



Consejo Económico y Social

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1997/23
30 de enero de 1997
ESPAÑOL
ORIGINAL: INGLÉS

COMISIÓN DE ESTADÍSTICA
29° período de sesiones
11 a 14 de febrero de 1997
Tema 13 del programa provisional*

COORDINACIÓN E INTEGRACIÓN DE PROGRAMAS DE ESTADÍSTICAS INTERNACIONALES

Nota del Secretario General

El Secretario General tiene el honor de transmitir a la Comisión de Estadística un informe sobre la aplicación de las propuestas del Grupo de examen relativas al fortalecimiento de la cooperación internacional en materia de estadística, que figura en el anexo I. El informe se transmite a la Comisión de conformidad con lo pedido por el Grupo de Trabajo sobre programas de estadísticas internacionales y coordinación en su 18° período de sesiones (E/CN.3/1997/19, párr. 49 c)).

* E/CN.3/1997/1.



Anexo I

INFORME SOBRE LA APLICACIÓN DE LAS PROPUESTAS DEL GRUPO DE EXAMEN SOBRE EL FORTALECIMIENTO DE LA COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL EN MATERIA DE ESTADÍSTICA

1. En su 18° período de sesiones (Nueva York, 16 a 18 de abril de 1996), el Grupo de Trabajo sobre programas de estadísticas internacionales y coordinación pidió a un grupo reducido (integrado por Australia, los Países Bajos, el Brasil, la Comisión Económica para Europa (CEPE) y la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)) que examinara la aplicación de las propuestas contenidas en el informe preparado por el Grupo de Examen sobre el fortalecimiento de la cooperación internacional en materia de estadística (E/CN.3/AC.1/1992/R.2), conocido como el informe Begeer. El presente informe, preparado por Australia tras celebrar consultas con los otros miembros del grupo, es el resultado de ese examen.
2. El Grupo de Trabajo examinó el informe Begeer inicialmente en su 15° período de sesiones (Nueva York, 29 de junio a 1° de julio de 1992). El Grupo de Trabajo, que estuvo de acuerdo con las conclusiones del informe, formuló una serie de recomendaciones a la Comisión de Estadística y tomó diversas decisiones sobre cuestiones derivadas del informe. En el 27° período de sesiones de la Comisión de Estadística (Nueva York, 22 de febrero a 3 de marzo de 1993), se examinaron las opiniones del Grupo de Trabajo y las conclusiones del informe Begeer. La Comisión hizo suyas las conclusiones de las deliberaciones del Grupo de Trabajo, con algunos cambios de menor importancia^a. Las recomendaciones del informe Begeer, que figuran en la sección IV de ese informe, se resumen en el anexo II infra, junto con los objetivos de cada recomendación según figura en el informe y los resultados de las actividades encaminadas a aplicarlas.
3. En el informe Begeer se determinó que la función del sistema mundial de estadística era doble: primero, prestar servicios y dar apoyo a las actividades de las instituciones internacionales; segundo, proporcionar al mundo en general información estadística para el debate, la evaluación y el análisis en los planos mundial y regional. En el informe se reconoce la complejidad del sistema internacional de estadística y se admite que existen los órganos de coordinación necesarios, pero se recomienda que para beneficio del sistema en general se aumente la eficacia del mecanismo existente.
4. En el informe se reconoce que existen muchos factores fundamentales en el sistema internacional de estadística incluidos varios organismos especializados del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, las Divisiones de Estadística de la Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas y las comisiones regionales y dos importantes instituciones regionales que no son parte del sistema de las Naciones Unidas: la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE) y la Comunidad Europea. Como el sistema internacional de estadística se basa en los sistemas de estadística de los Estados Miembros, los organismos nacionales de estadística son interesados fundamentales por sí mismos, como lo son los usuarios de las estadísticas.
5. En el informe Begeer se parte de la hipótesis de que el sistema internacional de estadística en vigor, descentralizado tanto en lo tocante a los temas como a la dimensión regional, seguirá sin modificaciones, hipótesis de importancia decisiva para sus recomendaciones. En el informe se señala que, a fin de funcionar correctamente, el sistema necesita, primero, coordinación a fin de lograr y mantener coherencia, credibilidad y utilidad, y evitar la

duplicación de la labor y el derroche de recursos; y segundo, la participación concreta de los Estados Miembros.

