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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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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Co-ordination
BEC	Classification by Board Economic Categories
BTN	Brussels Tariff Nomenclature
CCC	Customs Co-operation Council
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECAFE	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia
EEC	European Economic Community
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IASI	Inter-American Statistical Institute
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	International Computing Centre
ICGS	International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISCED	International Standard Classification of Education
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
ISIS	Integrated Statistical Information System
MPS	Material Product Balances System
NYCC	New York Computing Centre
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SNA	System of National Accounts
SOEC	Statistical Office of the European Communities
SSDS	System of Social and Demographic Statistics

UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER I

QUESTIONS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Statistical Commission approved the following draft resolutions and draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

I

1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme 1/

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Statistical Commission on its eighteenth session,

Recalling its resolution 1054 B (XXXIX) of 16 July 1965, which endorsed the development of 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programmes and recommended that States Members of the United Nations take into account the international recommendations on population and housing censuses when undertaking national censuses during the years 1965-1974, and its resolution 1215 (XLII) of 1 June 1967, which requested the Secretary-General "to give assistance to Governments in the implementation of these ... recommendations by mobilizing all available resources to help in the very large task of meeting the needs of countries in this area ...",

Noting with satisfaction the considerable efforts made by States Members of the United Nations, in all regions, to carry out population and housing censuses as part of the 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programmes and also the activities of the Secretary-General in support of national efforts in this matter,

Further recalling the importance placed on population censuses by the World Population Plan of Action adopted by the World Population Conference held at Bucharest, Romania, in August 1974,

Recognizing that periodically-conducted population and housing censuses, by providing comparable information for a nation as a whole and for each administrative area therein, are one of the primary sources of data needed for effective development planning and for the sound administration of national and local activities aimed at fostering the general welfare of the population,

Further recognizing that population and housing censuses place heavy demands on the statistical and administrative resources of countries, making careful preparatory work essential for maximizing the usefulness and efficiency of census activities,

1/ See paras. 56-63 below.

1. Requests the Secretary-General to proceed with the development of a 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme, to be carried out during the period 1975-1984, and to make all necessary preparations with a view to encouraging and assisting Member States to plan and carry out improved censuses in the 1980 census decade;

2. Recommends that States Members of the United Nations undertake to carry out population and housing censuses during the period 1975-1984 and that they take into account international recommendations relating to population and housing censuses, in order that the censuses may meet national requirements and facilitate the study of population and housing problems on a regional and global basis.

II

Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Rev.2 2/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 299 (XI) of 12 July 1950, on the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC),

Considering:

(a) The marked improvement in the international comparability of external trade statistics which has resulted since 1960 from the implementation by Governments and international agencies of the SITC, Revised;

(b) The action taken by the Customs Co-operation Council to maintain the correspondence of its Brussels Tariff Nomenclature (BTN) with the SITC;

(c) The proposed revision of the SITC, contained in the annex to the note by the Security Council (E/CN.3/456), to be known as the SITC, Rev.2,

1. Recommends that Member States should report internationally data on external trade statistics according to the SITC, Rev.2, as far and as soon as possible, it being understood that Member States may not wish to make the change until they would in any case be reviewing their Customs nomenclature;

2. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To publish the SITC, Rev.2, together with commodity indexes, the subdivided BTN and Correlation Codes between the SITC, Rev.2, and the BTN, and between the SITC, Rev.2, and the Classification by Broad Economic Categories 3/ (BEC);

(b) To arrange that beginning not later than with data for the full year 1976, the publication of SITC data by United Nations bodies be, as far as possible, in the form of the SITC, Rev.2;

2/ See paras. 109-119 below.

3/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.XVII.12.

3. Requests the Customs Co-operation Council:

(a) To distinguish in the BTN and in the associated classifications, for example, the "Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System", the statistical subheadings required to provide the agreed correlation with the SITC, Rev.2, and to recommend that its members incorporate these either in their legal tariff or in their national statistical nomenclatures;

(b) To eliminate, where possible, the economically insignificant BTN headings.

DRAFT DECISION

The Economic and Social Council,

1. Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its eighteenth session;

2. Approves the objectives and work programme recommended by the Statistical Commission in its report.

CHAPTER II

CO-ORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

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

2. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1 (XVI) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1306 (XLIV), the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination held its fifth session at Geneva from 2 to 4 July 1973. The report of the Working Group (E/CN.3/442) was before the Commission.

3. Members of the Commission expressed their appreciation of the work of the Working Group, which was of considerable assistance to the Commission in discharging its functions. The Commission noted with satisfaction that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission at its seventeenth session, 4/ the fifth session of the Working Group was attended not only by the members of the Commission's Bureau, but also by members who ensured the continuous representation of the developing countries.

4. The Commission decided to consider the substantive portions of the Working Group's report under the relevant items of the agenda.

B. International statistical programmes, 1975-1979

5. In accordance with the request of the Commission at its seventeenth session, 5/ a report of the Secretary-General on international statistical programmes for the period 1975-1979 (E/CN.3/444) was before the Commission. This report was presented to the Commission as a joint report of the United Nations Statistical Office and the statistical divisions of the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in order to assist in the deliberations concerning the co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes.

6. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Statistical Office, the statistical divisions of the regional commissions, the specialized agencies and other organizations for their considerable efforts in preparing a useful report. The Commission recommended that the particular attention of national statistical offices be drawn to this report.

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5236), paras. 210-212.

5/ Ibid., para. 22.

7. The following points were made on trends in international statistics:

(a) The work of international training institutes, and the training of statisticians in general, was very important;

(b) The work on new computerized data bases by various organizations should continue to be done on a co-ordinated basis;

(c) It was important to ensure the confidentiality of national data stored on tapes;

(d) Priority should now be given, less to the further elaboration of systems, than to their implementation and to the quality of basic data;

(e) The over-all balance between international work devoted to economic and social statistics appeared to be right; in the widespread priority now being given to social statistics, however, it was important not to neglect the highly important work on improving the quality of basic economic statistics;

(f) The Commission's Working Group should explore ways of analysing the interrelationships and the relative priorities of the major statistical policy objectives;

(g) A judicious balance in the use of resources for the better utilization of data already collected and for new data collection was required;

(h) International statistical projects should be classified as projects of interregional, regional or national scope;

(i) Projects concerned with developing standards for statistically advanced countries should be distinguished from those for other countries;

(j) New welfare-oriented output measures should be developed;

(k) Thorough co-ordination of the work regarding social and demographic statistics was essential; since this involved several of the specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and other international organizations, the Statistical Office should pay particular attention to the interrelationships of these projects and to the continuous co-ordination of all the international activities;

(l) In respect of the use of administrative data, the growing concern of the public over issues of privacy calls for careful planning of the projects and provisions for the necessary safeguards to secure the confidentiality of individual data;

(m) On subjects such as the practical implementation of international recommendations, the improvement of data quality and the use of administrative data, the exchange of national experiences should be encouraged.

8. The Commission approved the following major statistical policy objectives as guidelines for the work to be performed by the international organizations to develop international statistics in the period 1975-1979:

(a) The development and improvement of statistics and analytical presentations of social concern and the interrelationships of social and economic changes, with special reference to the needs of developing countries;

(b) The collection of new basic data and the further exploitation of administrative records for statistical purposes;

(c) Activities designed to meet the statistical requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade;

(d) The creation, maintenance and co-ordination of data bases of economic and social statistics;

(e) Technical assistance activities in statistics;

(f) Recurrent statistical activities.

9. The Commission reviewed the selected high-priority projects shown in the programmes for the various organizations.

10. The Commission stressed that the several projects planned by the United Nations, the ILO and UNESCO concerning projections should be carefully co-ordinated, to avoid duplication in effort and to ensure the consistency of the projections. The representative of the ILO indicated that work on demographic and related projections was fully co-ordinated among the various agencies, which met several times a year, in particular in an Inter-Agency Working Group on Demographic Projections, to review progress, methodology and programmes of work.

11. It was stressed that the ILO programme on the measurement of underemployment should include a study in depth of the relationship of individuals to work in the informal sector of the economy of developing countries. The ILO fully agreed and confirmed that in fact more resources would be assigned to its programme than were indicated in the report of the Secretary-General. It would take into account the research now under way in several countries of Asia and Africa.

12. It was suggested that work on statistics of foreign workers should take stock of existing data comparing conditions of employment and work of foreign and national workers in the various countries, and assess the need for and ways of providing further data.

13. Regret was expressed that resources available for statistical work in the ILO did not allow for enough work on statistics of consumer prices, or for a further revision of the ILO International Standard Classification of Occupations, revised edition, 1968.

14. The representative of FAO stated that the Fourth World Food Survey would be published in 1975. It will analyse food consumption and nutritional status, and trends and prospects in relation to agricultural development, including agricultural employment. The document on the 1980 World Census of Agriculture Programme to be released in 1975 should be viewed as the beginning of a process involving the evaluation of 1970 experiences, the preparation of special studies and the development of training and technical assistance programmes to assist countries.

15. The Commission noted that FAO would welcome discussions with countries on arrangements to establish mechanical communications on agricultural data from the interlinked computer system. Appropriate economic and social indicators are being identified. The 1975 State of Food and Agriculture published by FAO will focus on a review of agricultural development during the Second United Nations Development Decade, utilizing these indicators.

16. Several members of the Commission emphasized the need for co-ordinating UNESCO programmes and related activities of the other United Nations organizations. Concern was expressed that the programme in science statistics should give specific attention to the utilization of science and technology for economic development. In considering new statistical activities, any additional burden on national statistical services should be borne in mind. The need for more complete budgetary information was stressed.

17. The representative of UNESCO explained measures taken to ensure inter-agency co-ordination, in particular with regard to science statistics in relation to economic development. The Commission was reassured that close contact would be maintained with national statistical authorities regarding proposals for the collection of new data.

18. The importance of accurate cause-of-death information as a basic component of a health statistics system was stressed. The WHO representative explained that this was a matter of concern not only to WHO but also to the United Nations Statistical Office as the office responsible for the international aspects of civil registration, but he added that other forms of health statistics should receive just as much priority in development.

19. The Commission stressed the importance of co-ordination between the United Nations Statistical Office and the secretariats of the regional commissions and specialized agencies in preparing the System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS). The Commission was informed that the closest co-ordination is maintained in this field between the United Nations Statistical Office, the ECE Statistical Division and other bodies. At each stage of work, a practical division of labour is established. For example, the ECE Statistical Division is preparing a paper on the common classifications of the system. As regards meetings, the Conference of European Statisticians' Working Party on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics served, inter alia, as an organ for regional consultation on draft papers before their submission to the Statistical Commission. The Commission agreed to consider the more general aspects of co-ordination on the development of the SSDS (e.g. relating to co-ordination with the specialized agencies) under item 5 of its agenda (see chapter IV below).

20. In respect of questions on ECA activities, it was noted that certain projects were components of the African statistical programme, which comprised
(a) assistance in the development of national statistical services and
(b) provision of statistical services at the regional level. Another project, which was concerned with population censuses and a new effort to develop household survey capabilities in African countries, reflected the priority being given to the collection of basic statistics. National accounts remained a focal point and training was continuing in this field, as was the evaluation of the reliability of estimates produced by countries of the region. Country visits were intended to supplement the normal data collection arrangements of the United Nations system by supplying up-to-date material for use in appraising economic progress.

21. Concerning the maintenance of a magnetic-tape collection of the coded records of country surveys and one-in-a-hundred samples of households taken from census tapes, listed in the ESCAP programme, it was suggested that as regards the problem of confidentiality, it should be left to national statistical offices to decide on the dissemination of their data. The Commission was informed that the response from countries to ESCAP secretariat requests for supply of sample tapes was encouraging, and more countries had agreed to provide the tapes when the processing of data was completed.

