



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2005

Original: English

Statistical Commission

Thirty-seventh session

7-10 March 2006

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
 - (a) Programme review: industrial statistics;
 - (b) Distributive trade statistics;
 - (c) Integrated economic statistics;
 - (d) National accounts;
 - (e) International economic and social classifications;
 - (f) International Comparison Programme;
 - (g) Environmental accounting;
 - (h) Energy statistics;
 - (i) Social statistics;
 - (j) Principles governing international statistical activities;
 - (k) Development indicators.
4. Items for information:
 - (a) Population and housing censuses;
 - (b) Health statistics;
 - (c) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation;
 - (d) Poverty statistics;

* E/CN.3/2006/1.

- (e) Environment statistics;
 - (f) Service statistics;
 - (g) Round Table on Business Survey Frames;
 - (h) International merchandise trade statistics;
 - (i) Informal sector statistics;
 - (j) Statistical capacity-building;
 - (k) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;
 - (l) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes.
5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).
 6. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.
 7. Report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau serves for two years, as far as possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution — a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session (New York, 1-4 March 2005)¹ and were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2005/244. The Bureau of the Commission has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed draft organization of work, a note on the state of preparation of documentation for the session and a note on follow-up actions by the Bureau on decisions taken by the thirty-sixth session are before the Commission. The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda and organization of work for its thirty-seventh session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2006/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2006/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/2006/CRP.1)

Note by the Bureau of the Commission on follow-up of decisions taken by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session (E/CN.3/2006/2)

3. Items for discussion and decision

(a) Programme review: industrial statistics

The Statistical Commission will have before it a report prepared by Japan, providing an assessment of the need for new guidelines for producing data on industrial activities and commodity structures, taking into account the rapid changes that have taken place. The report also indicates areas where industrial data collected by regional and international organizations need to be improved to make them comparable. The Commission may wish to express its views on the findings, conclusions and recommendations for future work in this area.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the programme reviewer on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2006/3)

(b) Distributive trade statistics

The report of the Secretary-General outlines the United Nations Statistics Division strategy to revise international recommendations on distributive trade statistics; provides a summary of conclusions of the United Nations Expert Group on distributive trade statistics; and describes the Division's action plan for the 2006-2007 biennium, including revision of the existing recommendations and creation of a worldwide database on distributive trade statistics. The Commission may wish to express its views on those proposed activities.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2006/4)

(c) Integrated economic statistics

The Statistical Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, which provides an assessment of the need for a coordinated work programme on economic statistics at both the national and international levels. The work programme on economic statistics advocates an integrated approach to the updating and maintenance of statistical standards on economic statistics across various economic activities and size classes of enterprises to ensure the harmonization of statistical concepts, classification, data-collection methods, data processing, compilation and dissemination. Moreover, the integrated approach stresses the importance of economic statistics in their own right for economic planning and as input to the compilation of national accounts. The Commission may wish to express its views on future work in this area.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2006/5)

(d) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The report describes progress on work completed in the updating of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA). It covers the results of meetings of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts and other expert groups, and summarizes the progress with recommendations reached on the issues under consideration in the SNA update process. The Commission may wish to express its views on the status of the updating of the 1993 SNA.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2006/6)

(e) International economic and social classifications

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, providing information on recent developments, including the status of revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), the Central Product Classification (CPC), the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). ISIC and CPC will be presented to the Commission for adoption and their complete detailed classification structures will be available as conference room documents. The Commission may wish to review the work on the revision and to adopt the proposed ISIC and CPC classifications.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2006/7)

(f) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the World Bank on recent developments and progress in the global implementation of the International Comparison Programme. The report presents the status of the programme and plans for the completion of the current phase and the continuation of the worldwide purchasing power parity comparisons. The Commission may wish to review the progress and comment on planned activities.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2006/8)

(g) Environmental accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, prepared on the basis of the discussions held during a preliminary meeting of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The report describes the objectives, programme of work and governance structure of the Committee and contains its terms of reference as approved by the Bureau of the Statistical Commission in November 2005. The Commission may wish to express its views on the role and future work of the Committee.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2006/9)

(h) Energy statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, summarizing the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Energy Statistics (convened upon request by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session). It informs the Commission on the preparatory meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics and the preparations for the inaugural meeting of the Oslo City Group on Energy Statistics. The Commission may wish to provide guidance to the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group and the Oslo City Group on Energy Statistics.

The Commission will also have before it a special report prepared by Statistics Norway on the quality of international energy statistics. Because of the economic, social, environmental and political importance of energy supply and use, the need for high-quality energy statistics has increased during recent years. The report discusses technical issues relating to the quality of energy statistics in general and the quality of short-term oil production statistics in particular. The Commission may wish to express its views on the quality of energy statistics and provide advice on future actions.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2006/10)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Statistics Norway on energy statistics (E/CN.3/2006/11)

(i) Social statistics

The Statistical Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, summarizing the findings of *The World's Women 2005: Progress in Statistics*, which reviews and analyses the capacity of countries to report gender statistics to the international statistical system. The report also assesses progress made, in the provision of gender statistics, in the past 30 years. Stark disparities are identified in national statistical capacity to report such statistics. Finally, the report proposes actions and strategies for improving gender statistics worldwide. The Commission may wish to comment on the findings, proposed actions and strategies aimed at improving gender statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2006/12)

(j) Principles governing international statistical activities

The chief statisticians and coordinators of statistical activities in the various international agencies have developed a set of principles governing international statistical activities and have drawn up related good practices. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, which describes these principles as endorsed at the most recent session of the Committee for the Coordination of

Statistical Activities, together with a listing of those international agencies that have so far expressed a professional commitment to adhere to them. The Commission is invited to review and endorse the principles and to discuss possible steps towards their implementation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2006/13)

(k) Development indicators

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General describing the results of the United Nations Statistics Division assessment of countries' capacity to produce Millennium Development Goals indicators. The analysis was conducted at the request of the Statistical Commission at its thirty-sixth session. The Commission is invited to comment on the methodology and the analysis. The report of the Secretary-General also contains a brief update on the ongoing work of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators in 2005 in the following areas: compilation and analysis of the indicators; review of methodologies related to the agreed indicators; coordination of data collection at the global level; coordination and support to countries in the compilation and analysis of indicators at the national level; preparation of analysis and reporting on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission may wish to comment on progress made by the Expert Group and future directions of its work.