6. Como se indica en el anexo II, la Comisión de Estadística aceptó la mayor parte de las recomendaciones del Grupo de Examen. No obstante, como también se señala en el anexo II, la aplicación de las recomendaciones ha sido despareja, en particular en lo que respecta a algunas de las más importantes. La Comisión tal vez desee examinar la posibilidad de seguir aplicando algunas de las recomendaciones.

7. Con respecto a las recomendaciones sobre la organización de la coordinación, a las que se concedió la mayor prioridad en el informe, se han logrado algunos progresos notables. El Subcomité de Actividades Estadísticas del CAC parece estar más centrado en su función de órgano fundamental de coordinación y cumple con eficacia su labor, aunque los grupos de tareas establecidos a sus auspicios, con la notable excepción del Grupo de Tareas sobre Estadísticas del Comercio Internacional, no han sido muy activos. Además, bajo los auspicios de la Comisión de Estadística, se han creado una serie de grupos de trabajo sobre problemas decisivos, en los cuales, siguiendo el modelo del Grupo de Voorburg, los dirigentes son los países. El Grupo de Expertos sobre problemas decisivos de las estadísticas económicas ha determinado las carencias restantes en el programa de trabajo internacional, de resultas de lo cual se han establecido otros grupos de tareas. Sería provechoso ampliar ese tipo de análisis a las estadísticas sociales y velar por que se realicen actividades similares cada cuatro o cinco años.

8. Con respecto a la participación de los Estados miembros en el sistema internacional de estadística, cuestión fundamental, el informe Begeer sugiere que todos los Estados miembros deberían tener la posibilidad de participar en la elaboración del sistema mundial de estadística. En vista de la naturaleza descentralizada, desde el punto de vista geográfico, del sistema internacional de estadística, en el informe se estima que el mejor criterio es fortalecer y centrar claramente la labor de las divisiones de estadística y las conferencias regionales de jefes de estadística, en las cuales todos los países pueden participar e intercambiar experiencias. Los resultados de la labor de las divisiones de estadística y las conferencias regionales de jefes de estadística deberían transmitirse a la Comisión de Estadística, ya que, a juicio del Grupo de Examen, la propia Comisión no es un foro apropiado para realizar esa labor porque sus miembros no están presentes por sus características particulares sino como representantes del sistema estadístico mundial. Se han logrado escasos progresos en la aplicación de estas importantes recomendaciones, aunque se reconoce que la Conferencia de Estadísticos Europeos contribuye considerablemente a las deliberaciones de la Comisión.

9. Con respecto a la naturaleza descentralizada del sistema internacional de estadística en lo que respecta a la temática, los Estados miembros deberían estar en condiciones de adoptar un punto de vista holístico en todas las áreas temáticas del sistema internacional de estadística, cosa que en este momento no es posible porque no existen mecanismos ni procesos para hacerlo; la propia Comisión no tiene un alcance suficientemente amplio y los diferentes componentes del sistema internacional de estadística son muy heterogéneos.

10. Para ampliar ese punto, conviene examinar tres ejemplos muy diferentes. Primero, recientemente el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) promulgó una serie de normas para la difusión de las estadísticas. Aunque esas normas se examinaron con algunos órganos de estadística, se negociaron principalmente por conducto de los bancos centrales y departamentos de finanzas de los países, ya que ellos son los organismos nacionales que participan más directamente en las

actividades del FMI: la manera correcta y apropiada de hacer las cosas, desde el punto de vista del FMI. No obstante, desde el punto de vista del sistema internacional de estadística parece extraño, como mínimo, que los expertos en estadística de los gobiernos del mundo, en su conjunto, no tuvieran oportunidad de hacer una aportación directa al proceso, y que el FMI no considerase que esa aportación sería apropiada. La Comisión de Estadística tal vez desee formular observaciones acerca de si esa es una manera apropiada de elaborar las políticas internacionales de estadística, en particular cuando esas políticas tienen consecuencias que van mucho más allá del sector que las patrocina. La pregunta tiene especial pertinencia, ya que la Oficina Internacional del Trabajo está a punto de preparar normas para la divulgación de las estadísticas del trabajo.