22. The statistical programme of UNCTAD, summarized in programmes 25-27 contained in paragraphs 64 to 67 of the report of the Secretary-General, was considered by the Commission. Members expressed satisfaction with the work achieved, but felt some concern in regard to the co-ordination of the statistical activities of UNCTAD with those of the Statistical Office and other organizations within the United Nations system; it was felt that further efforts were needed to avoid duplication in data collection.

23. The representative of UNCTAD explained its statistical operations in the field of external trade statistics. The demand for information is rapidly growing, especially in view of the latest developments in world trade. There is a particular need for more detailed and more reliable information on price changes. He acknowledged the importance of full collaboration with the Statistical Office and with other competent agencies.

24. The Commission stressed that the co-ordination of the work of IMF on government finance statistics with that of other agencies was desirable. The Commission was assured that co-ordination had been sought with United Nations organizations, and also with OECD through the latter's committees dealing with this subject.

25. The Commission noted the establishment, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1908 (LVII), of the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations, and expressed the hope that all requests to national statistical offices for statistics should be made through the Statistical Office.

26. The Commission invited the specialized agencies and other international bodies concerned to take account of the points made, where appropriate, in their future programmes.

27. The Commission noted that the report of the Secretary-General included the programmes of CMEA and IASI, and expressed the hope that future reports of the Secretary-General on international statistical programmes would also include the programmes of other international organizations, especially those of IBRD, OECD and EEC.

C. Review of electronic data processing of economic and social statistics

28. For the discussion of the review of electronic data processing of economic and social statistics, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/445) and the relevant part of the report of the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination on its fifth session (E/CN.3/442, paras. 23-26).

29. The Commission noted that the present situation whereby the small statistical staff working on the production of international trade statistics at Geneva is separated from Headquarters in New York has created severe management and communications problems for the Statistical Office. The Commission endorsed the conclusion of its Working Group (ibid., para. 26) that the reunification of the Office was desirable and that the transfer of the Geneva staff to New York should take place whenever it could be done without setbacks to timeliness or to convenience to users. The Commission was assured that, as at present, users would continue to have access to the statistical computer tapes stored in the ICC at Geneva. While the Statistical Commission supports the ICC as an organ of the United Nations, this support should be without prejudice to the efficient management of the Statistical Office.

30. The Commission also agreed that the Statistical Office should proceed as quickly as possible with its plan to redesign data files and computer programmes. It stressed that an integrated system which would facilitate the quick and easy retrieval of data in various unanticipated forms would be a very important improvement in international statistics.

31. The Commission expressed the wish that the Secretariat should take the necessary steps, as quickly as possible, to make the necessary changes in the hardware and software capabilities of the NYCC, in the light of appropriate cost-benefit studies. It considered that the Statistical Office and the NYCC should work in close co-operation with the Research Computing Centre at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, and with national statistical offices which have already developed integrated systems.

32. The Commission was informed that the Directory of International Statistics, a draft version of which was made available for inspection by members, would be issued during the first half of 1975. The Directory, which was processed by computer and therefore may be easily updated, includes (a) a directory of international statistical services, (b) a list of international statistical series compiled by the United Nations system, (c) a list of methodological concepts and recommendations, with published sources, and (d) an inventory of the computerized data bases of economic and social statistics in the United Nations system.

CHAPTER III

STATISTICS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

A. International technical assistance in statistics, 1975-1979

33. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1566 (L), a report of the Secretary-General entitled "International technical assistance in statistics, 1975-1979" (E/CN.3/446) was before the Commission as a joint report of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and selected non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, outside the United Nations system, containing a scheme of technical assistance to developing countries for the five-year period 1975-1979.

34. The Commission noted that the integrated scheme of technical assistance in statistics submitted to it covered all the main forms of technical assistance, including advisory services, training, technical guidance and programme formulation, support and evaluation. In addition to the estimates concerning the five-year period 1975-1979, the report also provided information on aggregate resources allocated to technical assistance in statistics for the years 1970-1974. Assistance activities financed from all sources available for such purposes in the United Nations system, i.e. from regular budget programmes, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, funds in trust, etc. were included.

35. The Commission commented on the work of the Statistical Office and the statistical services of the specialized agencies in producing this comprehensive factual and analytical review of technical assistance in statistics. It requested that for its nineteenth session a similar report should be prepared to deal with the programmes of technical assistance in the period 1977-1981.

36. The Commission felt that the trends in the availability of resources for technical assistance were disappointing in several respects. In particular, it was recognized that funds available from UNFPA for demographic and related statistics had increased substantially, while other contributions to technical assistance in statistics had remained unchanged. While the Commission welcomed the increased disbursements by UNFPA, the need for additional resources for economic statistics was emphasized. The Commission suggested that UNFPA should consider extending its scope of assistance to include the more important areas of social statistics.

37. As regards the distribution of expenditures by form of assistance, there has been an increase in the funds for the provision of equipment, with substantial decreases in the shares of expenditure allocated for advisory services, programme support, etc. The Commission considered the latter forms of assistance at least as important as, if not more important than, the provision of equipment, and favoured an increase in them.

38. The Commission strongly emphasized the importance of the technical guidance given in the form of manuals, international standards, regional and national

workshops and technical meetings. The widespread use that country, regional and interregional experts and training facilities make of the guidelines, manuals and other technical materials in statistics in their work was of great help to countries in developing and improving their statistical activities.

39. The Commission thought that more resources were needed to strengthen the work of the statistical units of international organizations in planning, providing support for and evaluating technical assistance. The Commission considered that comprehensive evaluation missions to countries should be organized by the international organizations, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the various forms of assistance rendered. The Commission requested that the Statistical Office should take appropriate steps towards achieving this goal.

40. The Commission emphasized the importance of the quality of the assistance rendered. The competence of the experts in particular was a vital factor. While the quality of the assistance rendered did not lend itself to easy evaluation, its assessment was at least as important as that of the quantity of assistance in reviewing the over-all impact and effectiveness of the assistance programme. Indeed, one important problem was the development, over a period of time, of suitable criteria for analysing the efficiency and effectiveness of resources used for technical assistance operations in statistics. It was hoped that the Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination would help in the development of guidelines in this respect.

41. The Commission was concerned about the administrative complexity of the assistance arrangements now in effect. Delays in the recruitment of experts were one of the ill-effects experienced.

42. The Commission commented on some desirable directions for future technical assistance activities in statistics and stressed the importance of assistance in the following fields:

- (a) Household surveys (particularly continuing multipurpose household survey capabilities);
- (b) Statistical organization and statistical infrastructure;
- (c) Utilization of statistics in decision-making, administration and planning;
- (d) Training of statisticians;
- (e) Data processing.

43. The Commission recommended that the results of the successful United Nations Interregional Seminar on Statistical Organization organized at Ottawa by the Statistical Office in co-operation with the Government of Canada from 3 to 12 October 1973 should be utilized, together with the additional materials to be collected from national statistical offices and other sources, in a new issue of the Handbook of Statistical Organization. ^{6/} The Statistical Office should accord high priority to this project.

44. The Commission agreed that the statistically least developed among the

^{6/} United Nations publication, Sales No. 1954.XVII.7.

developing countries, in particular, required considerable assistance in the organization and extension of their statistical services, the training of statistical personnel, and the planning and carrying out of the systematic development of basic and current statistical inquiries and data compilation.

45. The Commission recommended that international organizations should foster national statistical development by promoting the establishment of three-to-five-year plans and programmes for national statistical activities as integral parts of the national development plan. The plans should also be of assistance in assessing the requirements for statistics and in scheduling technical assistance therein.

46. The Commission took note of the text, submitted for its information, of the draft resolution approved by the Conference of African Statisticians at its eighth session for adoption by the Conference of Ministers scheduled to be held in 1975. The Commission recognized that the paramount factor in fostering the statistical development of countries remained the efforts of the countries themselves. It was very important that the international organizations should be able to assist to the extent feasible the statistical development of those countries which had grave problems in securing the resources and the expertise to develop their statistical services.

47. The Commission recommended that during the preparation of the next report on technical assistance the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities should consider the possibilities of securing information on the nature and magnitude of bilateral technical assistance rendered to the developing countries in the field of statistics.

B. African Census Programme and 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme

1. African Census Programme

48. The Commission noted that the report by the Secretary-General on the African Census Programme (E/CN.3/447) dealt with both the African Census Programme (an activity which arose as part of the 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programmes) and proposals for a 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme. The Commission attached considerable importance to both topics and decided to treat them as separate matters in its discussion and in its report.

49. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the thoroughness with which the report by the Secretary-General and the oral report by the Secretariat, updating that document, dealt with this very important programme. The Commission was pleased to note that, of the 41 member States of ECA, 24 had already conducted censuses as part of the 1970 World Population and Housing Census Programmes. Seven of them had received assistance from the African Census Programme; the latter would be the principal source of assistance for 15 other countries which still had to enumerate their populations in the 1970 census decade.

50. It was noted that most of these remaining countries had little or no previous census experience. Preparatory cartographic and other work was taking longer than originally expected and it was probable that the majority of the population enumerations would take place in 1975. The aim was to complete field work by the end of 1976. One of the principal requirements was to ensure the development of national census organizations without further delay.

51. The Commission believed that, although the African Census Programme had encountered difficulties, progress had been satisfactory, given the large-scale nature of the operation and the new approach to it. It was making a fundamental contribution to statistical development in the region and, although some assistance would be needed for the 1980 round of censuses, African countries could be expected to become increasingly self-sufficient in statistical matters, in particular with regard to the provision of a cadre of trained technicians to reduce the need for further technical assistance.

52. The Commission observed that other regions could benefit from the technical and organizational experience being gained and was pleased to learn that material was already being compiled and would be further developed during the course of the work.

53. With regard to future census activities in the region, the Commission recommended that close attention would need to be given to the differences in operational conditions between countries and also to the possibilities of mutual assistance. A number of members also stressed the need for collecting adequate information on economic and social characteristics.

54. The Commission was specially interested in the prospect for follow-up action in terms of developing household survey capabilities in African countries. The Commission considered that information on households required more attention in the planning of development efforts and that countries should aim at collecting demographic, social and related economic data in a continuous and integrated manner. The Commission was informed that a Working Group on Methodology, Organization and Content of Household Surveys had met in Addis Ababa in September 1974 and had made comprehensive proposals for a new programme aimed at the development of continuing household survey capabilities in African countries.

55. The Commission strongly endorsed the continuing activities of the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the Statistics Division of ECA in support of the African Census Programme. The Commission also stressed the need for continuing support of this Programme by the Secretary-General and by Governments, so as to bring it to a successful and expeditious conclusion. Finally, the Commission stressed that careful planning was an essential requirement for large statistical undertakings of this kind.

2. 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme

56. The Commission considered the proposals contained in paragraph 70 of the report by the Secretary-General, dealing with the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme, as well as the supplementary remarks by the Secretariat dealing with the timing of work and the proposed division of responsibilities between the United Nations Statistical Office and the statistical divisions of the regional commissions.

57. The Commission strongly endorsed the usefulness of the 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme, to be carried out during the period 1975-1984, and requested the Secretary-General to make all necessary preparations with a view to assisting Member States to plan and carry out improved censuses in the 1980 census decade. The Commission considered this to be an important and urgent matter for

action, particularly in view of the emphasis placed on population censuses in the World Population Plan of Action adopted by the World Population Conference held at Bucharest, Romania, in August 1974.

58. The Commission accepted the proposal that the regional commissions should take the lead in developing recommendations for the 1980 census programme, particularly with respect to the topics to be covered, while the Statistical Office would attempt to compile and analyse material on national census experience relating to the organization, timing, staffing and costs of various census operations, with a view to preparing appropriate guidelines and recommendations on these matters and completing the Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods 7/. However, some concern was expressed on two aspects of the work plan as proposed.

