

United Nations
**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

Nations Unies
**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.14
28 August 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

SECOND SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Thursday, 28 August 1947, at 11:20 a.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Mr. H. Marshall	(Canada)
	Mr. P. J. Idenburg	(Netherlands)
	Mr. G. Jahn	(Norway)
	Mr. S. Inan	(Turkey)
	Mr. R. G. D. Allen	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. S. A. Rice	(United States)
	Mr. A. Ochoa Mayo	(Mexico) Alternate for Mr. Josue Saenz

Representatives of Specialized Agencies

Mr. R. M. Woodbury	(ILO)
Mr. A. Eckstein and Mr. V. Dore	(FAO)
Mr. S. V. Arnaldo	(UNESCO)
Mr. J. S. Gould and Mr. Goor	(BANK)
Mr. W. Gardner	(FUND)

Non-Governmental Organizations having Consultative Status

Mr. John Minter and Mr. G. Ridgeway	(ICC)
Mr. L. Teper	(AFL)

Observers for Specialized Agencies

Mr. K. Stowman	(WHO)
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Secretariat:	Mr. W. R. Leonard	(Representing the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Economic Affairs)
	Mr. W. J. Bruce	(Secretary to Commission)

/Adoption of

Adoption of the Provisional Agenda.

The Provisional Agenda for the second session (document E/CN.3/22) was adopted without objection, after assurance was given that consideration of possible recommendations relating to items for the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling could be taken up under item 14 of the Commission's Provisional Agenda.

Adoption of Rules of Procedure of the Commission (E/565 and Corr.1)

The CHAIRMAN read the rules of procedure which were adopted without change. It was suggested by Mr. Allen that it might be desirable to make a recommendation that the Government of the Chairman should be allowed to send an alternate for the Member. It was agreed to defer consideration of a recommendation on this matter, pending the action taken on this point arising from the recommendation of the Population Commission.

Report of the Food and Agricultural Organization on the plans for the 1950 Census of Agriculture. (E/CN.3/32)

The CHAIRMAN requested that the representative of the FAO should give a brief résumé of the plans of the FAO to encourage censuses of Agriculture in 1950 among as many countries as possible. Mr. Dore elaborated on the points covered by the document E/CN.3/32 and suggested that the Statistical Commission might wish to lend support to the project. After a brief discussion, which indicated the Commission's wholehearted support of this activity, the Chairman suggested that Mr. INAN (Turkey) and Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) should draw up a resolution to this effect for approval of the Commission later in the session.

Interim Report on the Statistical Activities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. (E/CN.3/28)

The CHAIRMAN referred to Item 4 of the Agenda and after several of the members indicated that they would prefer to have time to study the document it was decided that this matter should be taken up at the afternoon meeting, and that the Commission should proceed to the consideration of Item 10.

Transfer to the United Nations of functions and powers previously exercised by the League of Nations under the International Convention Relating to Economic Statistics (1928). (E/CN.3/33)

The CHAIRMAN read the text of the draft protocol to amend the International Convention Relating to Economic Statistics which had been submitted by the Secretariat in accordance with the wishes of the Statistical Commission at its last session.

Mr. RICE (United States) referred to the previous discussions of this question by the Statistical Commission and asked the Commission to consider
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whether it was necessary and appropriate to take any action at all on this matter at this time. He pointed out that a number of states signatory to the Convention do not now possess independent sovereignty and that several other states now Members of the United Nations had not signed the 1928 Convention. He further indicated that questions exist as to the competence of the Statistical Commission in this matter.

Mr. JAHN (Norway) expressed the view that action was desirable since many countries have not developed their statistical services to the level sought in the Convention, and that future projects depended upon building upon what has already been done rather than starting out completely afresh. He stressed the value of the Convention as a frame-work for the activities of the Statistical Commission.

Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) raised a question as to the legal situation if the Commission did nothing beyond asserting that it had taken over the functions of the Committee of Statistical Experts.

The SECRETARY replied by distinguishing between the functions which the Commission would assume from the Committee of Statistical Experts under the authority derived from the Convention and those which the Statistical Commission now possessed under its terms of reference as a subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council.

This distinction was similar to that of the functions which the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts performed as an organ of the League of Nations and those responsibilities which it obtained through the 1928 Convention.

After further discussion of this point it was agreed that no decision could be reached before the afternoon meeting.

The meeting rose at 1:00 p.m.
