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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.



POPULATION COMMISSION

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the sixth session of the Commission, held at Lake Success, New York, from 23 April to 4 May 1951

Introduction

1. The Population Commission held its sixth session at Lake Success, New York, from 23 April to 4 May 1951.

2. The following representatives of Member States on the Commission attended the meeting:

Belgium: Mr. J. E. Mertens.

Brazil: Mr. G. Jardim.

China: Mr. H. Cha (alternate representative).

France: Mr. A. Sauvy.

Peru: Mr. J. A. Encinas P.

Sweden: Mr. C. E. Quensel.

Syria: Mr. N. Rifai.

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: Mr. V. A. Ra-bichko.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mr. T. V. Ryabushkin.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Mr. N. H. Carrier.

United States of America: Mr. P. M. Hauser.

Yugoslavia: Mr. D. Vogelnik.

3. The following representatives of specialized agencies attended the meetings:

International Labour Organisation: Mr. A. A. P. Dawson.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Mrs. A. Myrdal, Mr. M. S. V. Arnaldo.

World Health Organization: Mr. M. Pascua.

4. The following authorized representatives of non-governmental organizations with consultative status were present as observers:

CATEGORY A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions: Mr. John Brophy.

CATEGORY B

Catholic International Union for Social Service: Mrs. Grace V. Aieta, Mrs. Allys D. Vergara.

International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues: Mrs. Catherine Schaefer.

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population: Mr. F. Lorimer.

International Association of Penal Law and International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law: Mr. Sabin Manuila.

5. Mr. P. K. Whelpton, Director of the Population Division, and Mr. John D. Durand, Assistant Director of the Population Division, acted as representatives of the Assistant Secretary-General. Mr. George Sotirov acted as Secretary of the Commission.

6. The Commission elected the following as its officers for 1951: *Chairman*: Mr. A. Sauvy (France); *Vice-Chairman*: Mr. G. Jardim (Brazil); *Rapporteur*: Mr. P. M. Hauser (United States of America).

7. The Commission adopted the following agenda for its sixth session:

- (1) Election of officers.
- (2) Adoption of the agenda.
- (3) Report of the Secretary-General.
- (4) Preliminary consideration of "findings of studies on the relationships between population trends and economic and social factors".
- (5) Studies of inter-relationships of demographic, economic and social factors in particular areas: India, other possible areas.
- (6) Problems connected with 1950 and 1951 censuses of population.
- (7) Development of standards for registration and compilation of vital statistics.
- (8) Appraisal of quality of demographic statistics.
- (9) Improvement of migration statistics: revision of draft recommendations.
- (10) Studies of demographic aspects of migration.
- (11) Studies of mortality and mortality rates.
- (12) Demographic aspects of the problem of retired and aged persons.
- (13) Regional seminars on population problems.
- (14) Demographic aspects of the programmes of regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.
- (15) Proposal of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population for a world population conference.
- (16) Other items.
- (17) Future work and priorities.

8. At the beginning of the session, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted the following draft resolution:

"The Population Commission

"Resolves:

"To exclude the representative of the Kuomintang group from the Population Commission;

"To invite the representative of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China to take part in the session of the Commission."

9. The Chairman recalled that the question of the representation of China had been raised at the fifth ses-

sion of the Commission and that it had been decided that this question did not fall within the competence of the Commission. The representative of the United States of America raised a point of order on the admissibility of the resolution, and the representative of China supported the ruling by the Chair that the question was not within the Commission's competence. The Commission upheld the ruling by the Chair that the USSR draft resolution was not admissible.

10. At the last meeting of the sixth session, when the present report as a whole was put to the vote, the representatives of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics voted against its adoption.

Section A. Demographic Analysis, Research and Technical Assistance

11. The Population Commission devoted the major part of its attention to the consideration of demographic analysis and research bearing on the action programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, with particular reference to the development of the under-developed areas and to the raising of the standards of living of the peoples of the world. The actions of the Commission on the relevant subjects are set forth in chapters I to VIII inclusive, below.

I. Preliminary consideration of the report "Findings of studies on the relationships between population trends and economic and social factors"

12. The Population Commission received only a part of the revised version of the report "Findings of studies on the relationships between population trends and economic and social factors", and some of that was not sufficiently in advance of the session to allow for consideration of its contents. The Commission decided, therefore, not to have a general discussion of the subject; however, some members of the Commission presented general observations on portions of the report. There was agreement as to the need, at the current stage, for such a review of the various findings and diverse points of view in the demographic literature. Members of the Commission agreed to give the Secretary-General their comments on the report after they had received all of the parts and had had time to study it.