59. First, the Commission considered it likely that more revisions in the 1970 recommendations might be required than appeared to be anticipated by the Secretariat. It was noted that developments, such as the availability of population registers, altered needs for information and increased public concern over issues related to privacy and confidentiality, might necessitate significant changes in census content or methodology in a substantial number of countries.

60. Secondly, after noting that planning for population and housing censuses to be carried out in the 1980 census decade was well under way in some countries and would soon be initiated in many others, the Commission considered that it would be unwise to defer discussion of the 1980 census recommendations to the twentieth session of the Commission in 1978, as proposed in paragraph 5 (d) of the report by the Secretary-General. Accordingly, the Commission decided that there should be an interim report on the matter at the nineteenth session in 1976 and that it should receive final consideration at the twentieth session.

61. The Commission endorsed the convening of the necessary groups of experts, the organization of training programmes and workshops on census methodology and the provision of fellowships and other forms of technical assistance, as proposed in paragraph 5 (d) of the report by the Secretary-General. With respect to the latter point, a number of members of the Commission recommended that technical assistance for the 1980 World Programme should concentrate on the provision of experts and technical training and, to a lesser extent, on assistance in obtaining needed equipment.

62. The Commission also stressed the importance of maintaining close co-ordination with the work of the Population Commission.

63. At its 324th meeting, on 16 October 1974, the Commission unanimously approved draft resolution E/CN.3/L.77 submitted by Brazil and Malaysia and orally amended, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (for the text, see chap. I, draft resolution I).

7/ The following parts have already been issued: part III - Topics and tabulations for housing censuses (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.XVII.6); part IV - Survey of population and housing census experience, 1955-1964 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.XVII.7) and part VI - Sampling in connexion with population and housing censuses (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.XVII.9).

C. Development programme for statistics

64. The Commission based the discussion of this subject on the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Development programme for statistics" (E/CN.3/448), which was a synopsis of a proposed updated and expanded version of the publication Statistical Series for the Use of Less Developed Countries in Programmes of Economic and Social Development. 8/ The report contains an outline of the text, a list of basic and key derived economic and social statistics and a bibliography.

65. The report was intended to serve as guidance on the basic and derived statistics which developing countries should improve and extend to meet the requirements for data in planning, monitoring and assessing economic and social development. It would be essential for a developing country to adapt the suggested list of statistics and the sources, methods and priorities of collection to its own requirements and statistical circumstances.

66. Several points were made in the course of the discussion, among them the following:

(a) Greater emphasis should be given in the outline of the text to the need to produce reliable and timely data and to improve currently gathered statistics before adding new statistical inquiries;

(b) More emphasis should have been given in the report to the usefulness of administrative records and to the role statisticians might play in improving these records for statistical use;

(c) Sampling frames based on land areas are valuable for purposes of agricultural sample surveys;

(d) The use of a sample of educational institutions could be a feasible method of gathering educational statistics at early stages of statistical development;

(e) It is more appropriate to indicate the various individual classifications according to which statistical series might be tabulated rather than combinations of these classifications, as in the report of the Secretary-General; the combinations of classifications which are required and practical are likely to vary substantially from one country to another and from one inquiry to another;

(f) The attention devoted to statistics on social conditions should be increased and the sections of the outline on this subject should be strengthened.

67. In concluding the discussion, the Commission:

(a) Stressed the usefulness to the developing countries of the kind of guidance furnished in the report of the Secretary-General in the important task of strengthening their statistical services;

8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 1959.XVII.10.

(b) Requested that the outline in the report should be completed and modified in the light of the comments made and then circulated to national statistical authorities, regional commissions and specialized agencies for comments;

(c) Agreed that the synopsis of the text, the table of suggested statistical series and the bibliography, amended in the light of the comments received, should be prepared for publication.

CHAPTER IV
SYSTEM OF SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

A. Potential uses and usefulness

68. The Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/449 and Corr.1), prepared by Sir Claus Moser, serving as consultant to the Statistical Office, in which the nature of the SSDS and its potential uses and usefulness for various purposes were discussed.

69. The Commission unanimously commended the report, which it found very useful in clarifying the basic nature of the SSDS, and its potential uses. However, it considered that further thought needed to be given to establishing the ultimate goals of the system.

70. The Commission was informed of the work done in this field by several intergovernmental organizations, among them OECD, EEC and CMEA, and stressed the urgent need for ensuring complete co-ordination between organizations in this matter.

71. The Commission unanimously endorsed the importance of the SSDS framework for developing social and demographic statistics and for providing policy-makers with valuable information in this field. It stressed that the SSDS should not be isolated from other statistics and that it had in particular to be linked and co-ordinated with economic statistics.

72. Regarding the nature of the system, the Commission agreed that the SSDS should not be considered as a set of pre-planned tables which had to be filled out, like the SNA, for instance, nor a set of balanced accounts and matrixes, but as a set of principles relating to comprehensiveness, harmonization, connectedness and general structure to be applied in developing social and demographic statistics. However, some members felt that such an approach might not be sufficient, in that it could give the impression that the SSDS was only a programme of harmonized social and demographic statistics.

73. The Commission considered that the study of specific population groups, such as the elderly, the poor or the disabled, could be one of the important contributions of the SSDS and that a valuable way of testing the value and feasibility of the SSDS at the country level was to focus attention on specific population groups rather than on subsystems. Various views were expressed on the so-called social welfare accounts discussed in the report. The nature of the proposal itself needed clarification, although it was clear that something very different from, and wider than, the social services part of the national accounts was intended; in particular, the accounts should cover the distribution of benefits and eligibility and access to services. The Commission agreed that the social welfare accounts deserved further work, though some countries did not feel that such work merited high priority.

74. The Commission agreed that the methodological tasks listed in the report and especially the work on common classifications and ways of collecting relevant data should be given high priority. Some of this work might be undertaken by concentrating on specific population groups. Some members felt that classificatory characteristics would vary from country to country and international comparability might be difficult to achieve.

75. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to circulate the report to national and international statistical offices for comment and to publish a new version of the document, revised in the light of its comments and of the comments received from national and international statistical offices, as a supplement to the report entitled "Towards a System of Social and Demographic Statistics". 9/

B. Draft guidelines on social indicators

76. The Commission considered a report of the Secretary-General containing draft guidelines on social indicators (E/CN.3/450) within the framework of the SSDS. This had been discussed at its fourth session by the Working Party of the Conference of European Statisticians on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics, whose report (CES/WP.34/15) was also before the Commission.

77. The Commission considered that, in view of the conflicting reactions to the report of the Secretary-General, it could not, at the present time, adopt the recommended draft guidelines on social indicators. It considered that the report should be revised and widely circulated for comment before it could serve as a basis for consideration of the adoption of international guidelines on social indicators.

78. There was need for further study and clarification of the purposes, concepts and construction of social indicators and for a thorough scrutiny of the concrete list of indicators. It was proposed that different classes of indicators should be distinguished; reference was made to the report of the twenty-second plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians. 10/ It was suggested that particular attention should be given to devising indicators classified according to the various socio-economic groups of the population, so that they could serve as measures of their social conditions and problems.

79. The Commission stressed the importance of continued efforts to co-ordinate the international work on social indicators with a view to harmonizing concepts and definitions, as well as work on the specific series selected to monitor different social concerns.

80. The Commission concluded that:

(a) The report of the Secretary-General containing draft guidelines on social indicators (E/CN.3/450) should be amended in the light of the Commission's comments and those of the Conference of European Statisticians and its Working Party on a System of Social and Demographic Statistics. Members of the Commission

9/ ST/STAT/68. To be issued as a United Nations publication.

10/ ECE/CES/4, para. 94.

were invited to submit their written comments to the Statistical Office as soon as possible.

(b) The amended report together with the revised version of the report entitled "Towards a System of Social and Demographic Statistics" and the revised version of the report of the Secretary-General on potential uses and usefulness of the SSDS (E/CN.3/449 and Corr.1) should be circulated to national statistical authorities, regional commissions, interested specialized agencies and other international bodies for comments. The introduction to the amended report containing draft guidelines on social indicators should explain the tentative nature of that report and indicate that it was designed to supplement and not to replace the relevant parts of the report entitled "Towards a System of Social and Demographic Statistics".

(c) In the light of the comments received, a revised version of the draft guidelines should be prepared and submitted to the Commission.

(d) If a revised version of the draft guidelines cannot be completed in time for the nineteenth session of the Commission, a progress report should be submitted, including if possible a preliminary list of social indicators.

(e) It would be desirable for the Working Party of the Conference of European Statisticians to convene its meeting on the subject in 1976, as provisionally planned.

C. Character of a system for developing countries

81. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/451) concerning work on an SSDS for developing countries.

82. It was evident from the discussion that there were two somewhat different approaches to the desirable direction of immediate international work in this area. On the one hand, there was the view that work should proceed on designing a simplified version of an SSDS for developing countries because the full version was too complex for the purpose. On the other hand, there was the view that the SSDS should be viewed simply as a process of systematization and that the immediate objective was to improve, restructure and harmonize social statistics, keeping the full SSDS as a long-term goal and using it as a frame of reference.

83. However, the Commission unanimously endorsed the value of an SSDS for developing countries and, above all, agreed on the importance of improving social statistics in developing countries in an integrated manner. It was agreed that systematic international efforts were required to improve and harmonize social statistics, while it was accepted that national efforts would necessarily reflect national priorities.

84. The Commission considered that work on social statistics in developing countries, within the framework of the systematization implied in the SSDS, might place emphasis on such aspects as access to and availability of social services or the functioning of the informal parts of the economy rather than on the matrixes and life sequences found in the full system. Moreover, the Commission felt that the primary need might be for stock data rather than flow data, although net flow data might be useful, for instance, in population and education. It also considered that future work should treat urban and rural areas within one process.

85. In conclusion, the Commission:

(a) Strongly supported the primary emphasis on helping to improve in a harmonized and systematic manner basic social statistics in developing countries, giving particular attention to those aspects of welfare and living conditions to which each country assigns priority;

(b) Welcomed the fact that a consultant was preparing a paper on the relevance and feasibility of adapting the full version of the SSDS for use in the developing countries; this should, if time permits, be amended in the light of the discussion during the eighteenth session of the Commission;

(c) Noted with approval that the Statistical Office of the United Nations was preparing a strategy paper on improving social statistics in developing countries;

(d) Agreed that a meeting of an expert group on a system of social and demographic statistics for developing countries should be called to consider the paper referred to in subparagraph (b) above, if this was felt to be desirable, and to consider a progress report on the strategy paper referred to in subparagraph (c) above;

(e) Agreed that in any case the Commission should at its nineteenth session consider the papers referred to in subparagraphs (b) and (c) above, as well as a progress report on the improvement of basic social statistics in developing countries, as described in subparagraph (a) above; if the expert group had, in fact, met by then, its report should also be before the Commission.

CHAPTER V

STATISTICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

86. The Commission based its discussion of this subject on the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/452) and was informed that a work programme based on the report had been submitted to UNEP for funding. Funds had also been requested from UNEP for the co-ordination of the activities and plans of the United Nations system on statistics of the environment in collaboration with the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the body of UNEP concerned with the "Earthwatch" programme. The representative of UNEP informed the Commission of the objectives of UNEP and the importance it attached to a co-ordinated programme of statistics of the environment.

87. The Commission stressed the importance of work on statistics of the environment. Countries and the international community faced problems of environmental conditions and policy making; in dealing with these questions, it was necessary to have statistics to monitor, assess and analyse environmental conditions. The Commission considered that the report presented a valuable examination of a wide-ranging, complex and extremely technical subject and a suitable basis from which to select priorities.

88. During the discussion, support was given in general to the proposed directions in the programme of work set out in section VII of the report, giving priority to certain preparatory tasks. While the programme was considered to be over-ambitious, especially in regard to what it aimed to accomplish in a three-year period, it was recognized that it was urgent to start work as soon as possible. It was emphasized that, in order to render the programme manageable, a step-by-step approach should be taken. The work should be devoted primarily to the development of specific and practical data, classifications and tabulations and not to the building of complex systems. The Commission noted that actual work on the programme could not start until a suitably trained staff had been acquired and that the resources needed to carry out the agreed tasks should be made available as soon as possible.

