

FISCAL COMMISSION

CO-ORDINATION AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMMISSIONS

(Item 10 of the Draft Provisional Agenda of the
First Session of the Commission)

**Documentary Material on the Respective Functions and Activities
of the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council**

1. This document is designed to provide background material to the Fiscal Commission when it considers the co-ordination of its activities and its relations with the other Commissions of the Economic and Social Council.
2. Information is given for each commission on the following points:
 - (a) terms of reference as approved by the Council;
 - (b) relations with other commissions as outlined in the Commission's report to the Council;
 - (c) future activities as outlined in the Commission's report to the Council.

I. ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

A. Terms of Reference (Document E/CN.1/2)

- "(a) The Commission shall advise the Economic and Social Council on economic questions in order to promote higher standards of living;
- "(b) it shall examine such questions as may be submitted to it by the Council and shall on its own initiative report to the Council on problems, which, in its opinion, require urgent attention;
- "(c) it shall make recommendations to the Council with reference to economic questions involving concerted study and/or action by more than one specialized agency or commission of the Council and in particular shall draw the attention of the Council to the probable influence of the policies and activities of other Commissions of the
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Council, the specialized agencies or other international organizations on the issues mentioned in paragraph (d) below:

"(d) in particular, it shall be the function of the Commission to advise the Council on:

- (i) the prevention of wide fluctuations in economic activity, and the promotion of full employment by the co-ordination of national full employment policies and by international action;
- (ii) problems of the reconstruction of devastated areas and other urgent problems arising from the war, with a view to developing means of giving real help, which is so necessary, to various members of the United Nations whose territories have been devastated by the enemy as a result of occupation and war activities;
- (iii) the promotion of economic development and progress with special regard to the problems of less developed areas.

"In carrying out the functions set forth above, the Commission shall take account of the close relationship between the short-term problems and the long-term objectives of an expanding and integrated world-economy."

B. Relations With Other Commissions (Document E/255, page 32)

The Economic and Employment Commission limited its discussion on this point to the establishment of relations with the Population Commission. In this connection, it took note of the resolution of the Economic and Social Council establishing the Population Commission, which reads in part as follows:

"In order to maintain close liaison between the Population Commission and other bodies concerned with population problems, the Population Commission shall invite representatives from the Economic and Employment, Statistical, and Social Commissions. Such representatives may take part in the proceedings of the Commission but shall not be entitled to vote."

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However, in view of the fact that several members of the Economic and Employment Commission who would have been qualified to represent the Commission were unable to be present at its first session, the Commission decided to defer the appointment of its representative until its next session.

C. Future Activities (Document E/255, pages 12-19)

Among other things, the Commission instructed its Sub-Commission on Economic Development:

"In accordance with the following terms of reference of the Sub-Commission:, the Economic and Employment Commission instructs its Sub-Commission on Economic Development, taking into account the responsibilities of various international agencies....., to commence a study in co-operation with other commissions of the United Nations and the specialized agencies concerned, with the view to making recommendations regarding the need for an international code relating to foreign investment which will cover among other things the protection of economic and social interests of the countries in which investments are to be made, as well as the protection of investors, both public and private; and conduct studies into the need for, and methods of, international incorporation of private business firms conducting business operations on an international or a world scale."

(Cp. pages 12-13)

With respect to its Sub-Commission on Employment and Economic Stability, the Commission requested it:

"1. to report to the Commission as early as possible on current world economic conditions and trends, giving particular attention to any factors that are preventing or are likely to prevent in the near future, the maintenance of full employment and economic stability together with analyses indicating causal factors involved and recommendations as to desirable action;

"2. to report to the Commission at its early convenience on:

/"(a) the

"(a) the preliminary views of the sub-commission concerning the kinds of international action which are likely to be feasible and of assistance in maintaining economic stability and full employment. In this connection the sub-commission should bear in mind the important links between stability and development and should examine such proposals as:

- (i) the concerted timing, to the extent which may be appropriate and practicable in the interests of employment policy, of national and international measures to influence credit conditions and the terms of borrowing;
- (ii) national or international arrangements in suitable cases, to promote due stability in the real incomes of producers of primary products, taking account both of the interests of consumers and producers regardless of country;
- (iii) the timing, to the extent which may be appropriate and practicable in the interests of employment policy, of capital expenditures on projects which are either of an international character, or are internationally financed, as well as expansion of investments in less-developed countries as measures designed to maintain stability of employment during periods of depression in more highly industrialized countries." (Cp. pages 17-19)

