



**United Nations**

# **Statistical Commission**

**Report on the thirty-eighth session  
(27 February to 2 March 2007)**

**Economic and Social Council  
Official Records 2007  
Supplement No. 4**

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## **Statistical Commission**

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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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*Summary*

The 38th session marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Statistical Commission. In his opening remarks, the newly elected chairman underlined the strong professional leadership provided by the UN Statistical Commission in building the global statistical system in the past 60 years. Statements by the Commission members unanimously shared this sentiment and highlighted the creation of a body of global statistical standards and guidelines, as well as of a culture of close international cooperation in statistics, based on shared profession ethics among the Heads of National Statistical Offices as key achievements in the history of the Statistical Commission. The statements cited concrete examples how the work of the Statistical Commission had assisted countries in building national statistical systems, especially in a context of decolonization, transition to market economies and in post-conflict situations. The important role of the Statistical Commission as a forum to share practical experiences in the development of national statistics was repeatedly stressed. The Commission members also acknowledged the support provided by the UN Statistics Division of DESA and expressed their gratitude for UNSD's organization of a number of special commemorative events. Strengthening autonomy and independence of official statistics at the national level as well as maintaining the technical focus of the Statistical Commission's work at the global level were underscored as the key condition for past and future successes.

As a primary concern of the Commission is to make nationally produced statistical data comparable *internationally*, through the development of conceptual and methodological standards, the Commission continued its technical work in this area by adopting two statistical

norms: the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev.2*; and (ii) the *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water*. It also continued its technical discussions in the areas of national accounts, leading up to revised future standards in these fields. The Commission also reviewed current activities in the fields of education statistics, agricultural statistics, disability measurement, information and communication technology statistics, international economic and social classifications, the management of national statistical systems and the International Comparison Programme and provided guidance for future work in these areas.

The Commission recognized the need for continuous improvement of the statistics needed to track progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. In this context the Heads of National Statistical Offices again stressed the importance of statistical capacity building, requesting that all stakeholders, particularly international organizations give due consideration to ECOSOC resolution 2006/6 on Strengthening Statistical Capacity. The Commission recognized that donor coordination is of importance and should be further enhanced.



## **Chapter I**

### **Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention**

#### **A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council**

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

#### **Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-eighth session and provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-eighth session;
- (b) Decides that the thirty-ninth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 26 to 29 February 2008;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission as set out below.

E/CN.3/2007/L.2 as orally revised

**Marked up version**

## **Provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

*Documentation*

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. Programme review: employment statistics.

*Documentation*

Report of the programme reviewer

4. Demographic and social statistics:

- (a) Human settlements statistics;

*Documentation*

Report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

- (b) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation (city group);

*Documentation*

Report of the Paris Group

- (c) Health statistics;

*Documentation*

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics

- (d) Social statistics;

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General

- (e) Education statistics;

*Documentation*

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- (f) Statistics of drugs and drug use.

*Documentation*

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

5. Economic statistics:

- (a) National accounts;

*Documentation*

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

- (b) Round Table on Business Survey Frames (city group);

*Documentation*

Report of the Round Table

- (c) International merchandise trade statistics;

*Documentation*

Statistics Report of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade

- (d) Statistics of international trade in services;

*Documentation*

Services Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in

- (e) Statistics of services;

*Documentation*

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Services Statistics

- (f) Tourism statistics;

*Documentation*

**Joint Report of the Secretary-General and the World Tourism Organization**

- (g) International Comparison Programme;

*Documentation*

Report of the World Bank

- 
- (h) Ottawa Group on the Price Indexes (city group);

*Documentation*

Report of the Ottawa Group

- (i) Statistics of science and technology;

*Documentation*

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- (j) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (city group);

*Documentation*

Report of the Delhi Group

- (k) Integrated economic statistics;

*Documentation*

Report of the ~~Secretary-General~~ **Friends of the Chair**

- (l) Short-term economic indicators.

*Documentation*

Report of the Secretary-General

- (m) **Industrial statistics**

*Documentation*

**Report of the Secretary-General**

- (n) **Distributive trade statistics**

*Documentation*

**Report of the Secretary-General**

- (o) **Agricultural statistics**

*Documentation*

**Report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income (city group)**

6. National resources and environment statistics: ~~environment statistics.~~

- (a) **Environment statistics**

*Documentation*

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics

**(b) Environmental-economic accounting***Documentation***Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting**

## 7. Activities not classified by field:

- (a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

*Documentation*

## Report of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities

- (b) Statistics of human development;

*Documentation*

## Report of the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme

- (c) International economic and social classifications;

*Documentation*

## Report of the Secretary-General

- (d) Coordination of ongoing methodological work;

*Documentation*

## Report of the Secretary-General

- (e) Statistical capacity-building;

*Documentation*

## Report of the Secretary-General

- (f) Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division;

*Documentation*

## Report of the Secretary-General

- (g) Development indicators;

*Documentation*

## Report of the Secretary-General

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

*Documentation*

## Report of the Secretary-General

- (i) Principles governing international statistical activities.