89. Doubts were also expressed as to the suitability of including in the statistical programme work on ecological areas and on the biological transport, recycling and dispersion of pollutants. On the other hand, some members of the Commission felt that techniques for measuring phenomena such as the output of pollutants or states of pollution had an important statistical element and should be added to the programme. It was agreed that the boundaries and relationships between environment statistics and other types of statistics and between some of the modules of environment statistics needed to be clarified at an early stage in the work.

90. The use of natural units of measurement was considered to be basic in environmental statistics, and environmental resource accounts and input-output tables were considered valuable means of organizing and integrating statistics on the environmental aspects of mineral resources and the derived energy and non-energy commodities. These frameworks also furnished means of interrelating national

accounting and environmental data. The attention that the report devoted to the classifications and taxonomy of environmental statistics was welcomed.

91. The Commission stressed the importance of co-ordination at an early stage of the work of the United Nations system and other international bodies on statistics of the environment. A number of these agencies were already engaged in, or contemplated, such work; it was essential to avoid duplication and to foster complementary activities. Co-ordination should be a subject to which attention should be given by the Commission as well as by the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities.

92. In conclusion, the Commission:

(a) Considered that work should begin as soon as possible in the important but highly complex and wide-ranging area of statistics of the environment;

(b) Approved the broad lines of the programme contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/452) and recommended that in order to make the programme manageable a step-by-step approach should be taken, starting with an inventory of the requirements for and the availability of statistics of the environment and proceeding, as resources permitted, with work on guidelines and the reorientation of existing data, the international collection and compilation of new data being undertaken later, in step with national developments;

(c) Recommended that work on international guidelines should at the outset distinguish between the needs of developed and developing countries;

(d) Requested that:

- (i) A review of the character and co-ordination of the activities of the various international agencies on statistics of the environment be submitted to its Working Group at its sixth session and to the Commission at its nineteenth session;
- (ii) A report be submitted at the nineteenth session of the Commission on the progress made and the problems encountered in the first phase of the programme of work on statistics;
- (iii) The subject of co-ordination in this area be discussed at the February 1975 session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities.

CHAPTER VI

DRAFT INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON STATISTICS OF THE DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES AND SERVICES

93. The Commission discussed the revision of the international recommendations on statistics of the distributive trades and services on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/453). The report was a revised version of an earlier report 11/ considered by the Commission at its seventeenth session, and took account of the views expressed by the Commission, as well as the written comments on the earlier version which countries had submitted.

94. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the new version of the draft international recommendations. The Commission welcomed the effect given to the conclusions reached in earlier discussions and considered that the report in its present form constituted an important step forward in the revision of the existing recommendations.

95. The Commission was informed that the recommendations were intended to assist countries in developing their national statistics; they could also provide a basis for the international reporting of statistics of the distributive and service trades, but at present the collection of such data was not envisaged. Furthermore, the differentiation in the recommendations was based on the experience which countries had in this field of statistics, rather than on their state of development; developing countries which are able to implement the recommendations addressed to countries with developed statistics in certain areas of the distributive or service trades should be encouraged to do so.

96. Several views were expressed and comments were made in respect of certain aspects of the draft recommendations:

(a) A distinction should be made between large and small units. It would be sufficient for most purposes to collect less information from the smallest units.

(b) Some participants felt that the advantages of using the enterprise as a statistical unit, in particular in respect of some of the recommended items of data, had not been sufficiently considered.

(c) With regard to the proposal that infrequent inquiries should constitute the core of the system, it was pointed out that several statistically advanced countries had found that such inquiries had serious drawbacks. Those countries were now moving towards annual sample inquiries linked to a continuously updated register of businesses.

(d) It was suggested that the possibilities of introducing a classification of sales by category of end-use (final consumption, intermediate consumption, fixed

11 / E/CN.3/430.

capital formation) be considered; it was recognized, however, that such a classification might raise practical problems, since the sellers did not always know the end-use of the products sold.

(e) Attention was drawn to the need for co-ordination as regards concepts, definitions and classifications between statistics of the distributive trades and price statistics, so as to facilitate constant price compilations in this field.

97. The Commission:

(a) Requested the Secretary-General to revise his report (E/CN.3/453) in the light of the views expressed at its eighteenth session, and to issue the revised report as the international recommendations on statistics of the distributive trades and services;

(b) Recommended that work should be undertaken as soon as resources permitted on the preparation of a manual on the organization and conduct of surveys, to be issued as a methodological supplement to the international recommendations.

CHAPTER VII

INTERNATIONAL TRADE RECONCILIATION STUDY

98. For the discussion of this item, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "International trade reconciliation study" (E/CN.3/454), prepared by the Secretariat with the assistance of the two alternate Co-Chairmen of the United States-Canada Trade Statistics Committee: Mr. L. Jackson (United States of America) and Mr. J. Ryten (Canada).

99. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the work done by the Secretariat and the consultants and congratulated the United States of America and Canada on the very successful study they had conducted to reconcile differences in their own bilateral trade.

100. The Commission noted that a systematic comparison of statistics of trade flows with counterpart statistics indicated the existence of considerable discrepancies at the global and at the detailed level.

101. The Commission considered that an assessment of the causes of such discrepancies was central to the measure of reliability and the improvement of comparability of foreign trade data. The Commission agreed that in this regard the methods of analysis proposed in the report would be of considerable assistance.

102. Some members added that, while recognizing the value of a study of inconsistencies in trade data, they were concerned with its possible costliness and complexity. Doubt was expressed about the possibility of eliminating inconsistencies at the finest level of detail.

103. The Commission noted the willingness expressed by the United States of America and Canada to pursue the objectives indicated in the study, as well as the interest expressed by the United Kingdom and Ghana in considering the undertaking of a study of inconsistencies in their bilateral trade statistics.

104. The Commission requested the Statistical Office of the United Nations:

(a) To continue studying major inconsistencies in trade statistics and analysing the causes of such inconsistencies.

(b) To recommend countries to carry out on a bilateral basis studies designed to resolve inconsistencies in trade statistics, and to assist them in this work.

(c) To convene an expert group to review the work undertaken by the Statistical Office and to recommend further improvement in the methods used. The experts might also consider possible revisions to recommendations contained in the publication International Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions.^{12/} Finally, the expert group might suggest ways and means of promoting such recommendations and of ensuring that they are used more effectively.

^{12/} United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.XVII.16.

CHAPTER VIII

REVIEW OF THE RECURRENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

105. For the discussion of the review of recurrent publications, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.3/455). The Commission was informed of the improvements planned by the Secretariat in the contents, timeliness and distribution of its statistical publications and of ongoing projects which aim at assessing the quality and reliability of statistical data. It was also informed of the conclusions of a review of the statistical publications of the United Nations, undertaken by the Publications Board of the United Nations.

106. The Commission expressed its appreciation of the valuable statistical publications issued by the Secretariat and of the comprehensive review included in the report. During the discussion, suggestions were made regarding new features to be published and the members of the Commission stressed the following points: (a) the coverage of the statistical data should be expanded, particularly with respect to developing countries; (b) improving timeliness should be one of the main objectives of the Statistical Office; (c) for this purpose, for example, a recommendation should be made to countries that they reply quickly to statistical questionnaires; (d) dissemination of the statistical publications of the United Nations should be broadened, especially in developing regions; (e) users' surveys should be undertaken and national statistical offices should be consulted prior to any substantive changes being made in the publications; and (f) particular attention should be given to the publication of elaborated data, such as indexes, regional aggregates, derived statistics, etc.; problems of harmonization in this connexion between international organizations might have to be solved.

107. The Commission expressed its support for the measures planned by the Secretariat to improve its statistical publications.

108. After considering the financial implications set out in annex III of the report of the Secretary-General, the Commission approved the preparation of a second issue of the Compendium of Housing Statistics ^{13/} in 1975 and, subject to an internal evaluation by the Statistical Office, a third in 1978.

^{13/} United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.73.XVII.4 (first issue).

CHAPTER IX

STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATIONS

A. Draft Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Rev.2

109. The Commission had before it for consideration and approval the final text of the SITC, Rev.2, contained in the annex to a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/456).

110. A proposal was made that the classification of chemical products be modified, in order to regroup in the same section all commodities produced by the chemical industries. Taking into account the necessity to maintain the continuity of series and avoid too great a departure from the Standard International Trade Classification, Revised, 14/ the Commission decided not to accept this proposal.

111. The representatives of certain countries, producers and exporters of primary products, expressed concern at a lack of sufficient detail in the sections of the SITC covering raw materials. While in no way opposed to the adoption of the draft SITC, Rev.2, and conscious of the Statistical Office's efforts at consultation, they manifested the desire to see a further strengthening of consultative machinery. They also wished their feeling to be conveyed to other bodies involved in the development of related classifications.

112. The Commission noted that the previous draft of the SITC, Rev.2, 15/ had been modified as requested at the seventeenth session of the Commission, 16/ particularly with regard to the BTN.

113. The Commission approved the SITC, Rev.2, as it appears in the annex to the note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/456).

114. The Commission recommended that countries, when reporting on the international level, should, as soon as possible, compile their external trade statistics according to the SITC, Rev.2, it being understood that Member States may not wish to make the changeover until such time as they would in any case be reviewing their Customs nomenclature.

115. The Commission requested that the SITC, Rev.2, should be published in Russian, as well as in English, French and Spanish.

116. The Commission was informed that the total cost of publishing the SITC, Rev.2, in English, French, Russian and Spanish would be \$40,975.

14/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 61.XVII.6.

15/ E/CN.3/429.

16/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5236), para. 99.

117. The Commission asked CCC:

(a) To distinguish in the BTN the statistical sub-headings required to provide the agreed correlation with the SITC, Rev.2, and to recommend that its members incorporate these either in their legal tariffs or in their national statistical nomenclatures;

(b) To eliminate, where possible, the economically insignificant BTN headings;

(c) To provide in the Explanatory Notes to the Brussels Nomenclature 17/ supplementary explanatory notes on the statistical sub-headings;

(d) To insert the corresponding statistical numbers in the official edition of the BTN and, in an appendix thereto, to publish the complete text of the approved SITC, Rev.2;

(e) To ensure that the sub-divisions of the "Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System" will be aligned with the SITC, Rev.2, and the sub-divided BTN.

118. The Commission requested the Statistical Office:

(a) To publish the SITC, Rev.2, together with commodity indexes, the sub-divided BTN, and correlation codes between the SITC, Rev.2, and the BTN;

(b) To revise the Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC) to take account of the SITC, Rev.2, and to include in the SITC, Rev.2, for each heading thereof, the related heading of the BEC;

(c) To arrange to establish, if possible, convertibility keys between the SITC, Rev.2, and the Standard Foreign Trade Classification of CMEA, in co-operation with the Conference of European Statisticians;

(d) To arrange that, beginning not later than with data for the full year 1976, the publication of SITC data by United Nations bodies be, as far as possible, in the form of the SITC, Rev.2, it being understood that the Secretariat, in agreement with the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, will, where necessary, adjust for this purpose data reported according to the SITC, Revised (first revision of the SITC) or the original SITC;

(e) To arrange that data according to the SITC, Rev.2, be published, including, for a recent year, data which show the effects of the more important differences between the SITC, Revised, and the SITC, Rev.2.

119. At its 324th meeting, on 16 October 1974, the Commission unanimously approved draft resolution E/CN.3/L.78 for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (for the text, see chapter I, draft resolution II, above).

17/ CCC, Explanatory Notes to the Brussels Nomenclature (Brussels, 1966).