13. The Population Commission, having considered the procedures to be followed in concluding the work on the report, and recognizing that the study of the relationships between economic, social and demographic factors is a subject to which continuing attention must be devoted by the Commission and the Secretary-General, requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate all of the revised report on "Findings of studies on the relationships between population trends and economic and social factors" to members of the Population Commission and other qualified experts for consideration and criticism;

(b) To make a further revision of this report, taking into account the observations made by the individual

members of the Commission at its sixth session and the other comments that will be received;

(c) To include in the revision the findings of studies of demographic phenomena among social and ethnic groups, taking into consideration the decisive influence of economic and social factors on population dynamics;

(d) To prepare a brief non-technical summary of the report.

II. Studies of the inter-relationships of demographic, economic and social factors in particular areas

14. The Population Commission had before it two reports prepared by the Secretary-General: (a) a report on the studies of inter-relationships of demographic, economic and social factors in India and other possible areas (E/CN.9/76, E/CN.9/76/Corr.1); and (b) a report on the field trial of the household schedule in Serai Julena Village in Delhi State (E/CN.9/L.14). The Commission also had the report of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling (E/CN.3/144), which contained recommendations regarding the sampling aspects of the field study in India. After studying those documents and discussing, in addition, the proposed sub-sample study of fertility, the Commission reaffirms the principle that the inquiries to be included on schedules for such studies should be in accord with the desires, and be the responsibility, of the government of the Member State.

15. The Population Commission notes the progress reported by the Secretary-General in the development of these studies in co-operation with the Government of India, and requests the Secretary-General, within the limit of the resources available:

(a) To continue to co-operate with the Government of India in bringing the studies to an expeditious and successful completion;

(b) To assist the Government of India as it may desire to expand the studies in collaboration with UNESCO and other interested specialized agencies and international organizations, so as to include consideration of economic and social variables as recommended by the Population Commission at its fifth session (E/1711,

paras. 17 and 18) and by the Economic and Social Council at its eleventh session (resolution 308 (XI));

(c) To explore the possibilities of undertaking similar studies, at the request of governments of Member States and in collaboration with the governments concerned and with UNESCO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other interested specialized agencies and international organizations, in areas where consideration of demographic problems is of great importance in connexion with economic and social development programmes.

III. Studies of the demographic aspects of migration

16. The Population Commission considered the report prepared by the Secretary-General on studies undertaken at the international level of the demographic aspects of migration and of relationships between demographic, economic, and social factors in migration (E/CN.9/78) and the working paper on European emigration (E/CN.9/L.12). The Commission had also before it the information presented by the Secretary-General on the various projects undertaken in that field or to be undertaken in the near future (E/CN.9/L.19). It notes with interest that studies of postwar European migration are being conducted by the International Labour Office, and that studies of the relationship between economic development and immigration in Latin America are being carried out at the request of the Economic Commission for Latin America. The Commission stresses that it is desirable to take into account the demographic point of view in such studies.

17. The Population Commission was mindful of the responsibility imposed upon it by the Economic and Social Council (resolution 156 A (VII) of 10 August 1948) to arrange for studies of and advise the Council regarding (a) the demographic aspects of migration, (b) the relationships between demographic, economic, and social factors in migration, and (c) the over-all co-ordination of international research and study in this field by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. Bearing the responsibility in mind and considering the need for rapidly reaching concrete practical results in the field of migration, the Commission requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the specialized agencies (particularly the International Labour Office) and the non-governmental agencies concerned:

(a) To review the current and proposed programme and to concentrate resources on:

(1) Bringing to completion the following projects:

(i) Compilation of basic data on sex and age distribution and economic characteristics of migrants, since 1918;

(ii) Revision of draft recommendations for the improvement of migration statistics;

(iii) Study of prerequisites to immigration;

(iv) Study of relationships between economic development and immigration in Latin America, now in preparation at the request of the Economic Commission for Latin America.

(2) Pursuing these projects with the objective of advancing an integrated study of the influence of migration

on the structure of the total population and the economically active population in selected countries of emigration and immigration, in order to provide results of maximum practical usefulness to the current action programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in accordance with the broad plan of work on international migration recommended by the Commission at its third session (E/805, paras. 11-13).

(b) To take full account with high priority of the importance of considering:

(1) Specific causes of immigration and emigration in various countries;

(2) The social and economic conditions of migrants in countries of destination;

(3) Studies of the barriers to international migration, including problems of financing European migration, being undertaken by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in co-operation with the United Nations.