*Documentation*

Report of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities

8. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).
9. Provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

10. Report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session.
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**B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council**

2. The following decisions, adopted by the Commission, are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

**38/101.**

**Programme review: education statistics (agenda item 3a)**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed with appreciation the report on education statistics by Statistics Canada, took note of the recommendations contained therein and requested Statistics Canada to provide the full report to all members and observers of the Commission;
- (b) Agreed to set up a Task Force on Education Statistics consisting of interested countries and agencies and asked the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) to be the Task Force convener;
- (c) Requested UNSD, in collaboration with UIS, interested countries and agencies, to prepare draft Terms of Reference of the Task Force and submit them to the Bureau of the Commission for approval; the Terms of Reference could include the following tasks:
  - (i) further reviewing and analyzing the accumulated experience of countries and various agencies;
  - (ii) developing a conceptual framework for education statistics which would build on what currently exists and which would suit the needs of developed and developing countries;

- (iii) reviewing coordination mechanism among relevant agencies and proposing new arrangements, if necessary, to avoid duplication of tasks and to reduce country response burden.
- (d) Welcomed the proposal by UIS to organize a working session of interested countries and organizations on education statistics as soon as possible in 2007 to provide input to the work plan of the Task Force;
- (e) Requested the Task Force to develop its work plan, begin its implementation and submit a progress report to the Commission in 2008.

The Statistical Commission:

**38/102.**

**Population and housing censuses (agenda item 3 (b))**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed and adopted the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2* and encouraged countries to begin their implementation.
- (b) Requested that the text of the revised guidelines be released in all official United Nations languages as soon as possible.
- (c) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division and other international agencies to increase their technical assistance to national statistical offices to strengthen national capacity for the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses.



(d) Recognized with appreciation the support being given to countries to implement the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

**38/103.**

**Disability measurement (agenda item 3 (c))**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report and noted its appreciation for the work carried out by the Washington Group;
- (b) Acknowledged the progress made towards the elaboration of a set of census questions on disability, based on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)
- (c) Endorsed the work plan for 2007 as set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the report, with particular reference to:
  - (i) Finalizing the analysis of the test data and short set of questions for use in the population census;
  - (ii) Addressing “upper body functioning” in the set of questions;
  - (iii) Providing a fully elaborated set of questions to be used in sample surveys;

- (d) Encouraged the Washington Group, as part of its follow up activities, to assist countries with their implementation of recommended questions for the measurement of disability through censuses and surveys.
- (e) Requested the Washington Group to collaborate with WHO (in the context of the application of the ICF) and with the Budapest Group (on the development of health status) to enhance coordination and avoid duplication of resources.

**38/104.**

**Information and communication technology statistics (agenda item 3 (d))**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Endorsed the core list of ICT indicators as contained in Annex II of document E/CN.3/2007/5.
- (b) Congratulated the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development and recognized the leadership of UNCTAD in initiating the Partnership which has become an example of successful cooperation of international organizations.
- (c) Encouraged countries to use this core list of indicators in their data collection programmes.
- (d) Recognized that Information and Communication Technology is a rapidly evolving area, and encouraged the Partnership to continue work to improve and update the list of indicators, especially in view of measuring use of ICT in education, in government, the

contribution of ICT to economic growth and social development, and barriers to use of ICT.

(e) Encouraged the Partnership to assist countries in their capacity building efforts for the collection of data for the ICT indicators.

**38/105.**

**Agricultural statistics (agenda item 3 (e))**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Took note with appreciation of the report and the recommendations presented by FAO.

(b) Commended the work of FAO on the FAOSTAT, CountrySTAT and RegionSTAT databases and encouraged FAO to further improve these databases, especially with respect to metadata, transparency of data sources and coordination with regional entities who already collect data in this field.

(c) Endorsed the efforts to explore ways in which the various national census activities, including Agricultural and Population censuses, can be coordinated to create greater synergy, efficiency and value added between those large statistical exercises.

(d) Supported the view that agricultural statistics needs to be further integrated with other statistical areas, in particular with economic and environment statistics, focusing thereby on outcomes.

- (e) Welcomed the FAO's efforts to keep National Statistical Offices informed and involved in the compilation of agricultural statistics;
- (f) Expressed appreciation for the technical assistance on agricultural statistics provided by FAO to countries, and encouraged FAO to continue to provide such assistance.
- (g) Endorsed the creation of a City Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income and welcomed the proposal of UK to host the first meeting in Wye.
- (h) Agreed with FAO's assessment of the consultation mechanism on agricultural statistics and the replacement of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Agricultural Statistics by FAO's International Advisory Group.