B. Draft International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services (ICGS)

120. The Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/457 (parts I and II)) on the subject. The report explained how the classification was developed, the uses for which it is intended and the further work required before it can become operational. The report also dealt with the question of correspondence between the ICGS and the SITC, Revised, and the relationship between the ICGS and other international classifications.

121. The Commission noted that work on the ICGS began pursuant to its resolution 4 (XV), which requested the Secretary-General "to draft, in consultation with national statistical offices, the framework of a commodity classification scheme which is linked ... with the revised ISIC". 18/ At its seventeenth session, the Commission requested that the classification be submitted at its eighteenth session. 19/ The present draft was a revision of a 1970 draft. 20/ That version was sent to national statistical offices and international organizations and was considered at meetings in Europe and Asia. The new version took into account the various comments received, as well as particulars of the established classifications of the United Nations, the specialized agencies (FAO and UNESCO) and organizations outside the United Nations system.

122. The Commission recognized that, like other international classifications, the ICGS is designed to meet the needs of countries in different economic and social circumstances. Moreover, it seeks to mesh, as far as possible, with existing special-purpose classifications. The framework that it will provide should aid considerably input-output analysis, price studies, commodity flow estimates and other statistical endeavours.

123. The Commission discussed the relationship between the ICGS and the SITC. While an effort had already been made to form sub-classes of the ICGS that were coextensive with the basic categories of the SITC, Revised, an increased degree of correspondence should be possible with the SITC, Rev.2, which contains 500 more basic items but which was not available in time to be used in the preparatory work on the present draft ICGS. However, the degree of correspondence with the SITC will remain incomplete even after the ICGS is aligned with the SITC, Rev.2, because of the need to link the ICGS with the ISIC, which is a classification by industrial activity and also because of the presence of residual items of unavoidably different composition in these two classifications. The Commission noted that the representative of UNCTAD would submit suggestions to the Statistical Office about ways of increasing at least the unilateral compatibility between the SITC and the ICGS.

124. The Commission was informed of the work of an expert group on the harmonization of classifications, which began its deliberations in New York on 3 October 1974. Its main objective was to make recommendations to enhance the harmonization of international statistical classifications and to frame these recommendations in the form of a work programme, so that the Statistical Office and other co-operating agencies might carry out the recommendations. As far as possible, the work

18/ The revised ISIC (International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities) was subsequently issued as United Nations publication, Sales No. E.68.XVII.8.

19/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5236), para. 195 (i) (i).

20/ ST/STAT.47.

programme will distinguish between short-term measures, i.e., projects feasible for implementation within the next two to four years, and longer-term tasks, i.e., measures to be dealt with within the period of the next four to eight years. The results of this work, as well as the work of the Conference of European Statisticians in this area, will be utilized as far as possible for the final ICGS draft. The Commission was also informed of the work of CMEA in this field, aimed at the construction of related classification structures into which detailed categories (for example, items of output, trade, etc.) can be assembled by computer.

125. The Commission:

- (a) Took note of the draft of the ICGS and welcomed the progress made in this field;
- (b) Requested the secretariats concerned to take account in their work of the comments made;
- (c) Agreed that:
 - (i) A main task in order to make the ICGS operational is to align it as far as possible with the SITC, Rev.2;
 - (ii) The ICGS should be submitted to international organizations within and outside the United Nations system and should be considered at regional meetings of national statisticians in Europe and elsewhere;
 - (iii) The draft should be circulated to national statistical offices during 1974 and 1975;
 - (iv) The comments resulting from these consultations should be taken into account in preparing the final draft version of the ICGS, which should be submitted for consideration to the Statistical Commission at its nineteenth session.

C. Draft International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)

126. The Commission had before it UNESCO document COM-74/ISCED/3 and a note by UNESCO (E/CN.3/458) to enable it to make comments and suggestions on the draft ISCED. A brief description of the work carried out on the ISCED by UNESCO was provided. A general presentation was given of the system, which will be considered at a UNESCO meeting of governmental experts, to take place from 3 to 11 December 1974, to which all member States and a number of international organizations have been invited. Subsequently, the revised ISCED system will be submitted to the International Conference on Education in September 1975 for adoption as a recommended practice.

127. The representative of UNESCO gave an account of the various measures taken to ensure co-ordination and co-operation with international organizations concerned, in the work on the ISCED, i.e. informal consultations, attendance at expert meetings, presentation of the ISCED at various international and regional meetings, etc. Special reference was made to the co-ordination achieved with other international standard classifications, such as the ISCO (of the ILO) and the ICGS.

128. The Commission welcomed the work done by UNESCO on the ISCED as an important contribution to the set of international standard classifications in statistics. The efforts made to ensure co-ordination at the international level were appreciated, and the results achieved were on the whole considered to be satisfactory. It was, however, emphasized that these efforts would also have to be maintained in the future. Some members of the Commission stressed the need to give particular attention to improving the co-ordination between the ISCED and relevant parts of international classifications in the fields of demographic, economic and manpower statistics.

129. The Commission recognized that the ISCED was not intended to replace existing national classification systems, but it was hoped that concordance with such systems would be established for international reporting and that when changes in national classifications were being considered the ISCED recommendations would be taken into account. Furthermore, in countries where national classification systems had not been well established, the ISCED could serve as a guide with appropriate modifications.

130. The Commission took note that the detailed categories of the ISCED would not be part of an international data collection programme. However, even at the national level there would be considerable collection and definition problems, particularly in the expanding areas of adult and non-university post-secondary education. The emphasis in the future work should therefore be on the problems of applying the ISCED, particularly in these education areas.

131. In conclusion, the Commission endorsed the work UNESCO had done on the ISCED and considered the present proposals as a sound basis for future activities. It expressed its satisfaction with the co-ordination with other classification systems that had been carried out and urged the continuation of this co-ordination in subsequent work on the application of the classification.

CHAPTER X

SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

A. Supplementing the national accounts for purposes of welfare measurement

132. The Commission based its discussion on documents E/CN.3/459 and Add.1. Document E/CN.3/459 had been prepared in view of the request of the Committee for Development Planning that the Statistical Commission should consider the question of supplementing the national accounts for purposes of measuring welfare. 21/

133. The Commission considered that document E/CN.3/459 presented a comprehensive and valuable discussion of the problem and of ways in which the national accounts might be supplemented so as to improve measures of levels of living. Specific doubts were expressed on the concepts and practicability of the proposals in respect of the measurement of human capital, intra-household activities and consumer durables. It was also felt that the discussion of the welfare implications of pollution and outlays on abatement was incomplete. Some members of the Commission thought that too narrow a view was taken in the document; others thought that the approach was realistic.

134. The Commission emphasized the importance of developing suitable measures of levels of living for both national and international use and felt that this deserved further work. This information was needed by planners and policy-makers for such purposes as assessing the impacts of economic growth on the welfare of the population, studying disadvantaged groups of the population, evaluating the distribution of welfare and taking steps to remedy welfare problems, and also for making international comparisons.

135. The Commission stressed that, however important the work on welfare measurement might be, it should not be allowed to disturb the basic concepts, content and structure of the national accounts and balances as now developed in the SNA and the MPS; indeed, every effort should be made to improve the quality of these accounts. The national accounts and balances, as now conceived, furnished invaluable data on such questions as the structure and state of the economy, the output and use of goods and services, the allocation of economic resources and the capacity to produce, as well as a basis for organizing and developing basic economic statistics.

136. The Commission discussed suitable measures of levels of living which could supplement the national accounts and balances. It was considered that the concept "total consumption of the population", which is part of the complementary system of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation that was adopted by the Commission, might yield a valuable aggregate for this purpose.

21/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5293), para. 17.

However, it does not measure certain important aspects of levels of living of the population; in particular, data on the distribution of welfare among groups of the population were essential. Also, it takes no account of physical, climatic, social, institutional and cultural differences between countries. A selection of indicators from the SSDS bearing on the key facets of levels of living and on their distribution was also needed. The earlier work of the United Nations on indicators of levels of living could be taken into account in making this selection. The Commission also considered the concept of net beneficial product as a measure of welfare; to some members, this seemed a good starting-point and appeared to merit further work, but a number of others doubted the soundness of the concept.

137. The Commission concluded that:

(a) The national accounts and balances, as at present conceived, were of the highest importance nationally and internationally and should not be modified in order to yield measures of welfare. The national accounts and balances were designed to serve essential descriptive, analytical and policy purposes; it was important that the world-wide efforts to expand and improve the quality of national accounting data should continue, and not be deflected by this specific interest in welfare measurement.

(b) Measures of levels of living which supplemented the national accounts and balances should be developed. Some of these series may be based on data from national accounts and balances, and follow on from the document under discussion. Social indicators and data from household surveys would also be valuable sources of measures of levels of living.

(c) The Report on International Definition and Measurement of Standards and Levels of Living 22/ should be brought up to date and expanded. A discussion of the concepts and methodology of synthetic indicators should be incorporated in it.

(d) The Statistical Office should canvas the work being conducted and planned by countries on indicators and other measures of levels of living.

(e) An expert group should be convened to consider the various aspects of welfare and its distribution. It should concern itself with level of living indicators - their construction and multipurpose household surveys and other sources of data - as well as with possible welfare measures supplementing the conventional national accounts. The experts should be drawn from users as well as producers of socio-economic data.

(f) A progress report on the subject should be submitted to the Statistical Commission at its nineteenth session.

B. Draft international guidelines on the national and sector balance-sheet and reconciliation accounts of the SNA

138. The Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on draft international guidelines on the national and sector balance-sheet and reconciliation accounts of the SNA (E/CN.3/460) and the report of the Secretary-General on

22/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 1954.IV.5.

statistics of national wealth in countries with centrally planned economies (E/CN.3/461) for the discussion of this subject. The first report set out draft international guidelines on the national and sector balance-sheet and reconciliation accounts of the SNA which were the result of two rounds of consultations with national statistical authorities on earlier versions of the guidelines. The second report described the practices of countries with centrally planned economies in national wealth statistics and similarities and differences between them and the draft international guidelines set out in the first report.

139. The Commission considered that the report on draft international guidelines furnished timely, comprehensive and valuable guidelines for the use of countries with market economies in extending their national accounts to include balance sheets. An increasing number of countries were engaged in developing balance-sheet accounts step by step; reaching the goals set in the international guidelines would take a considerable period of time. The international reporting of balance-sheet data should not start until a substantial number of countries had made significant progress in this work. It was suggested that priority in work on balance sheets might be given to data relating to stocks of reproducible tangible assets.

140. During the discussion, the view was expressed that the emphasis on valuing securities and liabilities, as well as assets, at market value was ill-conceived; for example, it resulted in misleading figures of the net worth of corporations. Other major points made in the course of the discussion were that the sections of the report on draft international guidelines dealing with subsoil assets and on leasing were questionable and, at a minimum, needed to be elaborated. It was recognized that national experience in the use of the international guidelines needed to be accumulated before they could be significantly improved.

141. The Commission noted that the second report gave an incomplete and, in some instances, incorrect description of the practices of centrally planned economies in national wealth statistics. It was also informed that CMEA was engaged in preparing a comprehensive document on these questions, and it was suggested that this document might be used to replace the report.

142. It was suggested that there was likely to be sufficient similarity between the practices of CMEA countries in statistics of stocks of tangible capital assets and these statistics in the context of the SNA in the case of establishments to make it feasible to formulate common international guidelines.

143. In conclusion, the Commission:

(a) Approved the draft international guidelines set out in the report of the Secretary-General on draft international guidelines on the national and sector balance-sheet and reconciliation accounts of the SNA (E/CN.3/460), elaborated in the light of the Commission's discussion as provisional guidelines on the balance-sheet and reconciliation accounts of the SNA;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General:

(i) To prepare, publish and circulate a supplement to A System of National Accounts 23/ (SNA) on the provisional international guidelines adopted by the Commission;

23/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.69.XVII.3.