(c) To keep the Population Commission currently informed of all studies on migration which are being made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, with special attention to the problem of concentration of efforts and resources.

(d) To prepare from time to time a summary of the results of the various studies and research activities on migration which are being made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and to submit such a summary to the Population Commission at its next session.

18. The Population Commission endorses the plans of the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/L.19, para. 7) for the continuing implementation of the Commission's programme of work (E/805, paras. 11-13), when resources concentrated on the projects mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) (1) of paragraph 17 above will be freed.

19. The Commission further recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it adopt draft resolution "A" set forth in appendix II.

IV. Demographic aspects of the problem of retired and aged persons

20. The Population Commission took note of the document prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/68) relating to the demographic aspects of the problem of retired and aged persons. It recalled the project on the aged undertaken by the Social Commission, and expressed the wish to contribute to this project such assistance as might come from a consideration of the demographic aspects of aging in both a quantitative and qualitative sense. The Commission recognizes the increasing importance of problems of aging in both economically advanced and less developed countries, and the value of the increasing attention to problems of aging manifested in the international conferences on gerontology held in Liège in 1950 and to be held in St. Louis in 1951.

21. The Population Commission requests the Secretary-General, within the limits of the resources available and in accordance with the work priorities indicated in section D of this report:

(a) To undertake a study, in connexion with the study recommended by the Social Commission, in co-operation with interested international agencies, and in consultation with governments of Member States and other organizations, of the demographic aspects of aging with particular reference to:

(1) The employment of older persons, the differential rates of aging in various countries, the variations in population structures, and the factors in the aging of population;

(2) The definition of aging not only in its chronological but also in its biological, economic and social connotations;

(3) Differentials in aging of various elements of the population, including sex, ethnic, social and economic differences;

(b) To bear in mind the desirability of the study of old age in assembling and preparing population projections for individual countries in collaboration with governments of Member States, in analysing census data, and in other studies relevant to older age groups now in progress or in prospect;

(c) To bring plans for such a study of the demographic aspects of aging to the attention of the Social Commission for consideration and comment.

V. Regional seminars on population problems

22. The Population Commission examined the document prepared by the Secretary-General on regional conferences and training activities in the field of population (E/CN.9/72). It noted in particular the views of the UNESCO Committee of Experts on Population Problems regarding the need for greater attention to problems of training demographic personnel in under-developed areas and the desirability of a seminar on the demographic problems of South Asia and East Asia.

23. The Commission recognizes the importance of providing facilities to governments of Member States desiring assistance in training personnel in demographic techniques and in the analysis of population problems, and emphasizes its interest in and support of training seminars, and particularly of training courses and internships, on demographic techniques and analysis. It also recognizes the importance of organizing such training programmes and stresses its belief that the training of qualified specialists on population problems is the responsibility of the governments of the countries concerned.

24. The Population Commission requests the Secretary-General, in response to technical assistance requests from governments of Member States, and within the limits of the resources available:

(a) To explore with the appropriate specialized agencies and international organizations:

(1) The arrangement of brief training courses in demographic techniques and analysis in conjunction with technical assistance missions which include the sending of demographic experts to under-developed countries;

(2) The possibility of including training on demographic matters in seminars, courses of instruction, in-

ternships, and other training activities on closely related subjects, for example, in conjunction with health demonstration area programmes conducted by WHO;

(b) To explore means of making available, to governments of Member States that may desire them, selected training materials in demography;

(c) To provide other assistance, as feasible, in the organization of national and regional training in demographic techniques and analysis, especially in those countries where, for the first time, a substantial quantity of population statistics is becoming available.

25. The Population Commission further requests the Secretary-General to prepare the following materials for use in conjunction with technical assistance requested by governments of Member States, for the use of individual governments as they may desire, and for such other distribution as may be desirable:

(a) A plan for a detailed pilot programme for the organization of national training courses, seminars, and internships in demographic techniques and analysis;

(b) A selected and annotated bibliography of recent materials on demography, in consultation with interested national and international organizations;

(c) A manual on methods used in making estimates of current and future population.

VI. Demographic aspects of the programme of regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council

26. The Population Commission studied the document prepared by the Secretary-General on demographic aspects of the programmes of regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.9/69), and noted with satisfaction the attention devoted to demographic problems in the annual economic surveys and other relevant reports of the regional commissions and of the Secretary-General.

