

ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES
Thirtieth session
New York, 7 - 9 May 1996
Item 1(c) of the provisional agenda

SA/1996/2
22 September 1995

RR

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Report of Partial Bureau Meeting
Beijing, 25 August 1995

Present: Mr. Hermann Habermann
Mr. John McLenaghan
Mr. Farhad Mehran

*All reflected in
SA/1996/1*

1. The object of the meeting was to discuss the agenda of the next session of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, scheduled to be held in New York from 7 to 9 May 1996. A draft agenda was prepared by F. Mehran with inputs from Jean-Maurice Léger and comments by Richard Roberts¹.
2. The reorganised draft agenda aims at distinguishing between those items related to the UN Statistical Commission and its Working Group and those proper to our Subcommittee, with a view to isolate and enhance the value-added of the work of the Subcommittee.
3. It was agreed that the draft agenda with a set of preliminary items linking the previous session to the current one injects a degree of continuity in the work of the Subcommittee.
4. It was not clear, however, what would be discussed under item 2c - The uses of the coordination tools in the work of the Subcommittee. It was explained that the item was intended to examine the usefulness of the available coordination tools (item 2.b) for the work of the Subcommittee itself. It was agreed that the discussion of the agenda item should be based on a note to be prepared by ILO and UNSD (Vladimir Drjuchin) providing explanation and suggestions.
5. It was reported that the sub-items under 3 were based on the recommendations of the Review Group, "Strengthening International Statistical Cooperation," WGISPC (New York, 29 June - 1 July 1992 -E/CN.3/AC.1/1992/R.2 Section V) which calls on the Statistical Commission to oversee the development of: i) A (descriptive) integrated programme on data collection, data processing and

¹ Comments were also requested from Pedro Sainz, Chief, Statistics and Economic Projections and Statistical Division, ECLAC.

dissemination of statistics; ii) A (descriptive) integrated programme on construction/revision of 'standards'; iii) A (descriptive) integrated programme on technical assistance. If the realisation of an integrated programme of work is unrealistic at this time, it was thought useful at least to consider an integrated discussion of activities (grouped into three broad areas).

6. To focus further the discussion, it was agreed that items 3a and 3b should concern only new data collection, processing and dissemination activities and new development, revision and implementation of 'standards'. It would be based on oral or preferably written reports of organisations that have new activities to report requiring coordination. The reports should include suggested modalities for coordination and points for decision. A particular issue under 3b could be 'standards' for statistical publications based on a paper by IMF.

7. On item 3c, it was proposed to split it into two parts: a general discussion on coordination of technical assistance and a specific discussion on the implementation of the SNA including future training requirements, based on reports by UNSD, IMF, World Bank, EUROSTAT, OECD and Regional Commissions.

8. It was agreed that item 4 on coordination of the follow-up of statistical activities related to international conferences should focus, particularly, on the Copenhagen Social Summit and the Cairo Population Conference, and possibly, the recent Beijing Women's Conference. The report of the Social Statistics Expert Group set up by WGISPC could be the basis of discussion of the Subcommittee.

9. The idea of having occasionally a special topic with invited guest was considered novel and fruitful when a particular issue would come up that would benefit from outside ideas. It was agreed, however, that the concept should first be discussed at the level of the Subcommittee and incorporated in the agenda if it generates enough support.

10. The draft agenda taking into account the discussion of the meeting is presented in the annex.

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Thirtieth session
New York, 7-9 May 1996

Provisional agenda

1. Preliminaries
 - a. Adoption of provisional agenda
 - b. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting
 - c. Matters arising from the Twenty-ninth session (Report by UNSD)
2. Coordination tools
 - a. The statistics part of the ACC Programme Classification (Report jointly prepared by ILO, ESCAP and ISI on current and potential uses of the classification and proposals on any desirable changes)
 - b. New developments relating to the Inventory of statistical data collection activities; the List of classifications used in statistics; the Inventory of computerized statistical data bases; the Directory of international statistics; and the newly proposed Annotated list of methodological publications. (Report by UNSD)
 - c. The uses of the coordination tools in the work of the Subcommittee (Report jointly prepared by UNSD and ILO on past and possible future uses, and possibilities for integrating some of the tools)
3. Coordination of on-going statistical programmes
 - a. New data collection, processing and dissemination (Reports by concerned agencies on new activities, presented according to themes, i.e. according to the statistics part of the current ACC Programme Classification)
 - b. New development, revision and implementation of 'standards' (Reports by concerned agencies on new developments in their own fields, and IMF report on 'standards' for statistical publications)
 - c. Technical assistance:

i) General discussion including bilateral cooperation (Reports by concerned agencies on any current issues);

ii) Implementation of SNA (Report of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts on progress)

4. Coordination of the follow-up of statistical activities related to international conferences (Report of the Expert Group on Social Statistics)
5. Matters arising from the UN Statistical Commission and its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination
 - a. Issues related to the work of the task forces (Reports of the Task Forces)
 - b. Critical problems in economic statistics (Oral report on progress by UNSD)
 - c. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-ninth session of the UN Statistical Commission (Report by UNSD)
6. Other business:
 - a. The concept of occasional part-day sessions on special topic with invited guest
7. Adoption of actions and decisions taken at this meeting