

United Nations

Nations Unies

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

UNRESTRICTED

E/CN.3/SR.7  
30 January 1947

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

FIRST SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Thursday, 30 January 1947 at 3:15 p.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Mr. H. Marshall	(Canada)
	Mr. D. K. Lieu	(China)
	Mr. G. Darmois	(France)
	Mr. P. J. Idenburg	(Netherlands)
	Mr. R. G. D. Allen	(United Kingdom)
	Mr. I. S. Malyshev	(USSR)
	Mr. S. A. Rice	(United States)
	Mr. Erichsen*	(Norway)
	Mr. L. Ibarquen**	(Mexico)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

	Mr. E. J. Riches	(ILO)
	Mr. R. M. Woodbury	(ILO)
	Mr. S. V. Arnaldo	(UNESCO)
	Mr. A. M. Lester	(PICAO)
	Mr. S. Hicks	(International Monetary Fund)
	Mr. W. R. Gardner	(International Monetary Fund)
	Mr. Z. Deutschman	(WHO)

Secretariat:	Mr. H. Campion	(Representing the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs)
	Mr. W. J. Bruce	(Secretary to Commission)

Proposed 1950 Census of the Americas (Continued discussion of Item 10 of the Agenda)

The Commission adopted the following draft moved by Mr. Idenburg:

THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

HAVING HEARD: statements made by the representation of the

\* Mr. Erichsen was present as observer for Mr. G. Jahn of Norway.

\*\* Mr. L. Ibarquen was present as observer for Mr. J. Saenz of Mexico.

/Committee

Committee of the 1950 Census of the Americas,

TAKING NOTE:

1. That a 1950 Census of the Americas is proposed as a co-operative project of the National Statistical Bureaus of twenty-two American nations.
2. That a Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas has been established to reach agreement on minimum standards and definitions, to survey methods and procedures and to approve schedules, forms and instructions to be used by each of the co-operating nations in taking its own census.
3. That the Committee on the 1950 Census of the Americas has agreed to circulate copies of approved schedules, forms and instructions to all Member Nations of the United Nations for their information.
4. That the Drafting Committee of the Economic and Social Council on the report of the Commissions in the Economic Field [E/ECON/DC/3, page 5] "Went on record as supporting the view that the Statistical Commission consider the promotion of such uniform minimum standards for the taking of a population census as a part of its function in promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability."

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the Economic and Social Council record:
  - (a) its welcome of the steps which are being taken to conduct co-operatively censuses of American nations, and
  - (b) its belief that the experience gained in the preparation and conduct of this co-operative project will be of great value to other Member Governments in their own countries, and, that it will be a useful guide in possible later projects on a world-wide scale.

/2. That Member

2. That Member Governments taking part in the 1950 Census of the Americas should keep the Secretary-General and the Statistical Commission informed as to the progress being made.

Future Work of the Commission (Item 15 of the Agenda)

Draft Resolution E/CN.3/W.3 was introduced and adopted with the following modifications:

the title to read

"Draft Resolution Concerning the Co-ordination of Statistical Activities between the United Nations and Specialized Agencies";

after the word "it" in line 10, of page 1 add

"through formal agreements and otherwise."

at the end of item 3, add

"taking into account the agreements reached between the Specialized Agencies and the United Nations."

Item 4 to read

"Steps that have been taken to achieve co-ordination in the collection and publication of such statistics together with further methods of achieving co-ordination."

an Item 6 was added to read

"In its report to the next Session of the Statistical Commission the Secretariat should note the extent of the realization of the objectives of the agreements existing between the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies with respect to statistical services, pointing out the difficulties, if any, which have been encountered in carrying out the agreements and the means which should be undertaken to eliminate such difficulties."

It was agreed that the procedure and methods involved in Item 4 of this Resolution should be included as an Item for re-consideration at the next session of the Commission.