27. Being mindful of the advantages of close co-operation with the regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council in the consideration of demographic data and problems, especially in their social and economic implications, the Population Commission requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To transmit to the appropriate regional commissions abstracts of materials in the report of the Population Commission which are of relevance to the work of those commissions;

(b) To call the attention of the regional commissions to:

(1) The possible contribution of studies recommended by the Population Commission to the work of the regional commissions in connexion with their economic programmes;

(2) The potential value of the work of the regional commissions in promoting the work recommended by the Population Commission;

(c) To continue to give consideration to population changes and problems, including inter-continental and intra-continental migration, in the economic reports.

VII. Studies of mortality and mortality rates

28. The Population Commission took note of the document "General studies of mortality and mortality rates" (E/CN.9/74), prepared by the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To complete the studies of foetal, infant and early childhood mortality now being undertaken;

(b) To explore the possibility of studying, in a limited number of countries, in collaboration with WHO and governments of Member States, the relationships of mortality and economic and social factors, with special reference to factors associated with high mortality in the economically under-developed areas.

29. The Commission also studied the documentation on the refinement of infant mortality rates (E/CN.9/75 and E/CN.9/75/Corr.1), prepared by the Secretary-General, and the memorandum submitted by the representative of France (E/CN.9/L.15). It noted with interest the efforts reported in these documents for improving the measurement of infant mortality, and in particular for a better differentiation of the types of causes of such mortality. The Commission requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue the work being done on this subject

in collaboration with WHO and other interested agencies and experts;

(b) To present to the Commission at the next session a report on the progress made.

VIII. Study of recent trends of the birth-rate

30. At its fourth and fifth sessions the Population Commission recommended that the Secretariat examine the statistics for those countries in which the birth-rate had risen in recent years, with a view to determining whether or not this rise represented an actual change in fertility levels and trends. The Commission reaffirms the interest and importance of this study concerning a phenomenon which is in progress, and which it is important to analyse during its development. Noting that no progress has been made on this important project, the Commission requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To obtain as far as possible the assistance of interested organizations in preparing studies in this field;

(b) To pursue, with the co-operation of governments of Member States and in collaboration with interested specialized agencies, its own studies in this field;

(c) To prepare a report on available findings for presentation to the Population Commission at its next session.

Section B. Demographic Statistics

31. The Population Commission considered the several items on its agenda relating to demographic statistics and took the actions which are stated in chapters IX through XII below. The Population Commission calls the attention of the Statistical Commission to its views on demographic statistics which indicate the kind and nature of the data desired for purposes of demographic analysis, and requests the consideration of these views in actions which may be taken by the Statistical Commission on these subjects.

IX. Problems connected with censuses of population in or around 1950

32. The Population Commission considered the report prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/66) on work done during the preceding year on several projects relating to censuses of population in or around 1950. The Commission also took note of a memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/119) containing progress reports of the ILO and the Inter-American Statistical Institute on their work in developing further the classification of occupations.

33. The Commission wishes to emphasize again the inter-relationships among the three principal classifications of the economically active population — those relating to occupation, industry and status (as employer, employee, etc.) — and to call attention to the importance (a) of collecting information on each of these three aspects of the economically active population and (b) of providing tabulations which show these classifications in relation to each other. The Commission believes that special consideration should continue to be given to the problem of relationships between the classifica-

tions of occupation and status (as employer, employee, etc.), and that the possibility of establishing sub-divisions of certain groups in the status classification should be investigated in conjunction with the work of developing sub-divisions within the occupation classification. The Commission feels that it is particularly desirable to work out a method whereby the group "managers and directors" may be separately identified, and asks the Secretary-General to draw the attention of the ILO to the Commission's views on this matter. The Commission also feels that it is particularly desirable (a) to examine the possibility of making certain sub-divisions of status groups which have not been included in the classification recommended as a minimum for use in the censuses in or around 1950, for example, a sub-division of employers according to the number of workers they employ; and (b) to stress the importance of classifying persons engaged in agriculture according to their status (as employer, employee, etc.).

34. The Commission expresses satisfaction that work has nearly been completed on the technical manual, "Methods of collection, classifying and tabulating data on economic activities in population censuses", and that the manual includes, in addition to the subjects listed in document E/CN.9/66 (para. 3), a discussion of methods of applying the classifications of occupation, industry and status (as employer, employee, etc.) to persons not economically active.

35. The Commission noted that, in addition to the standard terminology in English, French and Spanish for the major categories and classifications of the economically active population adopted by the Population and Statistical Commissions at their fifth sessions, the

Secretary-General had prepared terminology in Russian and Chinese for the same categories, and in all five working languages for the four major groups in the classification by status. The Commission requests the Secretary-General to circulate these proposed standard terms to the various governments, after taking appropriate account of the advice given by members of the Commission concerning certain of these terms.

