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Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission

Activities of the functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission

Note by the Secretary-General

The present note has been prepared in an effort to promote harmonization and coordination in the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The purpose of the note is to inform the Statistical Commission of the ongoing activities of two functional commissions that are related to its work, namely the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Statistical Commission may wish to take the present note into account during its review of agenda items 3 (Demographic and social statistics) and 5 (Natural resources and environment statistics), in deciding the agenda for its thirty-fourth session and in amending its multi-year programme.

* E/CN.3/2002/1.



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I. Commission on Population and Development

1. The thirty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters from 2 to 6 April 2001; its special theme for that session was “Population, environment and development”.

Documents before the Commission on Population and Development

2. A report on world population monitoring, focused on the theme of the session, analysed recent information and policy perspectives on population, environment and development. Topics investigated in the report included trends in population, environment and development; government views and policies concerning population, environment and development; population size and growth, environment and development; migration, population change and the rural environment; health, mortality, fertility and the environment; and population environment and development in urban settings.

3. Other reports covered flows of international financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; world demographic trends; programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2000; and the draft programme of work of the United Nations Population Division for the biennium 2002–2003.

Follow-up actions taken by the Commission on Population and Development

4. The Commission adopted a resolution concerning population, environment and development, in which the Commission requested the Population Division to continue its research on the linkages among population,

consumption and production, the environment and natural resources, and human health, giving particular attention to the levels, trends and differentials of mortality, fertility, distribution and mobility, and the role of population and development policies as well as the mainstreaming of a gender perspective. It also requested the Population Division to contribute its research findings to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the World Summit on Sustainable Development and other relevant intergovernmental meetings and conferences. It further requested that the findings from this and related research on population, environment and development should contribute to the next review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, scheduled for 2004.

5. The Commission also approved the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-fifth session, to be held in 2002, and adopted its report on its thirty-fourth session.

6. The special theme for the next meeting of the Commission in 2002 will focus on reproductive rights and reproductive health, with special reference to HIV/AIDS, as contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Implications for the Statistical Commission

7. The Commission on Population Development is a major stakeholder and technical user of the national demographic and social statistics compiled and disseminated under the auspices of the Statistical Commission, with special attention to statistics derived from national population and housing censuses, inter-

censal household surveys and vital statistics systems. Demographic and social data produced by national statistical services are reported to the United Nations and disseminated annually through the *United Nations Demographic Yearbook* and quarterly through the *Population and Vital Statistics Report*. Those statistics provide important inputs to a wide range of population and socio-economic monitoring reports prepared for United Nations functional commissions.

8. The ACC Subcommittee on Demographic Estimates and Projections coordinates its activities with those of the ACC Committee on Statistical Activities. Actions taken by the Statistical Commission regarding principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses, vital statistics systems, statistics of international migration and the improvement of population and household surveys help to strengthen and maintain that well established international source of national demographic and social data, covering over 200 countries and areas.

9. The Statistical Commission may wish to note the coordinating mechanisms between the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Population and Development, and also to note the importance of completing and strengthening the current World Population and Housing Census Programme (1995-2004) as it relates to the common concerns and work of the two Commissions.

II. Commission on Sustainable Development

Ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

10. The ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development was held from 16 to 27 April 2001; its sectoral themes were atmosphere, energy and transport. The Commission also gave in-depth attention to the cross-sectoral themes of international cooperation for an enabling environment, in particular, resources for development, and information for decision-making and participation.

11. The Commission recognized that the availability and uses of information are issues that cut across all chapters of Agenda 21 and its implementation. Enhancing information for decision-making in order to achieve sustainable development requires international

cooperation and actions compatible with national priorities. The Commission requested international organizations to rationalize their requests for information so as to avoid duplication and unnecessary burden on countries; urged strengthened cooperation, coordination and the development of information systems enabling sharing of valuable data; and encouraged further work on indicators that might form a starting point for national work on the implementation of and follow-up to sustainable development. It also recalled the invitation of the Economic and Social Council to the Statistical Commission to serve as an intergovernmental focal point for the review of the indicators used by the United Nations system. It noted that significant gaps exist in the availability of data and encouraged developed countries, with the cooperation of international organizations, to assist developing countries in the strengthening of national information systems and statistical agencies so as to ensure efficient data collection and analysis.

12. At its ninth session, the Commission completed its 1998-2002 work programme devoted to specific sectoral and cross-sectoral themes emanating from Agenda 21 and its five-year review held in 1997.

Preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

13. In its resolution 55/199, entitled "Ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", the General Assembly decided that the tenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development should be transformed into an open-ended preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The organizational session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee was held from 30 April to 2 May 2001. The Commission acting as the preparatory committee carried out an initial review of progress at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, as well as by major groups, and adopted several decisions relating to future preparatory work.

14. Agreement on the key themes for further implementation of Agenda 21 will be addressed at subsequent sessions of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee to be held between January and June 2002. The second session will undertake the

comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and will prepare a draft document on the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. The third session will agree on the text of the document containing the results of the review and assessment, as well as on conclusions and recommendations for further actions. There will also be a proposal regarding the provisional agenda and possible main themes for the Summit. The fourth and final preparatory session will be held at the ministerial level and will agree on a concise political document to be submitted to the Summit.

15. The Summit will be held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002. A new multi-year programme of work for the Commission, to start in 2003, is expected to result from the Summit.

Implications for the Statistical Commission

16. Agenda 21 addresses the needs for regular data and information in chapter 40 (Information for decision-making) and chapter 8 (Integrating environment and development in decision-making), section D (Establishing systems for integrated environmental and economic accounting), in both places assigning tasks to the United Nations Statistics Division for implementation. Accordingly, the Division is contributing to the comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the implementation of chapter 40 and chapter 8, section D, of Agenda 21.

17. A progress review was provided to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-second session (see E/CN.3/2001/15). A follow-up to that review and an analysis of areas where further implementation should focus are before the Commission (see E/CN.3/2002/16).

18. The Commission may wish to note the importance of participating in the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and at its thirty-fourth session may wish to review its work programme in the area of environment statistics and accounting in the light of the results of the Summit and their statistical implications.