11. Segundo, en la actualidad se están preparando normas sobre las estadísticas de la educación que se examinarán y ratificarán bajo los auspicios de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO). ¿Qué función, en sentido colectivo, tienen en ese proceso los estadísticos de los gobiernos? Una vez más, ¿cuál es la función al respecto de la Comisión de Estadística, si es que la tiene? Al formular estas preguntas genéricas, se reconoce el hecho de que la Conferencia de Estadísticos Europeos trabaja en estrecha cooperación con la UNESCO.

12. Tercero, ¿qué ocurre en el plano internacional en las importantes esferas de las estadísticas sobre el delito y el uso indebido de drogas? ¿Participan los estadísticos de los gobiernos o la Comisión de Estadística? Los Estados miembros deben reflexionar detenidamente sobre la coordinación internacional que se necesita en las diversas esferas temáticas y lo que es preciso hacer para lograr esa coordinación. Hasta la fecha, se han conseguido escasos progresos a ese respecto.

13. Sigue existiendo una gran necesidad de que el sistema internacional de estadísticas se gestione de modo que permita, y se perciba como tal, a todos los interesados, en particular los Estados miembros, contribuir al sistema y que asegure que las cuestiones de estadística que se examinen son pertinentes para las diversas necesidades de los Estados miembros. Además, se ha expresado la opinión de que un número reducido de países domina los foros internacionales sobre estadística; independientemente de que ese punto de vista sea justificado, es preciso aceptar que existe. En conclusión, sigue siendo responsabilidad de la Comisión de Estadística planificar y aplicar medidas para seguir mejorando la organización de la coordinación, como se prevé en el informe Begeer.

Notas

^a Véase Documentos Oficiales del Consejo Económico y Social, 1993, Suplemento No. 6 (E/1993/26).

