

United Nations
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

Nations Unies
CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.19
2 September 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

SECOND SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Tuesday,
2 September 1947, at 11:15 a.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Mr. H. Marshall	(Canada)
	Mr. D. K. Lieu	(China)
	Mr. G. Darmois	(France)
	Mr. P. C. Mahalanobis	(India)
	Mr. P. J. Idenburg	(Netherlands)
	Mr. G. Jahn	(Norway)
	Mr. S. Inan	(Turkey)
	Mr. R. G. D. Allen	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. I. S. Malyshev	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mr. V. A. Rabichko	(Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)
	Mr. S. A. Rice	(United States)
	Mr. A. Ochoa Mayo	(Mexico) Alternate for Mr. Josue Saenz

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mr. R. M. Woodbury (ILO)

Non-Governmental Organizations having Consultative Status:

Mr. L. Teper (AFL)

Observers for Specialized Agencies:

Mr. K. Stowman (WHO)

Secretariat: Mr. W. R. Leonard

(Representing the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Economic Affairs)

Mr. W. J. Bruce

(Secretary to Commission)

Mr. LEONARD asked for the election of a temporary Chairman in the absence of Mr. Marshall (Canada), Chairman, and Mr. Mahalanobis (India), Vice-Chairman. Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) was elected Chairman pro tem.

The CHAIRMAN read a draft resolution which Mr. RICE (United States) had revised in the light of discussion at a previous meeting of the Commission,

/dealing with

dealing with a procedure to supply estimates in cases where it was impossible to obtain official figures. After some discussion it was agreed, at the request of Mr. MALYSHEV (USSR), to extend the time limit from sixty to ninety days between the date of the request for figures from governments and the publishing by the Statistical Office of such estimates. The resolution as amended was adopted:

"The Statistical Commission recommends that efforts be intensified to attain wider geographical coverage for the important series of basic economic and social statistics made available through the several publications of the Statistical Office. The Commission recognizes that allowance must be made in some instances for the absence of adequate official statistics on important subjects for some areas. In such instances, if reliable estimates are available or can be constructed by accepted technical procedures, the Commission recommends that the Statistical Office procure or construct such estimates and send them for comments to the Governments concerned. If no comments from the Government addressed have been received within a reasonable time which in no case shall exceed ninety days from the date of the request, the Statistical Office may then publish such estimates as in its discretion are necessary for the proper performance of its authorized functions, provided that in all instances in which estimates or unofficial statistics are published the character and sources of the figures shall be properly identified."

Mr. MARSHALL (Canada) resumed the Chairmanship.

Other Business (Item 14)

Mr. IDENBURG (Netherlands) suggested that the agenda for the first meeting of the Sub-Commission on Sampling be discussed.

Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) said he would like to see on the agenda an item on methodology in family budget enquiries; one on sampling in connection with agricultural censuses; and a sampling handbook.

Mr. JAHN (Norway) thought that a handbook should cover general subjects with illustrations from specific fields.

It was agreed that these items should be suggested for the Sub-Commission's Agenda.

Mr. RICE (United States) said that there was no means provided whereby the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council could consult each other. He said there were many questions of mutual interest, and thought that the lack of machinery enabling Commissions to confer with each other was a defect in organizational arrangements. He advocated that the Economic and Social Council give continued attention to this problem.

/It was agreed

It was agreed that this request be inserted in the Statistical Commission's report to the Economic and Social Council and that perhaps it might be possible to schedule Commissions with mutual interest to meet at the same time. The attention of the Secretariat was drawn to this point for consideration when the calendar of meetings was being composed.

The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee on Industrial Classification had so far limited itself to a classification of branches of economic activity but that he felt that the Committee should shortly assume functions of classification discussed at the First Session of the Commission and in fact take over the functions of the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts. He felt there was a great need to survey the ground that the League of Nations had covered.

Mr. ALLEN (United Kingdom) proposed that the Committee on Industrial Classification should be reconstituted to continue the statistical work of the League and to review the whole situation and in the course of proceeding make use of small groups within the Secretariat. He said the Committee should not be concerned only with industrial classification but its scope should be extended to include other classification matters and statistical standardization. He proposed that the Committee's name be changed to Committee on Statistical Classification and Standardization.

Mr. JAHN (Norway) said that it would not be desirable to set down rigid lines as to the fields in which the Committee should work. It was necessary to have a certain flexibility and this could only be achieved by the setting up of various small committees who would study specific subjects such as the concept of value added by manufacture, how to develop comparable statistics of stocks of raw materials and finished goods and the like.

Mr. LEONARD pointed out that from the standpoint of the Secretariat it was important that the Commission or the Committee give very early attention to the classification in international trade and its relation to the newly drafted industrial classification and to an occupational classification in anticipation of the 1950 Census. It seemed therefore that the Commission should now consider the possibility of extending formally the scope of the Committee in accordance with the Commission's general discussion on this subject at its first session.

The meeting rose at 1:00 p.m.
