenth session.

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17/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 54.XVII.7.

CHAPTER XIV

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION

1 (XVII). Professor P. C. Mahalanobis 18/

The Statistical Commission,

Having learned of the death of its doyen, Professor P. C. Mahalanobis,

Remembering his tremendous contribution to the Commission and to the statistical community at large,

Remembering his effectiveness in reconciling differences of views between members of the Commission,

Remembering his pioneering efforts on behalf of social statistics,

Remembering him as a champion of the statistical needs of the developing countries,

Remembering the outstanding stimulus he gave to statistical development throughout the entire world,

Expresses deep sorrow at the death of Professor Mahalanobis, and extends heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Mahalanobis and the entire family.

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18/ See para. 5 above.

ANNEX I  
ATTENDANCE  
MEMBERS

<u>Argentina:</u>	L. I. Boeri de Cervetto
<u>Belgium:</u>	A. F. J. Dillaerts*
<u>Brazil:</u>	I. Kerstenetzky
<u>Czechoslovakia:</u>	J. Kazimour
<u>Denmark:</u>	N. V. Skak-Nielsen, K. Bjerke*
<u>France:</u>	J. Ripert, A. Vanoli*, A. Ficatier*
<u>India:</u>	N. T. Mathew
<u>Ireland:</u>	T. P. Linehan
<u>Kenya:</u>	S. S. Heyer
<u>Libyan Arab Republic:</u>	A. S. Zoghni
<u>Malaysia:</u>	R. Chander
<u>Panama:</u>	J. M. Caballero Díaz
<u>Poland:</u>	S. Kuziński, L. Zienkowski*
<u>Spain:</u>	G. Arnaiz Vellando, C. Arribas Rodríguez*, J. L. Sánchez Crespo*
<u>Thailand:</u>	K. Buajitti
<u>Uganda:</u>	M. E. M. Mukasa
<u>Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic:</u>	N. N. Artemyev
<u>Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:</u>	V. V. Martinov*, V. Babayan*
<u>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:</u>	C. A. Moser, L. S. Berman*, J. N. C. Hancock*
<u>United States of America:</u>	J. Shiskin, B. Brady*, E. D. Goldfield*
<u>Venezuela:</u>	P. L. Venegas Borges

\* Alternate.

STATES MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTED  
BY OBSERVERS

Canada  
Hungary  
Mongolia

STATES NON-MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTED  
BY OBSERVERS

Germany, Federal Republic of

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT

Representative of the Secretary-General  
Statistical Office  
Economic Commission for Europe  
Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East  
Economic Commission for Latin America  
Economic Commission for Africa  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

\* \* \*

International Computing Centre (inter-agency)

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSIONS OR COMMITTEES REPRESENTED  
BY OBSERVERS

Committee for Development Planning

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
World Health Organization  
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development  
International Monetary Fund

\* \* \*

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance  
Customs Co-operation Council  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Category II:

International Statistical Institute

ANNEX II

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS TAKEN

1. The Commission's attention was called to the following financial implications of decisions taken during the seventeenth session:

2. The increase in the number of pages of the 1972 and 1973 editions of the Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics <sup>a/</sup> and the consequent increased estimated printing costs as compared with those reflected in the 1973 initial budget estimates, i.e. 1,300 pages at an estimated cost of \$24,000 were as follows:

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Number of pages</u>	<u>Volumes</u>	<u>Estimated printing costs</u>
1972, to be printed in 1973	2,300	3	\$34,500
1973, to be printed in 1974	2,500	3	\$39,500

3. The first issue of a new annual publication on construction statistics was proposed for 1973. It was envisaged that the new publication would contain approximately 120 pages, in one volume, to be printed in English at an estimated printing cost of \$3,200.

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<sup>a/</sup> To be issued as United Nations publications.



## ANNEX III

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/5099	4 ( <u>b</u> )	Technical assistance programmes of the United Nations system
E/CN.3/418	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.3/418/Add.1	2	Annotations to the provisional agenda
E/CN.3/419	3 and 4	Report of the third session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination
E/CN.3/420	3, 4 and 11	Report of the fourth session of the Working Group on International Programmes and Co-ordination
E/CN.3/421 and Add.1	3 ( <u>a</u> )	International statistical programmes, 1973-1977
E/CN.3/422	3 ( <u>b</u> )	Electronic data processing and data banks
E/CN.3/423	4 ( <u>a</u> )	Required statistics and methods and priorities of collection
E/CN.3/424	4 ( <u>b</u> )	Technical assistance programmes of the United Nations system
E/CN.3/425	5	A draft system of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation
E/CN.3/426 and Add.1 and Add.1/Rev.1	5	Report of the Expert Group on Statistics of the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Accumulation
E/CN.3/427	6	A system of price and quantity statistics
E/CN.3/428	6	The collection and compilation of price and quantity statistics
E/CN.3/429	7	Draft Standard International Trade Classification, Rev. 2
E/CN.3/430	8	Draft international recommendations on statistics of the distributive trades and services

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.3/432	9 (a)	A system of demographic and social statistics and its links with the system of national economic accounts
E/CN.3/433	9 (c)	Manpower statistics
E/CN.3/434	9 (b)	Recommendations for the improvement of international migration statistics: draft revision
E/CN.3/435	9 (b)	Proposals for the improvement of internal migration statistics
E/CN.3/436	10 (a)	United Nations Statistical Office; progress report
E/CN.3/437	10 (b)	Balance-of-payments statistics
E/CN.3/438 and Corr.1	10 (c)	Statistical activities of the regional economic commissions and of the Inter-American Statistical Institute
E/CN.3/439 and Add.1	11 (a)	Publications of statistics
E/CN.3/L.74	11 (b)	Draft programme of work, 1973-1974
E/CN.3/L.74/Add.1	11 (b)	Administrative and financial implications of proposals contained in document E/CN.3/L.74
E/CN.3/L.75 and Add.1-19		Draft report of the Statistical Commission