Annex II

Summary of recommendations of the Review Group, aim and results

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>A. <u>Organisation of coordination (highest priority)</u></p> <p>I. Statistical Commission</p> <p>(a) Commission to request the Economic and Social Council to change the cycle of Commission sessions to annual meetings of eight half-days, spread over five calendar days (para 110).</p>	<p>To strengthen the involvement of members in the work of the Commission by having shorter more frequent meetings.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation, adding the rider that it should be on the basis of needs. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ broadly accepted that it should meet more frequently, if necessary. (There was a special Statistical Commission session in 1994, followed by a regular Statistical Commission session in 1995.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>(b) Commission to nominate members for the Bureau for next session at the end of a session; formal election at the beginning of a session.</p>	<p>As continuity in members of the Commission is not high, namely elected members of the Bureau (Chair, vice-chair, rapporteur) are normally not familiar with what is going on, and often not prepared for their roles.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect.</p>
<p>Re-elect same persons a number of times to the Bureau.</p>	<p>To improve continuity.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect.</p>
<p>Bureau can meet informally (paras 111-113).</p>	<p>To improve effectiveness.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>(c) The Statistics Division to give a copy of the "Rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council" to new members of the Bureau. Consider drafting a popular version of the "Rules" extended with practical hints (para 109).</p>	<p>To improve effectiveness.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect.</p>
<p>(d) The Statistics Division to invite chairpersons of regional conferences of chief statisticians to participate in the sessions (para 109).</p>	<p>Members of the Commission are not present because of their individual background, but as representatives of the world statistical community. For this reason chairpersons of the regional conferences of chief statisticians should participate in order for the views of countries to be heard effectively.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect. The recommendation appears to have been affected, although it was essentially only about formalising an existing informal arrangement.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>(e) Agencies to present their informational statements on paper not through lengthy oral statements. Specific items to be well prepared and well documented through ACC Subcommittee and/or the Working Group (paras 109-118).</p>	<p>No need for the Commission to listen to lengthy oral reports.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect. Recommendation appears to be "honoured in the breach"!</p>
<p>II. The Working Group (a) The Group to hold biannual meetings of two days (para 115).</p>	<p>The Working Group is looked upon as the executive committee of the Commission, and therefore should meet at least once between each Commission meeting.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided to make the recommendation to the Economic and Social Council that the Working Group meet once a year. (The Working Group subsequently met in 1993, 1994, 1996 and the next scheduled meeting is 1998.</p>
<p>(b) Commission to indicate members for the Working Group at the end of a session of the Commission; and to give preference to newly nominated members of the bureau for the next session (para 114).</p>	<p>To improve continuity.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>(c) The Statistics Division to invite chairpersons of regional conferences of chief statisticians to participate in the meetings (para. 117).</p>	<p>Members of the Working Group are not present because of their individual backgrounds, but as representatives of the world statistical community. For this reason, chairpersons of the regional conferences should participate in order for the views of countries to be heard effectively.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect.</p>
<p>(d) The Statistics Division to prepare short reports of meetings. Results of meetings mainly to be specific documentation for the Commission (para 116).</p>	<p>The outputs of the Working Group should be reports/ advice for the Commission. Therefore, there is no need for lengthy reports.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect.</p>
<p>III. ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities</p> <p>(a) The Statistics Division and agencies to place more emphasis on coordination aspects (paras 90-91);</p>	<p>To see the Statistics Division picks up its coordinating functions which were ascribed to it in the nuclear session in 1946.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>(b) ACC Subcommittee to form ad hoc groups for special topics (paras 89 and 118);</p>	<p>The report suggested the ACC could contribute more on the coordination front, and suggested this would be aided if the ACC reported on specific and general topics to the Working Group and the Statistical Commission.</p>	<p>While the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation, it considered that the recommendation had been substantially met through the task force mechanism. Two task forces (national accounts and international trade statistics) had been created prior to the fifteenth session of the Working Group, and the fifteenth session created a further four (industrial and construction statistics, finance statistics, price statistics including ICP, and environment statistics). The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that Working Group recommendation would take place with immediate effect. Subsequently, other task forces have been created.</p>