36. Noting that population censuses have recently been completed or will soon be taken in a large number of countries, and that the results of some of these censuses will shortly be available, the Population Commission requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To study the possibility of making, in co-operation with the government of some under-developed Member State which has recently taken a census of population, a pilot analysis of its census results with a view to obtaining information which would be of value in examining the demographic aspects of the country's developmental problems and in studying the inter-relationships of demographic, economic, and social factors;

(b) To examine, in co-operation with interested agencies, the extent to which recommendations regarding census procedures made by the international organizations were followed in the censuses of population taken in or around 1950.

X. Development of standards for registration and compilation of vital statistics

37. The Commission had for consideration a memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/123-E/CN.9/65) entitled "Proposed standards for vital records and statistics". This paper had been prepared in response to a resolution of the Statistical Commission at its fifth session, endorsed by the Population Commission, requesting the Secretary-General, in co-operation with other international agencies and with the advice of technical experts, to prepare detailed draft recommendations for the improvement and standardization of vital statistics (E/1696/Rev.1, para. 88 and E/1711, para. 46). The Commission understood that the standards proposed were guiding principles for the information of governments and other interested bodies and not mandatory requirements or regulations. It also noted that the standards referred primarily to procedures and practices which would be applicable to countries at the stage of development where they could contemplate the adoption or modification of the conventional system of vital statistics. Consideration of this document was limited to the aspects of the proposed standards which had implications with respect to demographic analysis.

38. The Population Commission expresses its interest in methods of improving birth and death statistics and other population data necessary for studies of basic demographic problems such as the inter-relationships of demographic, economic and social factors. For the sake of such studies, programmes of collecting population data should provide for classifications by social and ethnic groupings and by economic activities.

39. The Commission is aware of the possible uses of sampling procedures as a means of obtaining statistical

data for demographic analysis, and suggests that special attention be given to these uses.

40. Recognizing that the development of international standards for vital statistics is a matter which calls for the widest possible consultation with governments, with the WHO and other specialized agencies, and with individual experts, and taking into account the pre-eminent importance of the national legal aspects of the registration of vital events, the Commission makes the following suggestions in the interest of providing the improved vital statistics needed for demographic studies:

(a) The Secretary-General, in consultation with the WHO and other appropriate international agencies, and taking into account the comments contained in document E/CN.9/L.21/Rev.1, should prepare a revised draft of guiding principles for a vital statistics system;

(b) The revised draft should be circulated to members of the Population and Statistical Commissions and to governments for official review and comment and, in connexion with such consultation, the Secretary-General should take full advantage of opportunities to consult with regional groups of experts and national committees concerned with vital statistics whenever the opportunity for such consultation becomes available;

(c) The Population Commission should be kept informed with respect to those aspects of this matter with which it is primarily concerned.

XI. Appraisal of the quality of demographic statistics

41. The Population Commission considered the document prepared by the Secretary-General on the appraisal of the quality of demographic statistics (E/CN.9/64), and noted the progress made, in the second issue of the *Demographic Yearbook*, in the direction of giving adequate indications of the technical limitations of the statistical data and of developing objective methods for appraising the validity of such data. The Commission believes it is essential that the *Demographic Yearbook* and other similar United Nations publications should give complete and accurate descriptions of the material in detailed notes specifying inclusions, exclusions, and other characteristics that might affect their utility for international comparisons. The Commission recommends that this work be further developed in continued co-operation with individual governments and with the appropriate specialized agencies and other organizations.

42. The Population Commission further recommends that in the classification of population counts that do not meet the definition of a census, consideration be given to establishing one or more additional categories for counts obtained (a) by such methods as the enumeration of small groups (not larger than "living-units", e.g., huts, compounds or other communal units) which are counted together, and (b) from continuous population registers. Such counts, while perhaps not properly called "censuses", should not be designated as "estimates".

XII. Improvement of migration statistics

43. The Population Commission considered the interim report on the improvement of migration statistics

prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.9/L.11), together with the Secretary-General's analysis (E/CN.9/47/Add.2, E/CN.3/135) of observations received from governments since the last session of the Population Commission on the draft recommendations for the improvement of migration statistics made by the Commission at its fourth session (E/1313, annex 3). It also had the report of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling on the possible use of sampling methods in the collection and tabulation of migration statistics (E/CN.3/144, chapter VIII). The Population Commission thanks the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling for this report, the preparation of which was suggested by the Population Commission at its last session.