- (ii) To issue and circulate a supplement to Basic Principles of the System of Balances of the National Economy ^{24/} on the national wealth statistics of the CMEA countries;
- (iii) To prepare draft international guidelines on statistics of the stocks of tangible capital assets of establishment-type statistics in the context of the SNA and the MPS;
- (iv) To prepare a technical manual on the capital finance, balance-sheet and reconciliation accounts of the SNA.

^{24/} United Nations publication, Sales No. E.71.XVII.10.

CHAPTER XI

STATISTICS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME, CONSUMPTION AND ACCUMULATION: DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

144. The Commission based its discussion of this topic on the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/462), which was prepared at its request made at its seventeenth session. ^{25/} The report presented a simplification and adaptation in the light of the circumstances of the developing countries, and in the light of the guidelines on the full complementary system of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation which the Commission adopted at its seventeenth session. ^{26/} In the preparation of the report, account had been taken of the views expressed at regional meetings in Africa, Asia and Latin America concerned with the simplifications and adaptations required in the full system for purposes of the developing countries. The practices and experience of these countries in income and expenditure inquiries had also been considered.

145. The Commission welcomed the report, in view of the urgent needs of the developing countries for statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation. It was recognized that the proposed guidelines were intended to furnish suitable and flexible goals and priorities for the use of developing countries in devising programmes to produce income-distribution and related statistics and that it would be necessary for them to adapt these goals and priorities and to develop the programme in the light of their own requirements.

146. Some members expressed doubts whether the draft guidelines were sufficiently simple and whether their adoption ought not to be deferred. Questions were raised about the proposals (a) to compile constant-price data on the consumption of various categories of households using price indexes on their outlays, (b) to cover employers' contributions to social security funds and similar schemes and (c) to include data on the total consumption of the population. It was also thought that the proposed classification of socio-economic classes should be amended so as to segregate members of producers' co-operatives and perhaps professional and technical employees. Some members felt more generally that this classification was not sufficiently adapted to the specific conditions of developing countries; for example, certain categories were very heterogeneous.

147. Some members, while agreeing that the report could and should be improved in a further draft, considered the guidelines helpful and proposed that they should be adopted and circulated to developing countries. The usefulness of household surveys was stressed.

^{25/} Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 2 (E/5236), para. 85 (ii).

^{26/} Ibid., para. 85 (i).

148. Several members stressed the practical problems which arose in gathering income distribution and related statistics. The developing countries certainly faced practical problems in carrying out such inquiries. It would be valuable to discuss in some detail such questions as (a) the major sources of, and approaches to, collecting the statistics, (b) the criteria to be taken into account in designing appropriate sample household surveys, (c) the importance of and techniques for dealing with non-response and other non-sampling errors, and (d) the techniques of gathering fluctuating income and consumption data for short-time intervals which might be used to estimate statistics for the year as a whole.

149. In conclusion, the Commission:

(a) Adopted the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/462), amended in the light of the comments and discussion in the Commission, as provisional international guidelines for the use of developing countries in programmes of statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation. After sufficient experience had been accumulated in the use of the provisional guidelines, they should be reviewed and modified as necessary;

(b) Requested the Secretariat to prepare, publish and circulate a document on the provisional international guidelines adopted by the Commission.

CHAPTER XII

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: IMPLEMENTATION AND PROSPECTS

A. Statistical Office of the United Nations

150. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Programme objectives: implementation and prospects - Statistical Office of the United Nations" (E/CN.3/463) and an unnumbered hectographed document submitted by the Secretariat entitled "Notes on programme objectives and the work programme: Statistical Office of the United Nations" covering the period 1976-1977. In addition, the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on country practices in national accounting at constant prices (E/CN.3/464), of which it took note.

151. The Commission was informed of the new procedures of the United Nations with respect to planning and programme budgeting. The draft 1976-1979 plan and 1976-1977 programme budget had been prepared by the Statistical Office during the summer of 1974. The orientations suggested in the plan and the budget were based on the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session, on the reports on the most recent sessions of the conferences of African, Asian and European statisticians and on various bilateral discussions with some members of the Commission and also on recent events such as the sixth special session of the General Assembly (April/May 1974). The Director of the Statistical Office summarized the programme objectives as presented in the document entitled "Notes on programme objectives and the work programme".

152. The Commission unanimously expressed its satisfaction with the impressive progress made by the Statistical Office since the seventeenth session. It noted that the Statistical Office had been able to carry out a great deal of work with a relatively small staff and that the documents presented to the Commission at its eighteenth session reflected the high quality and productivity of the Office.

153. Among the points raised during the discussion were the following:

(a) The results of the real income International Comparison Project should be updated annually; it was noted that this would mainly depend on the willingness of the countries participating in the Project;

(b) The document on the links between the MPS and the SNA in the case of data on goods and services, which had not been completed before the session, should be given a high priority;

(c) The new programme on energy and primary commodities was considered to be important;

(d) It was recalled that the Commission had expressed the wish that a list of all international statistical questionnaires should be prepared and circulated; the Commission was informed that this subject had been discussed at the 1974

session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and would be discussed by the Commission's Working Group at its sixth session;

(e) The usefulness of guidelines and manuals on industrial and distributive trade statistics was emphasized, and it was noted that such work should be done on construction and transportation;

(f) It was suggested that, in view of the complexities surrounding the subject of social and demographic statistics and social indicators, an explanatory paper should be prepared to accompany the various documents on the SSDS and social indicators which are to be distributed for comment;

(g) A high priority should be given to work on the handbook on statistical organization and capabilities, as well as to further work on specific subjects such as statistical legislation and issues related to privacy and confidentiality;

(h) It was noted that the high priority assigned by the Commission to the development of multi-purpose household survey capabilities should be reflected in the work programme;

(i) The need for maintaining and strengthening co-ordination between the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the statistical divisions of the regional commissions and the specialized agencies was emphasized;

(j) The Secretariat was asked to circulate on a regular basis a comprehensive list of its statistical publications, and a list of working groups and meetings which are scheduled;

(k) It was suggested that the Secretariat should prepare a statement of its "philosophy" with respect to statistical activities, as a broader background to programme objectives and to underline the main thrusts of its strategy.

154. The Commission stressed the importance of starting as soon as possible the regular publication of the International Statistical Reporter, since it would be a useful tool for national statistical offices and for all organizations concerned with international statistical activities. It emphasized also the usefulness of the forthcoming Directory of International Statistics and Statistical Yearbook and expressed the wish that they should be published as soon as feasible.

155. The Commission noted that the orientation of the programme was consistent with the conclusions of the session, and that its decisions would not result in major changes in the list of projects but rather changes in the substantive content of some of them.

156. The Commission approved the objectives and work programme set out in the documents submitted to it, namely the note by the Secretariat entitled: "Programme objectives: implementation and prospects - Statistical Office of the United Nations" (E/CN.3/463) and the document entitled "Notes on programme objectives and the work programme: Statistical Office of the United Nations". The latter is reproduced as annex I to the present report. The Commission agreed that, in the implementation of the projects listed therein, the Secretariat should take account of the conclusions reached at its eighteenth session.

B. Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies

157. The Commission considered a progress report by the Secretary-General covering the statistical activities of the regional commissions and of IASI since the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission and entitled "Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies" (E/CN.3/466). Statements were made by representatives of ECE, ECA, ESCAP and ECWA.

1. Economic Commission for Europe

158. The attention of the Statistical Commission was drawn to the activities of the Working Party on Electronic Data Processing of the Conference of European Statisticians, which had a fruitful exchange of experience, including the preparation of major studies on the use of computers for statistical purposes. It was also informed of the work of the Computing Research Centre at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, which is supported by the United Nations, particularly on the development of an integrated statistical information system (ISIS) and on a forthcoming study of the likely role of computers in national statistical offices in the decade of the 1980s. Attention was also drawn to the courses held in English for students from developing countries by the International Computer Education Centre at Budapest, Hungary, also with United Nations support.

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

159. The Statistical Commission was informed that, pursuant to ECAFE resolution 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 27/ the Conference of Asian Statisticians had been raised to the level of a legislative body and had been redesignated as the Committee on Statistics.

160. The Commission was also informed about the lack of funds, especially the drastic reduction by UNDP in the allocation for organizing technical meetings and providing regional advisory services. It noted that, because of this reduction, only one technical meeting had been held in 1973 and one in 1974, with financial support from IBRD and the ILO respectively, and that regional advisory services had been drastically curtailed.

161. The Commission noted that a mission was mandated by ESCAP to review the various training institutes, including the Asian Statistical Institute at Tokyo, Japan, and that decisions on the future of the training institutes should be taken at the next session of ESCAP.

3. Economic Commission for Latin America and Inter-American Statistical Institute

162. The Statistical Commission was informed of the progress made by ECLA and IASI, especially in training and in the organization of fruitful meetings in the fields of national accounts, income distribution and household consumption.

27/ Ibid., Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5 (E/5469), part III.

4. Economic Commission for Africa

163. The Statistical Commission was informed that the African statistical programme maintained a stable basic structure comprising assistance in developing national statistical organizations and the provision of a regional statistical service, but that it had to respond to changes in data requirements and other factors affecting programme contents. National accounts remained the focal point of the programme, but there were improved prospects for the development of work in demographic and social statistics.

164. The Commission was informed of the new effort to develop a continuing multi-purpose household survey capability in African countries and noted that comprehensive programmes of this kind might be a more effective means of accelerating statistical development than the provision of assistance to meet ad hoc requirements. It was informed that a working group had already formulated technical guidelines for the household survey capability programme. The attention of the Commission was also drawn to the important administrative and technical role played by the ECA Statistics Division with respect to the African Census Programme.

5. Economic Commission for Western Asia

165. The Statistical Commission was informed of the activities of the regional statistical adviser of the newly established ECWA. He had mainly worked on helping countries to implement the new SNA, lecturing on the SNA and organizing seminars. He had been the only statistician at ECWA until September 1974. The Commission was also informed of the establishment at Baghdad, Iraq, of the Regional Institute for Research and Training in Statistics in the Near East.

6. General conclusions

166. In the discussion of the progress reports of the regional commissions, great emphasis was placed on the importance and usefulness of the development of continuing multi-purpose household survey capabilities. The need for a substantial increase in financial support for the statistical activities of ESCAP by UNDP and other bodies was stressed. The importance of maintaining strong co-ordination and co-operation between the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the regional commissions was emphasized; the Commission was informed that a special consultation between chief statisticians of the regional commissions and of the specialized agencies had been convened by the Statistical Office on 4 October 1974, immediately prior to the Commission's session; such multilateral consultations were considered essential and should become a regular feature.

167. The Commission commended the significant efforts shown in the progress reports on the statistical activities of the regional commissions, emphasized the need for maintaining strong co-ordination between them and the Statistical Office of the United Nations, but expressed its concern about the insufficient resources available for technical assistance activities (except in the field of population).

C. Statistical work of the specialized agencies and GATT

168. The Commission considered a report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/467 and Add.1) covering the statistical activities of the ILO, FAO, ICAO, WHO, IMF, GATT and UNESCO. In addition, it heard an oral progress report on the statistical activities of IBRD.

169. Among the points noted during the discussion of the progress reports were the following:

(a) The FAO statistical programmes will be affected by the November 1974 World Food Conference, two lines being emphasized in the documents submitted to the Conference, namely the establishment of a food information and early warning system, to provide more timely estimates on production and key inputs, and the expansion of surveys of food consumption and related economic and social variables;

(b) WHO is at present reviewing its statistical activities in terms of objectives and methods, especially with respect to technical assistance, with a view to making them more efficient and more useful to countries;

(c) It was noted that IBRD had established co-operation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations and FAO and intended to extend that co-operation in order to integrate its data files and its statistical work in the international statistical system.