<p>(c) No lengthy report of the meetings for Commission: specific documentation for Commission through the Working Group (para 118).</p>	<p>To ensure that key issues discussed are easily identifiable.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ accepted this recommendation. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that this would take place with immediate effect. This appears to be working in practice, although reading the reports is still a tedious exercise.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>IV. Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat</p> <p>(a) To strengthen the role of serving the purposes and work of the Commission (para 119);</p>	<p>To have the Statistics Division better serve the work of the Commission.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ changed this recommendation somewhat, by adding the words "to find ways" to the beginning of the recommendation. It also decided to request the Statistics Division to present options to the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission on ways this could be achieved. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ decided that the Working Group recommendation would take place with immediate effect.</p>
<p>(b) To place more emphasis on coordination aspects: (para. 119).</p>	<p>To have the Statistics Division better serve the international statistical system.</p>	<p>Same as above.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>V. Strengthening the role of regional statistics divisions and conferences of chief statisticians</p> <p>(a) Commission to advise regional commissions through the Economic and Social Council to strengthen statistics divisions; Commission to advise regional commissions through the Council to promote the establishment of conferences of chief statisticians in those cases where they do not already exist (paras 92, 107-108, 120).</p>	<p>To attain a more equal level of performance. To correct imbalances in the strength of national statistical systems. To identify structural solutions to make it possible that all member states can participate in the development of a better global system, and to improve coordination.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ established a drafting group to prepare recommendations concerning the role of the regional statistical conferences and statistical divisions, to be put forward to the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission. This does not appear to have occurred. The issue "strengthening the role of regional commissions in statistics" was discussed at the Working Group (17th session), where it was decided that a paper would be prepared for the next Working Group session. A background report was subsequently prepared by ECE, ESCAP and ESCWA. The Working Group (18th session) agreed that the report be updated to take account of comments from the Working Group for consideration at the twenty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>(b) Statistical Commission to request agencies working at world level to cooperate to the fullest extent with regional statistics divisions and conferences of chief statisticians on statistics, standards and technical assistance (para 132-137);</p>	<p>To achieve better coordination and cooperation in the international statistical system.</p>	<p>Same as above.</p>
<p>(c) Regional Conferences of chief statisticians should be more involved in the development/ revisions of standards and in technical assistance projects.</p> <p>Statistics divisions should be involved in pilot studies to test draft standards and in drafting adapted handbooks.</p> <p>Statistics divisions should be involved in monitoring the adherence to adopted standards.</p>	<p>To ensure close cooperation, division of labour, sharing of work and avoidance competition, as well as an optimal use of resources.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ established a drafting group to prepare recommendations concerning the role of the regional statistical conferences and statistical divisions, to be put forward to the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>VI. Substantive aspects of coordination</p> <p>Integrated work programmes and improved documentation (high priority)</p> <p>(a) The Statistics Division in cooperation with international agencies to develop a (hierarchical) classification of statistical subjects as a basis for programmes and coordination (paras 51-55);</p>	<p>To enable programmes of work of different agencies to be described in a common framework which will allow the identification of gaps and overlaps.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ requested that the Statistics Division and ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities present inter-agency planning reports on a subject basis where feasible at the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission. (The "on a subject basis" of the decision loses the "integrated" thrust of the Begeer recommendations.) No such reports appear to have been presented, although reports on the overall review of statistical work of international organisations and the work of the UNSD were presented. The Statistical Commission requested some improvements, and that similar reports be prepared for the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission. There were a number of plans and work programmes presented to the twenty-eighth session, and the plans were endorsed by the Statistical Commission.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>(b) On the basis of the classification the Commission to oversee the development of:</p> <p>(i) A (descriptive) integrated programme on data collection, data processing and dissemination of statistics;</p> <p>(ii) A (descriptive) integrated programme on construction/revision of standards;</p> <p>(iii) A (descriptive) integrated programme on technical assistance (The three programmes should be related and pay attention to the available resources). (paras 149 and 150)</p>	<p>To clearly describe the distribution of activities among agencies and to establish cooperation agreements between them.</p>	<p>The Working Group also decided that there were six areas where the need for review was considered a high priority. These areas were covered either by existing task forces (national accounts and international trade statistics) or would be covered by four new task forces established by the Working Group (Industrial and Construction statistics, finance statistics, price statistics including ICP, and environment statistics). The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ strongly endorsed this decision.</p> <p>Other task forces have been subsequently established.</p>
<p>(c) The Statistics Division to update and improve the documentation on the global statistical system, so that this documentation is related to the above-mentioned programmes (para 155 and 156).</p>	<p>Continual updating of documentation is instrumental for an integrated statistical program strongly endorsed this decision.</p>	