The Commission then turned to the important matter of uniformity of definitions and classifications, referring in this connection to Mr. Jahn's letter (document E/CN.3/W.1, pages 4 and 5). The Commission felt that priority should be given to standardization in the field of industrial classification. Several alternative methods of implementing this decision  
/were discussed,

were discussed, involving the creation of either a committee of the Commission or a committee of experts. There was general agreement that the first step to be taken was that of collecting and editing data on industrial classification systems in order that a committee might have this material for study. The discussion of this matter was adjourned to the next meeting to permit an opportunity to draft a resolution embodying the programme discussed.

Notice was given that discussion of the manner in which balance of payments statistics should be treated by the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies, especially the comments of Governments on the unpublished paper of the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts would be taken up as part of Item 15 of the Agenda.

The Chairman concluded with an announcement that Mr. Mahalanobis was expected to arrive for the next meeting and that it was hoped that this Session might be adjourned on Wednesday, 5 February 1947.

The meeting rose at 5:00 p.m.

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**Nations Unies** UNRESTRICTED  
**CONSEIL**  
**ECONOMIQUE**  
**ET SOCIAL** E/CN.3/SR.8  
31 January 1947  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION

FIRST SESSION

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, on Friday, 31 January 1947 at 11:30 a.m.

Present:

Chairman: Mr. H. Marshall (Canada)

Mr. D.K. Lien (China)  
Mr. C. Darnois (France)  
Mr. P.C. Mahalanobis (India)  
Mr. P.J. Idenburg (Netherlands)  
Mr. R.G.D. Allen (United Kingdom)  
Mr. I.S. Malyshev (USSR)  
Mr. S.A. Rice (United States)  
Mr. Erichsen\* (Norway)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies

Mr. Taeuber (FAO)  
Mr. R.M. Woodbury (ILO)  
Mr. S.V. Arnaldo (UNESCO)

Observers for Specialized Agencies

Mr. S. Hicks (International Monetary Fund)  
Mr. W.R. Gardner (International Monetary Fund)  
Mr. A.M. Lester (PICA0)

Non-Governmental Organizations

Mr. Teper (AFL)

Secretariat: Mr. H. Campion (Representing the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs)  
Mr. W.J. Bruce (Secretary to Commission)

Arrival of the Delegate for India

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Mr. Mahalanobis, the representative of India.

\* Mr. Erichsen was present as observer for Mr. G. Jahn of Norway.

Future Work of the Commission (Item 15 of the Agenda)

Continued discussion.

Resolution Concerning Statistical Classification

A draft resolution was put to discussion and the following text was adopted:

"In view of the need for and the importance of information with respect to classifications used in various countries in the sphere of statistics, the Statistical Commission is of the opinion that this matter should receive early attention in the future work of the Statistical Secretariat.

It is recommended therefore:

1. That the Secretary-General obtain from Governments copies of the industrial classification, including all branches of economic activity, now in use or under consideration by them, together with any explanatory notes which may be available and that this information be collated.
2. That a Committee of the Statistical Commission be established whose functions shall be:
  - (a) to receive a report from the Secretary-General on the information received from Governments concerning industrial classification,
  - (b) to plan and consider a future programme of work in this field, and
  - (c) to report on the subject at the next session of the Statistical Commission.
3. That the Economic and Social Council authorize the Statistical Commission to appoint a Committee of Experts, if needed, of not more than seven members to serve in their individual capacity and to make proposals to the Statistical Commission on a standard industrial classification."

/Consideration of

Consideration of Terms of Reference of Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling (Item 12 of the Agenda) (E/39 Chapter 8, paragraphs 58, 59 and 60)

It was suggested that the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling in studying sampling problems should focus its attention on the problems which are of immediate concern to the Members of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. It was also suggested that the Sub-Commission should study the means by which sampling methods can fill the gaps in statistics now inadequately collected by complete enumeration, as well as test the accuracy of such enumeration.

The representatives and observers from the Specialized Agencies reminded the Commission that several of their current programmes could be materially assisted by the development and application of sampling techniques.

It was decided that a resolution should be drafted embodying these views to be presented to the Commission at its afternoon meeting.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

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