

RR

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

SA/1996/3  
26 April 1996

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Report of Bureau Meeting  
New York, 19 April 1996

*again*

1. The Bureau reviewed the provisional agenda and documentation  
for the thirtieth session of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical  
Activities and made the following decisions:

*Reflected in  
SA/1996/11*

(a) Mr. Mehran will prepare a draft report for item 3(c)  
"Uses of the coordination tools in the work the  
Subcommittee" and send it to UNSD for input;

(b) The aim under agenda item 3 "Coordination of on-going  
statistical programmes" is to have an integrated discussion  
of the work plans of the members of the Subcommittee, i.e. a  
discussion by topic as opposed to organization;

(c) The discussion under 5(a) "Issues related to the work  
of the Task Forces" should include (i) the criteria for  
membership in the Task Forces and who has the authority to  
decide on membership (ii) how to assess the work of the Task  
Forces in relation to their terms of reference and specific  
tasks assigned by the Statistical Commission and its Working  
Group (this is in preparation for the assessment report that

the Working Group requested be prepared for the Statistical Commission).

(d) Under 5(b) "Critical problems in economic statistics", Mr. Habermann will write to Mr. R. Edwards of Australia to seek clarification of what the "code of best practice" should include, and its relationship to the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard. Discussion under this agenda item should also cover how to manage the new working groups/informal groups that have been established by the Working Group, and their relationship with existing task forces and working groups.

(e) Add two additional sub-items under agenda 5 "Matters arising from the United Nations Statistical Commission and its Working Group on International Statistical Programme and Coordination". They are:

(i) Statistical support for policy analysis issues at the international level

(Documentation: oral report by Mr. Mehran on what has been accomplished on coordination of data collection, possible ways to identify duplication including following up the request of the Working Group that countries should report to the UNSD recent instances of duplicative requests for data by international

organizations, and how to reduce reporting burdens on countries)

(ii) World Statistics Day

(Documentation: oral report by UNSD on the outcome of the Working Group's discussion of this item)

(f) Under agenda item 6 "Other business" add:

(i) ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections.

(Documentation: Note by ILO on coordination )

Mr. J. Chamie, Director of the Population Division of DESIPA to be invited to participate in the discussion of this item.

(ii) United Nations Economic and Social Information System (UNESIS)

(Documentation: oral report by UNSD)

(iii) United Nations Common Data Systems Task Force

(Documentation: oral report by UNSD and background documents).

(iv) Scheduling of meetings involving international organizations. The aim is to look at the scheduling of

meetings and the resultant reporting requirements,  
costs of attendance and overlapping of agenda items.

2. The Bureau reviewed the status of development and use of the coordination tools that have been developed by the Subcommittee, namely the Inventory of statistical data-collection activities, the List of classifications used in statistics, the Inventory of computerized statistical databases, the Directory of International Statistics and the Annotated list of methodological publications. A number of options for future work were identified to enhance the use and accessibility of these tools. The Bureau requested ILO, that in preparing the report under item 2(c), "The uses of the coordination tools in the work of the Subcommittee", consideration be given to these options, including putting them on Internet, developing a handbook of references, and looking at the resources used in maintaining these tools and whether it was a worthwhile use of the resources given the use made of the outputs.

*Take up under 2(b) 2(c)*

3. The Bureau considered the (free) exchange of methodological publications among members of the Subcommittee. The Bureau recognized that each organization had its own policies for dissemination of outputs and in most cases the policies were set outside the Statistics Divisions, <sup>that</sup> The Bureau <sup>and agreed</sup> agreed to recommend to the Subcommittee that a policy could be agreed upon that each organization should provide one free copy of each statistical methodological publication to other members of the Subcommittee, <sub>on request</sub>

*Take up under doc SA/1996/13*

(A) ↓

→

(A)

and provide additional copies at normal prices. This policy would not prevent organizations from having a more generous approach or from entering into additional arrangements on a bilateral basis, and encouraged organizations to do so.

4. Mr. Sainz, of ECLAC, whose terms on the Bureau will end in 1996, agreed to consult with the other regional commissions to make a proposal for the continued representation by a regional commission on the Bureau.

5. The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Subcommittee that, while the terms of the Chairman should continue at two years, the newly elected Chairman should take office only at the beginning of the meeting after the one in which he or she was elected. During the period between the two meetings he or she would be Chairman-elect and would attend Bureau meetings. The Chairman of the previous meeting would continue as Chairman up to the opening of the next meeting.

6. The Bureau decided to recommend to the Subcommittee that the Subcommittee meetings should be held in the period June-September each year, and preferably September, if the Statistical Commission and its Working Group were to continue to schedule this meetings in February/March of each year.

7. The Bureau meeting was attended by:

V. Drjuchin (UNSD)

H. Habermann (UNSD)

R. Johnston (UNSD)

J-M Leger (WTO)

F. Mehran (ILO)

S. Quin (IMF)

R. Roberts (UNSD)

P. Sainz (ECLAC)

---