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>B. <u>Standards (high priority)</u></p> <p>(a) Set up a system for monitoring the adherence to adopted United Nations classifications, including a description of the present situation on the adoption of classifications in the member countries and their relationship with adopted United Nations classifications (para 129);</p>	<p>To identify situations where standards have been set wrongly, or where countries need technical assistance.</p>	<p>The Working Group essentially accepted this recommendation, adding that a progress report should be provided to the Statistical Commission at its twenty-eighth session. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ endorsed this recommendation, charging the UNSD with responsibility for the work, but no such report was presented to the twenty-eighth session.</p>
<p>(b) A discussion paper is required on the advantages and disadvantages of more flexible standards (classifications, etc.). Concentrate in first instance on classifications for economic activities and commodities (ISIC, Rev 3 and NACE.1, etc) (para 74-79, 122-131);</p>	<p>By overcoming the problems of fixed standards, achieve greater compatibility of statistics, where each country can adopt a version of a standard that fits into the commonly developed system.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ recommended that such a discussion paper should be presented to the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ requested that the Working Group consider it as a possible special topic for the twenty-eighth session. An Expert Group on International Classifications was subsequently established, which reported to the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission; however, its report appears to have concentrated on coordination of work on classifications, rather than the issue of possible flexibility in classifications.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>(c) Continued efforts to reduce duplication in collecting and processing data from member countries (see "Inventory"). (paras 102, 132-137)</p> <p>The Commission may request the Statistics Division and the ACC Subcommittee to give this continual attention. Progress report at each session of the Commission along the lines of chapter 1 of the "Inventory".</p>	<p>To reduce duplication in collecting and processing data.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group <u>1</u>/ recommended that the Statistical Commission should request the Statistics Division and the ACC Subcommittee to give continual attention to this issue, and request a progress report to each session of the Commission. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission <u>2</u>/ endorsed this recommendation, adding that the report be organised along subject matter lines. No report was provided to the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, which requested that report be provided to the 18th session of the Working Group. This was done, essentially in the form of a list of collections, without comment.</p>
<p>(d) On the basis of the classification of statistical subjects developed a programme for auditing statistics, disseminated in whatever form by the Statistics Division, the statistics divisions and the other agencies in the United Nations system (paras 138-148).</p>	<p>Through analysing and evaluating statistics disseminated by international agencies, enforce better coordination in dissemination and enhance confidence in the performance of the international statistical system.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group <u>1</u>/ requested that the task forces investigate ways to carry out evaluations and carry them out as far as possible. This loses the "holistic" and "coordinated" nature of the Begeer recommendation. This decision was endorsed by the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission <u>2</u>/</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>C. <u>A review of publications (high priority).</u></p> <p>(a) Consider the review undertaken by the Conference of European Statisticians. Set up a similar review. This item primarily concerns the publications in printed or similar form, but the relationship with machine readable forms of dissemination should be taken into accounts (para 157).</p>	<p>To ensure that only useful publications are produced.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ requested the task forces to address this issue in the course of their review of particular subject areas. This decision was endorsed by the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission.2/</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>D. <u>An inventory of gaps and weaknesses in the international statistical system (high priority)</u></p> <p>(a) On the basis of the (descriptive) integrated work programme of statistics and related documentation an effort should be made to identify weaknesses, gaps and imbalances in the current programme. In such a process budgetary aspects should be taken into account (paras 158-163);</p>	<p>To identify gaps, weaknesses and imbalances in international statistics.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ requested the various task forces carry out this task in their particular subject areas. This loses the "holistic" nature of the Begeer recommendations, but to a certain extent this was picked up by the later-established expert group on critical problems in economic statistics.</p>
<p>(b) Besides the continuation of efforts to reduce the time lag between the observation period and the moment of dissemination of structural and detailed statistics, for some statistical subjects consider the possibility of collecting and disseminating more recent statistical information (main indicators) (para 164).</p>	<p>To respond to needs for (preliminary) recent data for short-term provisional indicators on recent developments.</p>	<p>The fifteenth session of the Working Group 1/ requested the various task forces carry out this task in their particular subject areas.</p>

Recommendation	Aim	Result
<p>E. <u>Authoritative advice of the Statistical Commission</u></p> <p>The role of the Statistical Commission is mainly an advisory one. However, this role should be strengthened in the interest of the global statistical system. In this report the potential role of the Commission is emphasised. On the basis of the proposals made earlier in this report this role should be used to:</p> <p>(a) Give authoritative advice on the allocation of statistical subjects to the agencies. This allocation concerns statistical work, development/revision of standards and technical assistance;</p> <p>(b) And on the detailed agreements between the agencies on cooperation regarding the actual</p>	<p>To use the professional influence of the Statistical Commission to achieve more cooperation/coordination between international agencies.</p>	<p>This recommendation was accepted by the Working Group 1/, and the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission 2/ subsequently decided that its role should include these activities.</p>

Notes

- 1/ Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its fifteenth session, (E/CN.3/1993/21).
- 2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 6, (E/1993/26).