44. Taking note of the progress made towards the preparation of revised recommendations for the improvement of migration statistics, the Commission requests the Secretary-General, in continuing co-operation with the ILO:

(a) To complete the consultations with governments recommended at the fifth session of the Population Commission (E/1711, sub-para. 34 (b) and (c);

(b) To prepare for the Population Commission at its next session a draft of revised recommendations taking into account:

(1) The observations received from governments, specialized agencies and international organizations, the report of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, and the views expressed at the fifth and sixth sessions of the Population Commission;

(2) The desirability, from the point of view of migration studies, that the statistical questionnaires include questions on reasons for emigration or immigration, and on the status (as employer, employee, etc.) of the migrant.

45. The Population Commission also notes with satisfaction that attention is being given to the means through which international organizations could assist in providing training in methods of collecting and tabulating migration statistics, in order to improve the work of the personnel engaged in this field in various countries. It expresses the hope that arrangements towards that end can be made operative and that the various countries will avail themselves of such training programmes.

Section C. Other Items

XIII. World population conference

46. The Population Commission considered with interest the proposal of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population that a world population conference be called by the United Nations (E/CN.9/NGO/2).

47. At its third session, in 1948, the Population Commission had before it a proposal made by the representative of UNESCO for convening a conference on world demographic problems in 1950 or 1951 (E/805). Although there had been no conference of this nature since that held in 1937 under the auspices of the International Union for the Scientific Investigation of Population Problems, the Commission at its fourth session considered it advisable not to hold such a conference until the principal results of the various censuses which were to be taken in or around 1950 were available (E/1313, para. 36). The first results of these censuses are now being released; many of the results will be published by the end of 1952. The Population Commission believes therefore that the question of holding a world population conference should be re-examined.

48. Since the last conference was held, there have been important changes in the structure and evolution of populations. Among the population problems which appear to merit international consideration at this time are:

(a) The demographic problems which arise in connexion with the economic development of the underdeveloped countries;

(b) The general consequences of the decrease of mortality in the world, and prospects for future decreases;

(c) The demographic and social problems of inter-continental and intra-continental migration;

(d) The probable future growth of population, as a basis for judging the requirements for the adequate support of the world's peoples and the size and characteristics of the labour force;

(e) The problems posed by the increasing proportion of middle-aged and older people in the population.

49. Having in mind the interest in population problems which has been shown by several of the specialized agencies, notably UNESCO, WHO, ILO, and FAO, the Population Commission believes that the United Nations should seek their collaboration on the widest possible basis in any world population conference which may be planned. It believes also that the United Nations should enlist the full co-operation and participation of interested non-governmental scientific organizations, especially the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. It considers that the nature of the conference should be that of a scientific discussion of experts.

50. The Population Commission endorses in principle, having in mind its scientific desirability, the holding of a world population conference at as early a date as feasible. Before final action is taken by the Economic and Social Council on this matter the Commission believes that:

(a) Consultations should be held with various specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations as to the sponsorship, scope, size, emphasis, and possible financing of such a conference;

(b) An inquiry should be addressed to governments as to their views with respect to the holding of such a conference, the date, the agenda, and the composition of the conference;

(c) An estimate should be made of the possible cost to the United Nations of holding the proposed conference, with due regard to alternative kinds of spon-

sorship and to the possible financial participation of various interested agencies and organizations.

51. The Population Commission recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt draft resolution "B" set forth in appendix II.

XIV. Twenty-year programme for peace

52. The Population Commission considered the memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/1900) and resolution 358 (XII) of the Economic and Social Council, of 20 March 1951, regarding the development of a twenty-year programme for achieving peace through the United Nations. The Commission has a special interest in point 6 of that programme, relating to "A sound and active programme of technical assistance for economic development . . .", expresses its warm support of this objective, and invites the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the emphasis placed by the Commission on items related to this objective in its programme of work. These items include: (a) efforts to obtain the basic demographic information necessary to sound planning for economic development in under-developed countries; (b) special studies of the inter-relationships of demographic, economic, and social factors in under-developed areas in an effort to determine the bearing of these inter-relationships on economic development programmes; (c) the other work proposed by the Population Commission dealing with the population problems of the world and their bearing on standards of living and economic and social development.

XV. Proposal to increase the membership of the Population Commission to fifteen

53. The Population Commission was established at the third session of the Economic and Social Council

by resolution 3 (III) dated 3 October 1946. The membership of the Commission was fixed at twelve.