In considering the economic aspects of housing and town planning, the Chairman of the Economic and Employment Commission came to an agreement with the Chairman of the Social Commission that the latter would undertake to formulate "the demand side of the problem". It was also agreed that after the Social Commission had presented that side of the problem, it would become the responsibility of the Economic and Employment Commission to

/consider

consider "other economic aspects of housing". (Cp. page 29)

II. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

A. Terms of Reference (Document E/58/Rev.1)

- "(a) To assist the Economic and Social Council in its tasks concerned with transport and communications problems;
- "(b) to advise the Council on the co-ordination of the work of specialized agencies in the sphere of transport and communications;
- "(c) to report to the Council on its request, on the work of any of the specialized agencies in the sphere of transport and communications;
- "(d) to advise the Council in fields where no permanent organization yet exists and on problems which concern more than one sphere of transport and communications;
- "(e) to suggest to the Council the creation of new agencies, or the conclusion of new conventions or the revision of existing conventions;
- "(f) on instructions of the Economic and Social Council and when so authorized by convention or agreement between the parties, to perform the task of conciliation in cases of disputes between states and/or specialized agencies on problems concerning international transport and communications where not dealt with by other means;
- "(g) to perform such other tasks as the Economic and Social Council may require of it on any question concerning international transport and communications;
- "(h) to assist the Security Council, if so desired by the Economic and Social Council with Article 65 of the Charter;
- "(i) to assist the Trusteeship Council, if so desired by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with Article 91 of the Charter."

B. Relations With Other Commissions (Document E/270)

The Commission did not discuss this topic.

C. Future Activities (Document E/270)

The Commission devoted most of its session to organizational work.

III. STATISTICAL COMMISSION

A. Terms of Reference (Document E/39, Page 8)

"The Commission shall assist the Council:

"(a) in promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;

"(b) in the co-ordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies;

"(c) in the development of the central statistical services of the secretariat;

"(d) in advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, interpretation and dissemination of statistical information."

B. Relation With Other Commissions (Document E/CN.3/SR.3)

The Statistical Commission touched the matter of its relations with other Commissions only with regard to the Population Commission. In this connection it felt that a policy of collaboration rather than sharp delineation of functions should be followed; it, therefore, elected one of its members as representative on that Commission.

C. Future Activities (Document E/264, Pages 13-17)

Among other things, the Statistical Commission recommended that:

"work on statistics of 'national accounts' (more specifically, national income and expenditure), including considerations of methods and international comparability, should be pursued as expeditiously as possible by the Statistical Office of the United Nations in consultation with the interested specialized agencies ... publication of national income and expenditure data should be undertaken promptly in order to provide comparable figures for as many countries as possible."

With respect to the World Statistical Congress proposed by the Council, the Commission drew the attention of the Council to the following:

"that such a meeting would greatly benefit the United Nations by the opportunity afforded the members of the Statistical Commission as

/well as

well as the statistical staff of the secretariat and the specialized agencies ... to explain and develop the means by which the statistical activities of the specialized agencies, quasi-governmental and non-governmental organizations might be related to each other and to those of the United Nations in fostering international co-operation in the improvement of statistics

"that the Economic and Social Council should invite the attention of members of the United Nations to the World Statistical Congress and should invite them to participate by naming delegations of leading statisticians from their respective countries and by arranging for the attendance of such statisticians at the Congress in as large numbers as possible

"that the Economic and Social Council should request the Secretary-General to arrange for the participation of appropriate officials of the United Nations in the World Statistical Congress and to take such other action as he may consider necessary and appropriate in connection with the arrangements for the Congress."

IV. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Terms of Reference (Document E/248)

"The work of the Commission shall be directed towards submitting proposals, recommendations and reports to the Council regarding:

"(a) an international bill of rights;

"(b) international declarations or conventions on civil liberties; the status of women, freedom of information and similar matters;

"(c) the protection of minorities;

"(d) the prevention of discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language or religion;

"(e) any other matter concerning human rights not covered by Items (a), (b), (c) and (d).