The Commission will also have before it a report prepared by the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goals Indicators, continuing a critical analysis of the findings of the Secretary-General regarding countries' capacity to produce Millennium Development Goals indicators. It contains a critical review of the quality of the global database on Millennium Development Goals indicators, including its presentation of metadata. The report makes specific recommendations for the way forward to improve the availability and quality of the Millennium Development Goals indicators at the national and global level. The Commission may wish to discuss the analysis and the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2006/14)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goals Indicators (E/CN.3/2006/15)

4. Items for information

(a) Population and housing censuses

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, summarizing activities completed in response to the requests made by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session regarding the role of the United Nations Statistics Division as a secretariat of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses; work on the revision and update of the United Nations

Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses by a United Nations expert group convened in New York from 22 to 26 August 2005, including the recommendations of the expert group; Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/13; and the coordination of regional activities in the preparation for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2006/16)

(b) Health statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, a report of the World Health Organization (WHO) that addresses the concerns of the Commission expressed at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions and describes progress made by WHO along those lines, including progress in the dissemination and use of data from the World Health Survey and in the formation of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics and its first steps in setting priorities and defining a workplan for the group. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization (E/CN.3/2006/17)

(c) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation, summarizing recent activities, meetings and future workplans. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation (E/CN.3/2006/18)

(d) Poverty statistics

The report of the Secretary-General, which is provided for information, updates the completion of the manuscript of a handbook on poverty statistics. In particular, the report describes briefly the results of a worldwide survey on current national practices of poverty measurement. The completed manuscript of the handbook will be available on the United Nations Statistics Division website and as a background document upon request. The Commission may wish to take note of its contents.

The Commission will also have before it a report of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics, prepared by the Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística (IBGE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), describing the preparation of the compendium of best practices. By the time of the thirty-seventh session, the preliminary version will be available at the Rio Group website for analysis and comments of the Commission. After the incorporation of suggestions made, IBGE and ECLAC will prepare the definitive version of the compendium by the end of the first half of 2006.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2006/19)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/20)

(e) Environment statistics

The report informs the Commission about the activities carried out in 2005 by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics and contains the Group's work programme for 2006 and 2007. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/21)

(f) Service statistics

The Commission will have before it a report, for information, prepared by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), containing information on recent developments and work undertaken in the field of service statistics. It includes a summary report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics and information on progress with the proposed Intersecretariat Working Group on Services. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on Service Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/22)

(g) Round Table on Business Survey Frames

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames; reviewing developments in the field of business survey frames and planned activities of the Round Table. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames (E/CN.3/2006/23)

(h) International merchandise trade statistics

The Commission will have before it a United Nations Statistics Division/OECD report describing the joint United Nations Statistics Division/OECD system for the collection and processing of international merchandise trade statistics, in response to the Commission's requests that international agencies streamline their data-compilation systems, reduce the duplication of work and limit the reporting burden on countries. The Commission may wish to take note of the results achieved.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, which will review the work accomplished by the Task Force in response to the decisions made by the Commission at its thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions, as well as other activities that the Task Force has undertaken. The Commission may wish to take note of the progress and plans of the Task Force in both data compilation and the methodological aspects of its work; it may also wish to note the Task Force's endorsement of the provisional draft of the fourth revision of the Standard International Trade Classification.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Statistics Division and OECD on the joint United Nations/OECD system for the collection and processing of international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/2006/24)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/25)

(i) Informal sector statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics, providing an update on its most recent meeting, the activities undertaken and planned outputs. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/26)

(j) Statistical capacity-building

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General, describing the approach adopted by the United Nations Statistical Division in its current technical cooperation programmes. The report describes country priorities in capacity-building and gives details of the 2004-2005 activities. It also suggests strategies for improving coordination and effectiveness of capacity-building activities, as identified in consultations with national statisticians. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

The Commission will also have before it, for information, the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century, outlining efforts in promoting the design, implementation and monitoring of national strategies for the development of statistics in low-income countries; in developing statistical advocacy tools; and in encouraging donor collaboration in statistical support programmes. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2006/27)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2006/28)

(k) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

This item was placed on the agenda by the Commission at the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/51 with a view to encouraging a closer relationship between the work of the Commission and of the Council. The Commission will have before it, for information, a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from Council resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions that are relevant to the work of the Commission and the actions taken or planned by the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Council that are relevant to the work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2006/29)

(l) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities held its fifth and sixth sessions in New York on 1 March 2005 and in Rome from 12 to 14 September 2005, respectively. The Commission will have before it, for information, a report that summarizes the main conclusions of both sessions of the Committee. The Commission may wish to take into account, in its discussions under relevant agenda items, the views expressed by the Committee. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2006/30)

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning current work and future plans and priorities.

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-eighth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In addition, in accordance with request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2006-2009. The Commission is invited to approve the date, provisional agenda and documentation for its thirty-eighth session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2006/CRP.2)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2006/31)

7. Report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its thirty-seventh session, which will be submitted to the Council.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session (E/CN.3/2006/L. __)

Notes

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 4 (E/2005/24)*, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision.