



Conseil économique
et social

Distr.
GÉNÉRALE

E/CN.3/1997/23
30 janvier 1997
FRANÇAIS
ORIGINAL : ANGLAIS

COMMISSION DE STATISTIQUE
Vingt-neuvième session
11-14 février 1997
Point 13 de l'ordre du jour provisoire*

COORDINATION ET INTÉGRATION DES PROGRAMMES INTERNATIONAUX
DE STATISTIQUE

Note du Secrétaire général

Le Secrétaire général a le plaisir de transmettre à la Commission de statistique un rapport sur la suite donnée aux propositions du Groupe d'examen visant le renforcement de la coopération internationale en matière de statistiques, qui figure à l'annexe I. Ce rapport est transmis à la Commission selon ce qu'avait demandé le Groupe de travail sur les programmes internationaux de statistiques et la coordination à sa dix-huitième session [E/CN.3/1997/19, par. 49 c)].

* E/CN.3/1997/1.



Annexe I

RAPPORT SUR LA SUITE DONNÉE AUX PROPOSITIONS DU GROUPE D'EXAMEN
VISANT LE RENFORCEMENT DE LA COOPÉRATION INTERNATIONALE EN
MATIÈRE DE STATISTIQUES

1. À sa dix-huitième session (New York, 16 au 18 avril 1996), le Groupe de travail sur les programmes internationaux de statistiques et la coordination avait prié un petit groupe composé de l'Australie, du Brésil, des Pays-Bas, de la Commission économique pour l'Europe (CEE) et de la Commission économique pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (CEPALC) d'étudier la suite donnée aux propositions sur le renforcement de la coopération internationale en matière de statistiques figurant dans le rapport du Groupe d'examen (E/CN.3/AC.1/1992/R.2), parfois désigné sous l'appellation de "rapport Beeger". Le rapport qui suit, établi par l'Australie après consultation des autres membres de ce petit groupe, expose les résultats de cette étude.
2. C'est à sa quinzième session (New York, 29 juin au 1er juillet 1992) que le Groupe de travail avait d'abord examiné le rapport Beeger. Souscrivant aux conclusions du rapport, il avait adressé à la Commission de statistique plusieurs recommandations et était arrivé à certaines décisions sur les questions qui y étaient évoquées. À sa vingt-deuxième session (New York, 22 février au 3 mars 1993), la Commission de statistique avait examiné les vues du Groupe de travail et les conclusions exposées dans le rapport Beeger. La Commission avait, à quelques retouches près, accepté les résultats du débat que le Groupe de travail avait consacré au rapport Beeger^a. Les recommandations avancées dans ce dernier (quatrième partie, par. 165 à 189) sont récapitulées plus loin à l'annexe II, où l'on précise aussi pour chacune d'entre elles l'objectif recherché et la suite qui lui a été donnée.
3. Le système mondial de statistique avait selon le rapport Beeger deux fonctions : la première était de servir d'outil au service des activités des institutions internationales, la seconde de fournir dans le monde des informations statistiques permettant débats, évaluations et analyses aux échelons mondial et régional. Mesurant toute la complexité de ce système, les auteurs du rapport estimaient que les organes de coordination nécessaires existaient, mais, dans l'intérêt de l'ensemble du système, recommandaient de donner plus d'efficacité aux rouages en place.
4. Le rapport Beeger constatait la présence de nombreux protagonistes dans le système international de statistique, dont plusieurs organes spécialisés faisant partie du système des Nations Unies, la Division de statistique du Secrétariat de l'ONU et les commissions régionales, et deux institutions régionales importantes extérieures aux Nations Unies, à savoir l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques (OCDE) et la Communauté européenne (CE). Le système statistique international s'appuyant sur les systèmes de statistiques des États membres, les organismes nationaux de statistique y jouent eux aussi un rôle essentiel, de même que les utilisateurs de statistiques.
5. Les vues exposées dans le rapport Beeger reposaient sur l'hypothèse du maintien en l'état d'un système statistique international décentralisé à deux dimensions (par sujet et par région), hypothèse cruciale pour les

/...

recommandations auxquelles il aboutissait. Il était recommandé, d'une part, pour que le système fonctionne bien, d'en rendre la coordination plus efficace afin de lui donner, puis de lui préserver, cohérence, crédibilité et utilité, et d'éviter la réalisation de travaux en double et le gaspillage des ressources; d'autre part, d'accroître la participation concrète des États membres.

6. Comme il est dit à l'annexe II, la Commission de statistique a approuvé la plupart des recommandations du Groupe d'examen. Mais, comme on le note également dans cette annexe, la mise en oeuvre de ces recommandations, en particulier de certaines des plus importantes, a été inégale. La Commission voudra peut-être examiner s'il y a lieu de pousser l'application de certaines d'entre elles.

7. S'agissant des recommandations visant les aspects organisationnels de la coordination, qui étaient considérés comme hautement prioritaires dans le rapport, on constate certains progrès. Le Sous-Comité des activités statistiques du Comité administratif de coordination (CAC) semble se consacrer plus précisément à son rôle central de coordination et fonctionne très bien, encore que les équipes spéciales constituées sous ses auspices n'aient pas déployé une grande activité, à l'exception - notable - de l'Équipe spéciale des statistiques du commerce international. En outre, un certain nombre de groupes de travail ont été créés sous l'égide de la Commission de statistique pour cerner les problèmes cruciaux; ils fonctionnent sur le modèle du Groupe de Voorburg sous la direction d'États membres. Le Groupe d'experts chargé des problèmes cruciaux en matière de statistiques économiques a mis en évidence des lacunes du programme de travail international, de sorte que d'autres équipes spéciales ont été constituées. Il serait utile d'analyser de la même manière les statistiques sociales, et de faire réaliser ce genre d'étude globale tous les quatre ou cinq ans.

8. Pour ce qui est de la participation concrète des États membres au système statistique international, problème central, il était suggéré dans le rapport Beeger que tous les États membres devraient pouvoir participer au développement de ce système. Ce dernier fonctionnant en décentralisation géographique, la méthode préconisée dans le rapport consistait à renforcer et cibler plus précisément les travaux des divisions régionales de statistiques et des conférences régionales des chefs des services de statistique, auxquelles tous les pays pouvaient participer pour y échanger des données d'expérience. La Commission de statistique, pour sa part, devrait travailler à partir des résultats de ces travaux et de ces conférences, n'étant pas elle-même, de l'avis du Groupe d'examen, le lieu de tels travaux, du fait que les membres n'en représentaient pas leur expérience personnelle mais le système statistique mondial. La mise en oeuvre de ces importantes recommandations n'a guère avancé, même s'il est indéniable que les travaux de la Conférence des statisticiens européens alimentent substantiellement les débats de la Commission.

9. En ce qui concerne la décentralisation des spécialisations dans le système statistique international, les États membres devraient pouvoir disposer d'un tableau global des statistiques étudiées dans ce système, transcendant les spécialisations. Or, ce n'est pas actuellement le cas, faute de mécanismes ou processus leur permettant de le faire. La Commission elle-même n'a pas une

/...

perspective suffisamment large pour cela, tandis que les différentes composantes du système international sont fort hétérogènes.

10. On peut citer à preuve trois exemples fort différents. Le premier concerne le Fonds monétaire international (FMI), qui a récemment publié des normes visant la diffusion des statistiques. Ces normes ont certes été débattues avec certains organes qui s'occupent de statistiques, mais la négociation a été essentiellement le fait des banques centrales et des ministères des finances des pays membres, entités nationales qui participent le plus directement aux activités du FMI. Pour ce dernier, il n'y a dans cette façon de procéder rien que de très normal et de très régulier. Et pourtant, du point de vue du système statistique international, il est pour le moins étrange que les statisticiens gouvernementaux du monde n'aient pas eu en tant que groupe constitué à donner leur avis en la matière, et que le FMI n'ait pas songé qu'il eût été bon de le leur demander. La Commission de statistique voudra peut-être exprimer son opinion sur cette façon de faire progresser les principes applicables aux statistiques internationales, surtout lorsque la portée desdits principes transcende largement l'entité qui les énonce. La question est d'autant plus actuelle que le Bureau international du Travail est sur le point d'élaborer des normes visant la diffusion des statistiques du travail.

11. Le deuxième exemple est celui de normes applicables aux statistiques de l'éducation, actuellement en cours d'élaboration, qui doivent être examinées et ratifiées sous les auspices de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (UNESCO). Quel rôle jouent à cet égard les statisticiens gouvernementaux en tant que groupe? Là encore, quelle place est faite à la Commission de statistique, à supposer qu'on lui en fasse une (question d'école, certes, étant donné que la Conférence des statisticiens européens participe de près aux travaux de l'UNESCO)?

12. Le troisième exemple enfin concerne les statistiques de la criminalité et celles de l'abus des drogues, domaines importants s'il en est : que se passe-t-il à l'échelon international? Quel rôle jouent les statisticiens gouvernementaux ou la Commission de statistique? L'exercice d'une coordination internationale qui transcende les différentes spécialisations appelle une réflexion approfondie des États membres, de même que les mesures à prendre pour la rendre possible. Or, on ne voit pas que des progrès véritables aient été réalisés jusqu'à présent à cet égard.

13. C'est un problème difficile, et auquel il reste absolument indispensable d'apporter une solution, que de trouver pour le système statistique international des modalités de gestion telles que tous les acteurs, et en particulier les États membres, puissent y concourir (et savoir qu'ils ont cette possibilité), et que les questions statistiques étudiées soient en rapport avec les divers intérêts des États membres. D'aucuns ont pu dire qu'un petit nombre de pays dominait les réunions internationales de statistique; que cette opinion soit ou non justifiée, il faut admettre qu'elle existe. C'est à la Commission de statistique qu'il appartient en définitive de préparer et de mettre en oeuvre les mesures qui permettront de continuer à améliorer l'organisation de la coordination telle qu'elle est envisagée dans le rapport Beeger.

/...

Note

^a Voir Documents officiels du Conseil économique et social, 1993, Supplément 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 <u>1</u>/ accepted this recommendation, adding the rider that it should be on the basis of needs. The twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission <u>2</u>/ 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 statistician 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 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 I/ 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 of 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 programs 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 1/ 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 2/ 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 develop 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 1/ 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 2/</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).