170. The Commission agreed that the progress reports submitted by the specialized agencies and the discussion were very useful and noted that substantial progress had been made over the past two years in the statistical activities of the specialized agencies. It recommended that further progress reports should be submitted at its nineteenth session.

CHAPTER XIII

OTHER BUSINESS

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

171. The Commission agreed that the composition of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination should be as follows:

Sir Claus Moser (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Chairman
Mr. R. Chander (Malaysia)
Mr. J. W. Duncan (United States of America)
Mr. J. Kazimour (Czechoslovakia)
Mr. I. Kerstenetzky (Brazil)
Mr. I. Ohlsson (Sweden)
Mr. P. Singh (Kenya)
Mr. L. M. Volodarsky (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

172. The Commission also agreed that if any of the representatives of developing countries i.e. Mr. Chander, Mr. Kerstenetzky and Mr. Singh, were unable to participate in a particular session of the Working Group, their places should be taken by Mr. V. R. Rao (India), Mr. J. R. García Duque (Venezuela) and Mr. H. Zghal (Tunisia) respectively.

173. The Commission agreed that the sixth session of the Working Group would be held at Geneva from 30 June to 2 July 1975.

B. Location and date of the nineteenth session of the Commission

174. The representative of India on behalf of his Government extended an invitation to the Commission to hold its nineteenth session at New Delhi. The Commission expressed its warm appreciation to the Government of India and accepted the invitation with pleasure. Holding the session in India would give the Commission an opportunity to observe at first hand the conditions affecting statistical activities in a developing country.

175. It was noted that the Government of India would provide all the necessary conference facilities, do its utmost to overcome logistic problems and bear any cost in excess of that which would be incurred either at United Nations Headquarters in New York or at the United Nations Office at Geneva, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2609 (XXIV); the details would be further examined in consultations between the Government of India and the United Nations. However, it was agreed that, given communication difficulties, the Secretariat would have to prepare its pre-session documentation two months earlier than usual, so that all documents in all languages might be made available on time, and that this might result in a reduction in the agenda.

176. The Commission agreed that the location of the nineteenth session should not be regarded as a precedent. The Commission agreed that the following sessions should again be held at Geneva or in New York and, in particular, that a session should be held as soon as possible in New York. The view was expressed that holding sessions from time to time in developing regions would be useful for drawing attention in such regions to statistical activities.

177. The Commission expressed the wish that its nineteenth session should be held about November 1976.

C. Draft decision

178. At its 326th meeting, on 18 October 1974, the Commission unanimously approved a draft decision relating to the Commission's report on its eighteenth session, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. (For the text, see chapter I above.)

CHAPTER XIV

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

179. In compliance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Commission discussed a draft provisional agenda for its nineteenth session. It emphasized that this agenda should be considered as highly tentative and that it would be more fully considered by its Working Group at its sixth session.

180. The Commission felt that technical documents, such as those submitted to it, should not be subject to arbitrary rules on length. It considered that it was very difficult, two years before the nineteenth session, to estimate the likely length of documents and that the figures given in the provisional agenda would need to be reviewed.

181. Subject to these reservations, the Commission adopted the following draft provisional agenda:

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes
 - (a) Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination
(The report of the Working Group will be considered by the Commission: approximately 32 pages.)
 - (b) International statistical programmes
(The Commission will have before it an updated version of the document on international statistical programmes prepared by the Secretariat in co-operation with the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental bodies: approximately 32 pages.)
4. Statistics of the developing countries
 - (a) International technical assistance in statistics
(A report by the Secretary-General, prepared in co-operation with the specialized agencies, will be submitted in the Commission: approximately 32 pages.)

- (b) Promoting the improvement of social statistics in developing countries

(The Commission will discuss a report by the Secretary-General: approximately 32 pages.)

5. Economic statistics

- (a) Price and quantity statistics

(The Commission will discuss a report of the Secretary-General: approximately 32 pages, to which technical annexes of less than 50 pages may be attached.)

- (b) Energy statistics

(The Commission will discuss a report of the Secretary-General: approximately 32 pages, to which technical annexes of less than 50 pages may be attached.)

- (c) System of National Accounts and Balances

(The Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, at its sixth session, will determine the specific aspect of implementation of the System of National Accounts and Balances which will be considered by the Commission: approximately 32 pages, plus 50 pages of annex.)

- (d) Public finance statistics

(A progress report on the methodological work of the Statistical Office on public finance statistics will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages.)

- (e) Tourism statistics

(A report of the Secretary-General will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages.)

6. Social and demographic statistics

- (a) 1980 World Programme of Population and Housing Censuses

(The Commission will consider a report of the Secretary-General: approximately 32 pages.)

- (b) Migration statistics

(The Commission will consider a report of the Secretary-General: approximately 32 pages.)

- (c) Social indicators (see subitem (d) below)

(d) System of Social and Demographic Statistics

(The Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, at its sixth session, will determine the specific aspects of the SSDS and social indicators to be considered by the Commission at its nineteenth session, in the light of the Commission's conclusions at its eighteenth session: report of approximately 32 pages for item 6 (c) and 32 pages for item 6 (d).)

7. Environment statistics

(A progress report on the international programme of environment statistics will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages.)

8. International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services

(In accordance with the request of the Commission at its eighteenth session, a new draft of the ICGS will be submitted to it at its nineteenth session: approximately 450 pages.)

9. Statistical organization (including survey capabilities)

(The Commission will consider a report of the Secretary-General: approximately 32 pages.)

10. Programme objectives: implementation and prospects

(a) Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies

(b) Statistical work of the specialized agencies

(c) Statistical Office of the United Nations

(Three reports of the Secretary-General, prepared in co-operation with the relevant agencies, will be submitted to the Commission: approximately 32 pages each.)

11. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Commission

12. Other business

13. Report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

CHAPTER XV

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

182. The Statistical Commission held its eighteenth session at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 7 to 18 October 1974. The Commission held 18 plenary meetings (309th-326th meetings).

183. The Director of the Statistical Office read out the text of a statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

184. The Commission decided to dispense with summary records at its present session.

185. At its 309th meeting, on 7 October 1974, the Commission observed a minute of silence in memory of Mr. J. E. Tandoh (Ghana) and Mr. S. S. Heyer (Kenya), former members of the Commission.

Membership and attendance

186. The following States members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Ghana, Hungary, India, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. The following States members of the Commission were not represented: Gabon and Sri Lanka.

187. The following States Members of the United Nations sent observers to the session: the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic and South Africa.

188. The Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Environment Programme were represented at the session.

189. The following specialized agencies were represented: the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the Universal Postal Union. A representative of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was also present.

190. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented: the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the Customs Co-operation Council, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Statistical Office of the European Communities.

Election of officers

191. At its 309th meeting, on 7 October 1974, the Commission unanimously elected the following officers:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Sir Claus Moser (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
<u>First Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. L. M. Volodarsky (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
<u>Second Vice-Chairman:</u>	Mr. R. Chander (Malaysia)
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mr. I. Ohlsson (Sweden)

Agenda

192. The Commission had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.3/441). The Commission's attention was drawn to resolution 1894 (LVII) of the Economic and Social Council, which requests the Secretary-General to submit at each session of a functional commission or subsidiary body of the Council a draft provisional agenda for the following session. Consequently, it was agreed that a new item entitled "Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the nineteenth session of the Commission" would be added to the agenda. The Commission unanimously adopted the provisional agenda with the addition of the new item. The agenda, as adopted, is reproduced in annex II below.

193. In line with the request of the Economic and Social Council for more concise reports from its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies, the present report is confined to the main points made by the Commission.

ANNEXES

Annex I

NOTES ON PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME: STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS a/

1. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 3043 (XXVII), approving on an experimental basis the new form of presentation of the United Nations budget and a biennial budget cycle, the Economic and Social Council on 10 January 1973 at its organizational meeting for the fifty-fourth session instructed its functional commissions (of which the Statistical Commission is one) "to state their programme objectives so that the Secretary-General can examine and elaborate the most effective and economical means of achieving the objectives in question and make appropriate recommendations in the biennial programme and budget and the medium-term plan". b/

2. The Statistical Commission, in addition to programme objectives, will, of course, also be interested in the medium-term plan and programme of work submitted for the 1976-1977 budget. The main thrust of the medium-term plan is described in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programme objectives - implementation and prospects: Statistical Office of the United Nations" (E/CN.3/463, paras. 23-37). The programme objectives of the 1976-1977 budget are described in section I of the present notes and are followed in section II by a summary of the projects included in the programme of work.

I. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

3. The function of statistical offices is to provide, on a continuing basis, statistical data to government and other users for decision-making and research. The United Nations Statistical Office, while collecting and disseminating international statistics, also fulfils the important role of assisting the Statistical Commission in promoting the standardization of statistical methods, classifications and definitions used by national statistical agencies, in order to facilitate international comparability of the data, and the co-ordination of international statistical activities. In addition, the Statistical Office provides advice and technical assistance to developing countries. All these activities are continuing; they require sustained, long-term efforts. The main concern, in the preparation of the plan and budget of the Statistical Office has been, accordingly, to ensure continuity.

a/ See para. 156 above.

b/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1 (E/5367), "Other decisions", p. 39, under the heading "Actions arising out of decisions of the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session".

4. Thus, the 1976-1977 budget is similar to the previous one. However, new world developments and new thrusts are reflected in the updating of the programme objectives (and the programme of work). The project numbers indicated relate to the details shown in section II. The execution of some of these projects will depend upon the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session.

Development of new outputs

Objective 1

5. Objective 1 of the medium-term plan is to provide more comprehensive and reliable statistics on natural resources, industry and international trade, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries, in order to meet the need for a better appraisal of the world situation in this area, following the conclusions of the General Assembly at its sixth special session, held in April/May 1974.

6. This objective is reflected in projects 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4

Objective 2

7. Objective 2 of the medium-term plan is to systematize, develop further and disseminate statistics in the social, demographic and environmental areas, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries, in order to meet the needs of policy makers and planners, who are more and more concerned with issues related to the quality of life and social equity, as well as economic growth.

8. This objective is reflected in projects 2.3, 2.5, 3.2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4.

Objective 3

9. Objective 3 of the medium-term plan is to develop further and implement the systems of national accounts and balances and related systems and classifications and provide more comprehensive and reliable statistics on national accounts and balances and related data, with special emphasis on the needs of developing countries. These data are widely used in the comprehensive monitoring, analysis and assessment of over-all economic and social development and conditions. The systems and classifications are also needed in developing and improving the co-ordination and interrelationships of a wide range of basic economic and social statistics, both nationally and internationally. The classifications furnish an important means of standardizing and linking statistics from various sources for use by countries with different economic and social systems and at different stages of development. The needs and circumstances of the developing countries will be given increased attention in carrying out this objective.

10. A number of continuing projects, namely projects 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.6 and 3.1, are directed towards this objective.

Objective 4

11. Objective 4 of the medium-term plan is to develop international statistics on prices and related statistics, in order to facilitate the study of issues related to the world-wide inflation, its implications for international trade and the comparisons of real income between countries.

12. This objective is reflected in projects 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7.

More emphasis on developing countries

Objective 5

13. Objective 5 of the medium-term plan is to strengthen further the statistical systems of developing countries through the provision of more effective technical assistance.

14. The implications of objective 5 are reflected in objectives 1, 2 and 3. In addition, it is necessary to initiate or strengthen technical assistance in statistical areas such as those concerned with energy, mineral resources and trade, in improving statistical organization, in the taking of censuses, and in the setting up of continuing multipurpose household survey capabilities and vital-registration systems.

15. This objective is reflected in projects 1.2, 2.7, 3.6, 3.7, 4.5, 5.5, 6.2 and 7.4.

Towards computer-based data banks

Objective 6

16. Objective 6 of the medium-term plan consists of improving the variety, timeliness and quality of the statistical output of the United Nations, especially through the expanded application of electronic data processing techniques and general statistical compendia.