"The Commission shall make studies and recommendations and provide information and other services at the request of the Economic and Social Council."

/B. Relations

B. Relations With Other Commissions (Document E/259)

No mention of this matter was made in the Commission's report to the Council.

C. Future Activities (Document E/259, Pages 2-3)

As for its future activities, the Commission charged its Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Rapporteur, with the assistance of the secretariat to formulate a preliminary draft International Bill of Human Rights for submission at its next session.

V. SOCIAL COMMISSION

A. Terms of Reference (Document E/260, Page 2)

"(a) to advise the Council on Social Questions of a general character and, in particular on all matters in the social field not covered by specialized inter-governmental agencies;

"(b) to advise the Council on practical measures that may be needed in the social field;

"(c) to advise the Council on measures needed for the co-ordination of activities in the social field;

"(d) to advise the Council on such international agreements and conventions or any of these matters, as may be required, and on their execution;

"(e) to report to the Council on the extent to which the recommendations of the United Nations in the field of social policy are being carried out."

B. Relations With Other Commissions (Document E/260, Pages 25-26)

The Social Commission noted that, "since its work impinges on widely different spheres, it is essential that close co-ordination should exist between the Social Commission and other Commissions".

It was of the opinion, therefore, "that co-ordination will be effective to the extent that close liaison exists between the Division of Social Questions, the other divisions of the secretariat, and the Department of Economic Affairs".

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In order to implement effective co-ordination, it was decided that, when the Commission was in session, the Chairman should maintain closest contact with the Chairman of other Commissions for concerted action on questions of common interest. Also, the agendas of sessions of the Social Commission and the relevant documentary material should be communicated to the chairmen of other Commissions, and provision should be made for the Chairman of the Social Commission to receive the agendas and relevant documents of other Commissions. Moreover, the Commission suggested that the most efficient method of co-ordination would be to set up joint committees among commissions or sub-commissions in all proper cases.

More particularly, in discussing the question of migration, the Social Commission noted that the Population Commission was also concerned with that problem, and therefore decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council:

1. the constitution of an ad hoc technical committee composed of representatives from the Social and Population Commissions and appropriate specialized agencies, particularly the ILO;
2. this ad hoc committee is to consider the documentation on migration submitted by the Secretariat to this Committee.

The Commission appointed two of its members to act as its representatives on the ad hoc technical committee and simultaneously appointed the same members as representative and substitute on the Population Commission.

C. Future Activities (Document E/260, Pages 21-22)

The Commission instructed its secretariat to submit a report at one of its coming sessions suggesting to the Commission appropriate measures for carrying out the tasks entrusted to it, with particular emphasis on the following problems:

"(a) standard of living:

"(b) social security in the various countries including particularly family allowances, social insurance, social assistance and other specific measures to ensure a minimum family income;

/(c) care

"(c) care and rehabilitation of disabled and handicapped persons with particular reference to war-disabled."

On the question of the standard of living the Commission adopted the following resolution:

"The Social Commission instructs the Secretariat to study the problem of standards of living in under-developed countries and areas and draw up detailed suggestions as to the ways in which the Secretariat Staff and experts on nutrition, public health, education, housing and social assistance employed by the specialized agencies and other organizations could contribute to its solution.

"The Commission suggests that the Secretariat should be prepared at the request of any United Nations member, to assist in carrying out co-ordinated plans for national or regional campaigns to raise the standard of living."

The Commission adopted the following resolution with respect to a Housing and Town Planning Service:

"The Social Commission having taken note of the resolution of the General Assembly concerning housing and town planning, consider that it is urgent to set up a Housing and Town Planning Service within the Division of Social Questions.

"It would be the essential task of this service to collect and disseminate in the appropriate form, and in particular, by the publication of a review, all the legislation, legal, economic, financial and technical documents relating to housing and town planning

"The Housing and Town Planning Service, which should co-operate closely with the Department of Economic Affairs, with respect to all questions falling within the competence of that Department should also secure the assistance of the specialized agencies concerned (ILO, UNESCO, FAO, WHO) and also of the Emergency Economic Committee for Europe and the non-governmental organizations comprised in Category (a), in which the WFTU takes first place.