**38/106.****National accounts (agenda item 3 (f))**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Commended the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) for completing the recommendations of the 44 issues identified for the update in a transparent manner, involving the global statistical community in accordance with the agreed time table.
- (b) Adopted the package of ISWGNA recommendations on the update of the 1993 SNA presented by the ISWGNA to the Commission as set out in the background document *Full Set of Consolidated Recommendations* with additional considerations on five issues as set

out in the Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts in section III.C and III.D and its supplementary report.

(c) Emphasized the need to establish guidelines on when to recognize pension entitlements in the core set of accounts, the need for additional research on the estimation of research and development as capital formation, provide guidelines taking into consideration the impact of the treatment of goods for processing on input-output analysis and the recording of international trade and elaborate on the guidelines on the integrated measurement of the informal sector within the national accounts.

(d) Reiterated its request to the ISWGNA to submit a strategy for the implementation of the SNA to the Commission in 2008, based on regional consultations in 2007, reflecting user perspectives and taking into account the different levels of SNA implementation across countries.

(e) Took note that this update retains the framework of the 1993 SNA and therefore encourage countries to continue with the implementation of the 1993 SNA.

(f) Requested the ISWGNA to act on the concerns raised by the Commission to support countries in establishing a basic data collection strategy for the implementation of the SNA, the integration of the informal sector in the national accounts and the need for capacity building to implement the strategy and recommendations.

(g) Underlined the importance of preparing handbooks and manuals with implementation guidance and to enhance capacity building through training and technical assistance.

(h) Took note of the proposal by the ISWGNA to present the draft of the update of the 1993 SNA in two volumes to the Commission; in 2008 volume one, comprising a full set of chapters that represents the SNA framework in terms of accounting conventions, the

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accounts, and the integration of the accounts and incorporates the adopted recommendations on the 44 issues; and in 2009 volume two, comprising interpretations of the accounts and extensions such as satellite accounts.

- (i) Requested the ISWGNA to continue reporting to the Commission the progress on the implementation of the SNA by countries, focusing on scope, coverage and quality.
- (j) Supported the formation of a high-level group to examine long-term implications of SNA and possible future changes, taking into consideration rapid changes of the global economy; the need to balance users' needs, theory and the ability to collect primary data, the choice between imputed versus observable transactions, and the role of satellite accounts vis-à-vis the core accounts; requested the ISWGNA to establish this high-level group and ensure a broad country representation in it.

**38/107.**

**Environmental accounting (agenda item 3 (h))**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Commended the work of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) and stressed the importance of the work of the Committee in the elevation of the handbook *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting 2003*, commonly referred to as SEEA-2003, to the level of an international statistical standard based on an agreed issues list and taking into consideration consistency with the 1993 SNA Rev.1 and other revised macro-economic standards;

- (b) Adopted Part 1 of the *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water* (SEEAW) as an interim international statistical standard recognizing significant demand from the users' community and encouraged its implementation in countries;
- (c) Requested that the SEEAW be re-evaluated by the Commission at the time the revised SEEA is submitted to the Commission for adoption as international statistical standard;
- (d) Requested the UNSD to develop and submit to the next Statistical Commission an implementation strategy for SEEAW, taking into account the fact that countries are at different stages of development of environment statistics and environmental-economic accounting;
- (e) Called upon countries and international agencies to allocate sufficient resources to the revision of the SEEA-2003 in their work programme in view of the urgency of revising the SEEA-2003;
- (f) Requested the UNCEEA to develop and submit to the next Statistical Commission a Project Management Framework for the revision of SEEA 2003 and to report on progress;
- (g) Called upon the UNCEEA to continue, within its mandate, coordination with the city groups and other expert groups working in environmental-economic accounting and related statistics;
- (h) Encouraged UNSD and the UNCEEA to continue organizing user-producer conferences building on the success of the User-Producer Conference on Water Accounting for Integrated Water Resources Management;
- (i) Took note of the results of Phase I of the Global Assessment of Environment Statistics and Environmental-Economic Accounting, confirmed its application for

assessing the present and planned scope of implementation of SEEA in countries and welcomed Phase II of the Global Assessment in 2007, with a focus on specific subject areas identified by countries in Phase I.

