

Extract from the draft report of the Statistical Commission 35th session
2-5 March 2004

Item 3 (g): Poverty statistics

11. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 2 March 2004. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on “Demography and social statistics: poverty statistics” (E/CN.3/2004/8) and a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report prepared by the National Institute of Statistics of Brazil on the work of the Rio Group on poverty statistics E/CN.3/2004/9).

Action taken by the commission

12. The Commission:

- (a) Took note of the progress achieved to date on the preparation of a handbook on poverty statistics and expressed its appreciation for the broad consultative process put into place by UNSD for the further elaboration of the handbook; in particular it welcomed the offer of Brazil to host the first regional workshop.
- (b) Also noted the continued work undertaken by the Rio Group towards the preparation of a compendium on best practices of poverty statistics
- (c) Took note of expressions of many delegations of the apparent lack of coordination of activities of UNSD and the Rio Group and therefore welcomed the intention of UNSD and the Rio Group to coordinate their efforts towards a joint publication
- (d) Emphasized the need for the handbook to be a practical guide to poverty measurements based on country practices rather than being normative
- (e) Noted the proposals for the handbook to address specific analytical aspects such as vulnerability, urban versus rural approaches to identifying the poor, as well as poverty mapping
- (f) Welcomed expressions of several delegations and international organizations to contribute to the handbook
- (g) Noted the proposal for the handbook to broaden its focus to include also best practices of poverty measurements in developed countries, and to organize a workshop for the ECE region