/ "Whilst

"Whilst affirming the necessity for studying the problems of housing and town planning on a wide international scale and for taking into account the needs of countries outside Europe which are under-developed and where the solution of these problems is frequently rendered difficult by a backward economic and social system, the Commission proclaims its will to assist in the first place in the rapid reconstruction of the countries devastated by the war where the housing problem is particularly acute."

VI. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

A. Terms of Reference (Document E/281, Page 2)

"The functions of the Commission shall be to prepare recommendations and reports to the Economic and Social Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social, and educational fields with the object of implementing the principle that men, women, shall have equal rights, and to develop proposals to give effect to such recommendations."

"The Commission shall also make recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights."

B. Relations With Other Commissions (Document E/281, Pages 10, 11)

The Commission provided for collaboration with the Commission on Human Rights and with one of its sub-commissions;

With regard to the Commission on Human Rights, it decided:

- (a) to request the Economic and Social Council to arrange that the Commission on the Status of Women be represented by its officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Rapporteur) at the session of the Commission on Human Rights when the Draft International Bill of Human Rights is being considered;
- (b) to request the Drafting Group of the Commission on Human Rights to circulate simultaneously copies of the preliminary draft of the

International Bill of Human Rights to members of both Human Rights and Status of Women Commissions.

As for the Social Commission, it decided:

1. To support the resolution of the Social Commission relative to town planning and housing;
2. to request the ECOSOC to arrange for effective collaboration between such a service and the Commission.

With respect to the sub-commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, it decided that:

"(b) the Commission wishes to be informed of the constitution, and of the efforts of the aforementioned sub-commission towards the development of the rights of women in the various minority groups in the political, economic, social and cultural fields;

"(c) the best organization of such co-operation between the two organs, the Commission suggests would be the effective participation of a representative of the Commission on the Status of Women in the work of the sub-commission

C. Future Activities (Document E/281, Pages 12-14)

In discussing its future activities, the Commission limited itself mainly to the task of defining the principles and aims which should guide it in its work.

IX. POPULATION COMMISSION

A. Terms of Reference (Document E/267, Page 2)

"The Population Commission shall arrange for studies and advise the Council on:

"(a) population changes, the factors associated with such changes, and the policies designed to influence these factors;

"(b) inter-relationship of economic and social conditions and population trends;

"(c) migration movements of population and factors associated with such movements;

/"(d) any other

"(d) any other population problems on which the principal or subsidiary organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies may seek advice."

B. Relations With Other Commissions (Document E/267, Pages 3-5)

After discussing the problem of its relations with other Commissions of the Council, the Population Commission decided that in view of its terms of reference

"... it is at present desirable to avoid any strict lines of demarcation between its work and the work of other Commissions".

It endorsed the view of the Statistical Commission that a policy of collaboration rather than sharp delineation of functions should be followed. The Population Commission recognized that the Statistical Commission had general responsibility for statistical matters as a whole, but at the same time it drew

"... attention to the immediate relevance of population statistics to its own work and to emphasize that recommendations concerning the preparation and publication of such material are of direct concern to the Population Commission",

and pointed out that

"it has an obligation to participate in such recommendations".

The Population Commission also stated that it:

"is anxious to help the other Commissions in any ways which lie within its power, bearing in mind the resources at its disposal".

The Commission also endorsed the recommendation of the Social Commission to establish an ad hoc technical committee, with joint representation of the Population and Social Commission to consider the problem of migration. It appointed two of its members to act as its representatives on that committee.

C. Future Activities (Document E/260, Pages 11-13)

Most of the work envisaged by the Population Commission in its programme for the coming year is technical and methodological.

NUMBERING OF COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

Documents of all the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council bear the following series symbol: E/CN., to which is added the number of each commission, and a second symbol designating the type and order of the particular document. For example, the documents of the Economic and Employment Commission have the symbol E/CN.1/, and its documents are designated e.g. as E/CN.1/W.2 (second working paper of the Commission). The only exception to this rule prevails in the case of reports submitted by a Commission to the Council which are designated as Council documents, i.e. E/. followed by the document number only.