17. Aside from an effort to improve the publications of the Statistical Office and to enhance the quality of statistical data, the main objective here is to quicken and amplify greatly the responsiveness of the Office to emerging demands for data by national and international users, particularly in a variety of formats needed for analyses and projections. At the present time, the Statistical Office finds it difficult to respond in a timely and efficient manner to important special requests for information. This is because its data files and computer programmes have been structured in the past to satisfy specific publication purposes and do not permit fast or efficient retrieval of unanticipated tabulations and cross-classifications. Therefore, high priority has been given to the design and implementation of an integrated and flexible computer system which, taking advantage of modern technology, will facilitate the storage of a much greater volume of statistical data from a variety of sources, and their quicker retrieval either for publication or in various special formats needed for analyses and projections.

18. This objective is reflected in projects 1.3, 6.1, 7.2 and 7.3.

Co-ordination of the international statistical system

Objective 7

19. Objective 7 of the medium-term plan is to promote the co-ordination of the international statistical system and provide statistical services to the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies.

20. The Statistical Office is the focal point of the international statistical system. It is charged with the task of assisting the Statistical Commission in the co-ordination of the statistical activities of the regional commissions, of the specialized agencies and of other international bodies. A strong emphasis has been placed on this responsibility since the outset, and it is receiving increasing attention.

21. The tasks of the Statistical Office are performed in close co-operation with other international agencies and national statisticians. The inputs of its publications come from national and international statistical offices. Its work on standards and methods necessarily involves the assistance of highly skilled and experienced experts from other organizations. These activities are reflected in projects 1.1, 1.4 and 7.1.

22. In providing services to the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies, the Statistical Office compiles data on national accounts, prices and population and related series for the use of the General Assembly Committee on Contributions on an annual basis. The Statistical Office also provides services for a number of ad hoc projects as requested by various units of the Secretariat. This element of objective 7 is reflected in project 3.5.

II. PROGRAMME OF WORK

23. The projects comprising the programme of work are shown for each major programme component (or area of responsibility).

1. Programme component: external relations and dissemination

Project

1.1 Co-ordination of the statistical programmes of the United Nations (servicing the Statistical Commission, its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, and the ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities; liaison and co-ordination with the specialized agencies and other international agencies; publication of Statistical Notes and International Statistical Reporter; country nomenclature)

- 1.2 Assistance to countries in strengthening their statistical organization (reports, guidelines, technical assistance, liaison)
- 1.3 Publication of general compendia of economic and social statistics (Statistical Yearbook, Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, Statistical Pocketbook)
- 1.4 Construction of catalogues of economic and social statistics (Directory of International Statistics, including inventory of data bases of economic and social statistics and classifications and lists of economic and social statistics)
- 1.5 Determination of post adjustment indexes for United Nations personnel (place-to-place and time-to-time comparisons; servicing the Expert Committee on Post Adjustments)
- 1.6 International real income comparison project (development and application of methods of comparing real product; international comparisons of the real product and purchasing power of currencies)
- 1.7 Further development of price and related statistics (producers', wholesale and retail price (and quantity) indexes; development of guidelines, manuals; reports on country practices)

2. Programme component: systems and standards

Project

- 2.1 Further development of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and of linkages with the Material Product Balances System (MPS) (meetings and reports on implementation, and review of the SNA; development of rules for establishing links between corresponding concepts of the SNA and the MPS and for estimating common aggregates; improvement of the comparability of statistical data of Member States having different social and economic systems; manuals on national accounting at current and constant prices, flow of funds and balance sheets; analysis of country practices in national accounting at constant prices; paper on stocks of tangible capital assets of establishments; technical advice)
- 2.2 Development of guidelines and a handbook on the collection and compilation of basic statistics, with emphasis on the developing countries (guidelines, publications and meetings on basic statistics; use of the system of national accounts and balances in formulating basic statistical programmes in developing countries; enterprise statistics; public sector statistics)
- 2.3 Further development of systems of social, demographic and other statistics correlated with the national accounts and balances (guidelines, handbooks and technical advice on systems of income distribution statistics; System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS) and social indicators for developed and developing countries; guidelines on statistics on research and development)

- 2.4 Development and up-dating and, where possible, linking of standard international classifications related to the national accounts and balances (development and publication of the International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services; development of a general-purpose functional classification and detailed purpose classification)
- 2.5 Formulation of guidelines on the concepts, content and methodologies of environment statistics and development of the international collection and compilation of these data
- 2.6 Formulation of concepts, definitions, classifications and methodology for measuring tourism (guidelines and handbook on statistics of tourism)
- 2.7 Technical assistance in national accounting and related items

3. Programme component: economic statistics and special projects

Project

- 3.1 National accounts statistics: collection, compilation and dissemination (preparation of interpolation models and related work; Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics; contributions to other statistical publications, including public finance statistics)
- 3.2 Income distribution statistics: collection, compilation and dissemination (compilation and evaluation of estimates of the distribution of income, consumption and wealth)
- 3.3 Industrial statistics: collection, compilation and dissemination (The Growth of World Industry - vol. I and II; Yearbook of Construction Statistics; indices of production and employment; contributions to Statistical Yearbook and Monthly Bulletin of Statistics)
- 3.4 Industrial statistics: methods (revision of international recommendations on (a) distributive trades; (b) industry and construction; preparation of a bibliography; manual on the organization of distributive-trade surveys)
- 3.5 Provision of statistical services to the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies (services to the General Assembly Committee on Contributions; other units)
- 3.6 Guidelines for designing, organizing and implementing household and related surveys (Sample Surveys of Current Interest; A Short Manual on Sampling, vol. III - The Operational Aspects of Sample Surveys)
- 3.7 Technical assistance in economic statistics

4. Programme component: international trade and related statistics

Project

- 4.1 International trade statistics: collection, compilation and dissemination

(computer-based compilation of trade statistics; publication of commodity trade statistics; manual compilation of trade statistics; trade matrixes, price and unit value indexes, quantum indexes; aggregates at the regional level; publication of the Yearbook of International Trade Statistics and World Trade Annual and Supplement)

- 4.2 International trade statistics: methods and classifications (indexes to the SITC, Rev. 2; correlation between the SITC, Rev. 2, and other classifications; reconciliation study and follow-up)
- 4.3 Energy statistics (publication of World Energy Supplies; quarterly bulletin of energy; international guidelines for the development of comprehensive and integrated energy statistics; energy balances)
- 4.4 Transport statistics (revision of International Standard Definitions for Transport Statistics; preparation of a compendium of transport statistics)
- 4.5 Technical assistance in international trade, energy and transport statistics

5. Programme component: demographic and social statistics

Project

- 5.1 Demographic statistics: collection, compilation and dissemination (Demographic Yearbook; Population and Vital Statistics Report; special supplement to the 1978 Demographic Yearbook)
- 5.2 Demographic statistics: guidelines for national collection efforts (vital statistics handbook; Handbook of Population and Housing Census Methods; recommendations for 1980 population and housing censuses: (a) expert meetings and (b) publications; recommendations on migration statistics; technical report on migration statistics)
- 5.3 Social, housing and related environmental statistics (Compendium of Social Statistics; Compendium of Housing Statistics; technical publications; publication of a curriculum in social statistics for training middle-level government statisticians; development of local area census statistics)
- 5.4 Statistics on children and youth (guidelines on statistics of children and youth)
- 5.5 Technical assistance in demographic and social statistics (census programmes, household survey and vital statistics programmes)

6. Programme component: computer data base design and programming

Project

- 6.1 Computer data base design and programming (support of trade publications, national accounts publications, industrial statistics publications and other

applications; computerization of Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and of Statistical Yearbook; systems development)

6.2 Technical assistance in electronic data programming applied to statistics

7. Programme component: programme formulation and management

Project

- 7.1 Programme formulation and management (formulation and direction of the statistical services of the United Nations)
- 7.2 Review and co-ordination of publications (constant review of publications; review and co-ordination of the regional commissions' statistical publications)
- 7.3 Assessment of the quality of statistical data (study of a sample of countries on all statistics; study of a broader sample of countries on specific items; general study and description of procedures, study on national accounts - sources and methods)
- 7.4 Central technical assistance liaison and co-ordination

Annex II

AGENDA OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Co-ordination and integration of international statistical programmes
 - (a) Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination
 - (b) International statistical programmes, 1975-1979
 - (c) Review of electronic data processing of economic and social statistics
4. Statistics of the developing countries in the Second United Nations Development Decade
 - (a) International technical assistance in statistics, 1975-1979
 - (b) African Census Programme
 - (c) Development programme for statistics
5. System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS)
 - (a) Potential uses and usefulness
 - (b) Draft guidelines on social indicators
 - (c) Character of a system for developing countries
6. Statistics of the environment
7. Draft international recommendations on statistics of the distributive trades and services
8. International trade reconciliation study
9. Review of the recurrent publications of the Statistical Office of the United Nations
10. Statistical classifications
 - (a) Draft Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Rev. 2
 - (b) Draft International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services (ICGS)

(c) Draft International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)

11. System of National Accounts (SNA)

(a) Supplementing the national accounts for purposes of welfare measurement

(b) Draft international guidelines on the national and sector balance-sheet and reconciliation accounts of the SNA

12. Statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation: draft guidelines for the developing countries

13. Programme objectives: implementation and prospects

(a) Statistical Office of the United Nations

(b) Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies

(c) Statistical work of the specialized agencies

14. Other business

15. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the nineteenth session of the Commission

16. Report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS EIGHTEENTH SESSION

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.3/441	2	Provisional agenda of the eighteenth session of the Statistical Commission
E/CN.3/442	3 (a)	Report on the fifth session of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination
E/CN.3/444	3 (b)	International statistical programmes, 1975-1979: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/445	3 (c)	Review of electronic data processing of economic and social statistics: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/446	4 (a)	International technical assistance in statistics, 1975-1979: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/447	4 (b)	African Census Programme: report by the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/448	4 (c)	Development programme for statistics: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/449 and Corr.1	5 (a)	Potential uses and usefulness of the System of Social and Demographic Statistics (SSDS): report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/450	5 (b)	Draft guidelines on social indicators of the SSDS: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/451	5 (c)	Character of a system of social and demographic statistics for developing countries: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/452	6	Statistics of the environment: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/453	7	Draft international recommendations on statistics of the distributive trades and services: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/454	8	International trade reconciliation study: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/455	9	Review of the recurrent publications of the Statistical Office of the United Nations: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/456	10 (a)	Draft Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Rev.2: note by the Secretary-General

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
E/CN.3/457 (parts I and II)	10 (b)	Draft International Standard Classification of All Goods and Services (ICGS): report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/458	10 (c)	Draft International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED): note by UNESCO
E/CN.3/459 and Add.1	11 (a)	System of National Accounts (SNA): supplementing the national accounts for purposes of welfare measurement
E/CN.3/460	11 (b)	Draft international guidelines on the national and sector balance-sheet and reconciliation accounts of the SNA: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/461	11 (b)	Statistics of national wealth in countries with centrally planned economies: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/462	12	Statistics of the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation - draft guidelines for the developing countries: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/463	13 (a)	Programme objectives: implementation and prospects - Statistical Office of the United Nations: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.3/464	13 (a)	Country practices in national accounting at constant prices: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/466	13 (b)	Regional conferences of statisticians and similar bodies: report by the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/467 and Add.1	13 (c)	Statistical work of the specialized agencies: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.3/L.76 and Add.1-8, Add.8/Corr.1 and Add.9	16	Draft report of the Statistical Commission on its eighteenth session, held from 7 to 18 October 1974
E/CN.3/L.77	4	Brazil and Malaysia - 1980 World Population and Housing Census Programme: draft resolution
E/CN.3/L.78	10 (a)	Draft Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), Rev.2: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman
E/CN.3/L.79	15	Draft provisional agenda of the nineteenth session of the Commission