54. It was originally envisaged that the members should be "persons recognized as having special knowledge of population facts and problems", who would be nominated by the Council. The Council, however, accepted the principle that, for each of the functional commissions, it would select Member States, which would be entitled to nominate representatives.

55. This principle having been adopted, the desirability of adequate regional representation was easily recognized. Increased attention to such representation was manifested in General Assembly resolutions 207 (III), 208 (III) and 409 (V) to the effect that it would be equitable and highly beneficial if all Members of the United Nations were invited to co-operate on functional commissions, and that it would be desirable for the largest number of Member States to participate in the organization and work of the Economic and Social Council and its subordinate bodies. At the present time there is a considerable unsatisfied demand for places on the Population Commission. The inability to obtain adequate representation has, incidentally, been aggravated by the increased total membership of the United Nations since 1946.

56. It would seem to follow that the membership of the Population Commission should be increased, e.g., to fifteen. This increase would bring the size of the Commission into line with that of other functional commissions and would give the Commission a better chance to obtain adequate regional representation. At its eleventh session the Economic and Social Council approved an increase in the membership of the Statistical Commission to fifteen. Similar considerations apply to both commissions.

57. Bearing in mind the above considerations, the Population Commission recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt draft resolution "C" set forth in appendix II.

Section D. Future Work (including priorities)

58. The Population Commission has noted resolution 362 B (XII) of the Economic and Social Council, dated 13 March 1951, relating to the concentration of effort and resources, and requesting the commissions of the Council "(a) to review during 1951 their 1952 programmes, using the criteria set forth in Council resolution 324 (XI); and (b) to indicate, when new projects are recommended, which current projects might be deferred, modified or eliminated to ensure that the economic and social work of the United Nations will be carried on most effectively . . ."

59. The Commission accordingly reviewed its 1952 programme, using the criteria set forth in the annex to resolution 324 (XI) of the Economic and Social Council and General Assembly resolution 413 (V), and paying particular attention to the importance attached to the work of the United Nations in the economic development of under-developed areas. In making this review, the Commission did not consider the priorities of projects concerned with demographic statistics for

which the Statistical Office has major responsibility, since these would be reviewed by the Statistical Commission in relation to other statistical projects. On the basis of its review, the Commission recommends that the Secretary-General first of all complete projects which are near completion and which require relatively little additional work, as listed in appendix I to this report, prepared by the Secretary-General. The Commission further recommends that the Secretary-General give priority to the following additional items in his programme of work in the field of population:

(a) The preparation of a plan for a detailed pilot programme for national training courses, seminars, internships, etc., in demographic techniques and analysis;

(b) Improvement methods of measuring infant mortality;

(c) A study of recent trends in the birth rate;

(d) The studies and reports relating to migration which are mentioned in paragraph 17.

60. In recommending the above priorities the Commission recognizes that the projects under way and proposed should be conducted within the limits of the resources available. The Commission also recognizes, particularly because of the uncertainty of the date of its next session, that the Secretary-General must necessarily continue to exercise judgment, bearing in mind the priorities proposed, in order to assure an efficient staff operation in accordance with the restrictions imposed by changing personnel and facilities and in keeping with the changing requirements of the operating programmes of the United Nations.

61. Prior to making the foregoing review the Population Commission studied the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its previous recommendations (E/CN.9/70) and noted with satisfaction the interest of governments of Member States in demographic statistics and analysis, particularly in relation to the technical assistance projects requested by governments. The Commission noted also the progress being made in the issuance of the *Demographic Yearbook*, the arrangements for the preparation of the *Demographic Dictionary*, and the provision of needed population data to the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

62. The Commission recalled the report which it had received from the Secretary-General at its fifth session on the possibilities of analysis of the demographic as-

pects of employment and unemployment (E/CN.9/57), and noted that, in accordance with the recommendation made by the Commission at its fifth session (E/1711, para. 43), no studies in this field were initiated by the Secretary-General. The Commission believes that studies along the lines proposed in document E/CN.9/57 are important, and recommends that they be carried forward, subject to the priorities stated in paragraph 59.

63. The Commission also noted that the Secretary-General had not been able to initiate the studies of the population of additional Trust Territories which were mentioned in the report of the Commission's fourth session (E/1313, para. 29) but to which no priority was given at the fifth session. The Commission expresses the hope that further progress can be made on population studies of Trust Territories subject to the priorities set forth above.

64. The Commission heard with satisfaction the statements of the representatives of WHO, ILO and UNESCO indicating their co-operation with the Secretary-General in the work programmes proposed by the Commission. The Commission looks forward to the continued collaboration of these and other specialized agencies and interested organizations which can contribute to an integrated and effective programme of work on those aspects of demography which are relevant to the objectives and programmes of the United Nations.

Section E. Time and Place of the Next Session

65. The Population Commission understands that the Economic and Social Council is considering possible changes in the arrangements for future meetings of the functional commissions and of the Council. Under these circumstances the Commission suggests that, within the framework of meeting arrangements that may be made by the Economic and Social Council, consideration be given to calling the next meeting of the Population Commission not earlier than one full year after the sixth

session. The Commission draws attention to its previous requests that some of its sessions be held at Geneva, and to the fact that for the last two sessions these requests have not been granted. The Commission also draws the attention of the Secretary-General to the provisions of rule 5 of the rules of procedure (E/1663) concerning the availability of documentation prior to the convening of a session of the Commission.

Appendix I

List of Partially Completed Projects

(Prepared by the Secretary-General)

In addition to the continuing functions of the Population Division of the Secretariat there are the following partially completed projects on which the staff of the Division is engaged or to which it should contribute; these projects should receive priority in accordance with section D of the report. (The project numbers are those used in document E/CN.9/L.28, in which fuller descriptions of the projects are given.)

III. (1) Manual on methods of making population estimates and projections.

IV. (1) Reports on foetal, infant, and early childhood mortality (being prepared in collaboration with WHO and the Statistical Office of the United Nations).

- VI. (1) Study of pre-requisites to immigration.
(2) Report on European postwar migration (being prepared by ILO).
(3) Report on relations between immigration and economic development of Latin America (being prepared by the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America).

- VIII. (1) Report on findings of studies of the inter-relationships between population trends and economic and social factors.
(2) Study of inter-relationships of demographic, economic and social factors in India (in collaboration with the Government of India).

- X. Reports on the population of Trust Territories: Revision of report for Tanganyika, report for Ruanda-Urundi.
- XII. (2) Appraisal of demographic data (in collaboration with the Statistical Office).
- (5) Revision of draft recommendations for the improvement of migration statistics.
- (6) Report on sex and age distribution of international migrants, 1918-1947.
- (7) Report on economic characteristics of international migrants, 1918-1950.
- (8) International bibliography of sources of migration statistics 1925-1950, for selected countries.
- XIII. Summary of national legislation relevant to population.
- XIV. Demographic dictionary.

Appendix II

Draft resolutions proposed for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

A

The Economic and Social Council

Recalling its allocation of responsibility to the Population Commission to arrange for studies of, and advise the Council regarding, (a) the demographic aspects of migration, (b) the relationships between demographic, economic and social factors in migration, and (c) the over-all co-ordination of international research and studies in this field by the United Nations and the specialized agencies (resolution 156 A (VII) of 10 August 1948);

Recalling its intention to ensure that every economy compatible with its responsibility is effected and that the economic and social work with which it is entrusted is carried out most effectively (resolution 362 B (XII) of 13 March 1951) and its request on this subject to its Commissions;

Noting the information presented by the Secretary-General on co-operation and co-ordination in the field of migration activities (E/1341 and E/1685);

Concurring with the recommendations on the co-ordination of international research and studies on migration, adopted by the Population Commission at its sixth session;

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare from time to time, for submission to the Population Commission, a summary of the results of the various studies and research activities on migration made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

B

The Economic and Social Council

Notes with interest the proposal to call a world conference on population;

Considers that the discussion on this subject in the Population Commission has indicated the scientific desirability of holding such a conference;

Requests the Secretary-General:

1. To consult with various specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations as to the sponsorship, scope, emphasis, size and possible financing of such a conference,

2. To address an inquiry to governments in order to ascertain their views with respect to (a) the holding of such a conference, and (b) the date, the agenda, and the composition of the conference if it is to be held,

3. To estimate the possible cost of such a conference to the United Nations, with due regard to alternative kinds of sponsorship and to the possible financial participation of various interested agencies and organizations,

4. To prepare a report on the results of the inquiries, for consideration by the Council at its fourteenth session, as a basis for action.

C

The Economic and Social Council

Having regard to resolutions 207 (III) and 208 (III) in which the General Assembly deemed that it would be equitable and highly beneficial if all Members of the United Nations were invited to co-operate on the functional commissions and other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, and that the largest number of Member States should be enabled to participate in the organization and work of the Council and its subordinate bodies; and

Recalling that there has been an increase in the number of Members of the United Nations since the date on which the membership of the Population Commission was fixed at twelve;

Decides that the membership of the Population Commission shall be increased to fifteen.