### **38/108.**

#### **International economic and social classifications (agenda item 3 (i))**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Agreed with the implementation process for ISIC and CPC as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, especially regarding the development of user guides and correspondence tables and the provision of technical assistance to countries;
- (b) Requested that the timeline presented in paragraph 25 of the report be reviewed recognizing at the same time the need for flexibility and the wish of advancing the suggested implementation target dates;
- (c) Requested that correspondence tables between the revised classifications and previous versions be made available as soon as possible;
- (d) Encouraged countries to share experiences in the implementation of the revised classifications and noted the interest expressed by India and Japan in assisting other countries in the implementation process of the revised classifications and encouraged other countries to offer their assistance;
- (e) Agreed with the draft structure of ISCO presented in the background document as a suitable standard for internationally comparable statistics;



- (f) Noted the need for draft definitions of the proposed ISCO categories when the tripartite meeting considers the structure in late 2007, and the need for language versions of the classification as important prerequisites for successful implementation;
- (g) Took note of the next steps in the formal process to approve ISCO;
- (h) Requested the ILO to report back to the Commission in 2008.

### **38/109.**

#### **Management issues in national statistical offices: access to microdata (agenda item 3 (j))**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed with appreciation the report prepared by Australian Bureau of Statistics laying out principles and guidelines for managing statistical confidentiality and microdata access;
- (b) Approved the proposed set of principles and guidelines, underlining the extreme importance of ensuring confidentiality and maintaining public trust;
- (c) Recognized the need of NSOs to find a proper balance between the importance of access to microdata for statistical analysis and the protection of confidentiality, and further recognized the need for specific training in this respect;
- (d) Recognized that success in managing statistical confidentiality and microdata access depends on the size of a country's population, maturity of a country's statistical system, the existence of legal arrangements that protect privacy and provide rules governing

access to data, and whether this is culturally acceptable so as not to negatively affect cooperation in statistical data collection;

(e) Noting that a number of international agencies and other institutions are serving as data depositories:

- (i) emphasized that countries retain ownership of their submitted data and control over its access,
- (ii) underscored the need for greater transparency in policies governing the release of data by the depositories, and
- (iii) encouraged adequate consultation between countries and the depositories on granting access to data.

(f) Requested UNSD to collect and make available best practices relating to managing statistical confidentiality and microdata access, and to assist with capacity building on microdata access practices, as well as with strengthening NSO's institutionally to conduct some research in-house and where applicable in collaboration with the research community.

**38/110.**

**Development indicators (agenda item 3 (k))**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the work carried out by the IAEG as well as the improvements made with respect to the MDGs Indicators website and database, including their presentation and structure;
- (b) Recognized the need for continuous improvement in the statistics needed to track progress towards the MDGs;
- (c) Stressed the need to regionalize some of the global activities so that countries can share their experiences at the regional level;
- (d) Requested UNSD, regional commissions and other international agencies to assist countries in two main areas:
  - (i) enabling them to have the necessary data and methodologies to monitor achievements at the country level towards the MDGs; and
  - (ii) facilitating the development of a coordinated reporting mechanism so that a consolidated data set is provided to users and international agencies;
- (e) Reiterated the concern on the need to improve communication between countries and international agencies as well as within the national statistical systems on the compilation of indicators;
- (f) Encouraged international organizations to use national statistical data more extensively and to produce estimates only when national data are not available; Requested international agencies to ensure that consultation with countries has taken place prior to dissemination of international MDGs figures especially with respect to imputations of missing data.

**38/111. Statistical capacity-building (agenda item 3 (l))**

The Statistical Commission:

- (a) Welcomed the report and agreed with its recommendations on future steps;
- (b) Recognized that donor coordination is of importance and that the coordination should be further enhanced by making full use of existing mechanisms already in place to coordinate international assistance initiatives;
- (c) Requested CCSA and PARIS21 to examine whether a new mechanism is required to further enhance coordination to gain maximum effectiveness and advocacy for government funding of statistics;
- (d) Stressed that capacity building activities of international agencies at the country level should be demand-driven rather than supply-driven, and that any assistance provided to countries should have a long term perspective of building their capacity to produce necessary data in a sustainable way rather than an ad-hoc approach limited to finding short-term solutions;
- (e) Requested that all stakeholders particularly international organizations give due consideration to ECOSOC resolution 2006/6 on Strengthening Statistical Capacity.
- (f) Re-emphasized the urgency to assist countries in establishing a mechanism for coordination within the national statistical system, and requested UNSD to propose guidelines for improved coordination;

(g) Welcomed the broad recognition by the donor community at the Third Round Table on Managing for Development Results of the urgent need to increase financing for the development of statistics;

(h) Welcomed the ongoing initiatives of the United Nations Statistics Division, regional commissions and other international agencies to achieve greater coordination in operational activities at the country level.

### **38/112. International Comparison Programme (Item 3 (m))**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the considerable progress in the current round of the International Comparison Programme; commended the World Bank Global Office, the regional coordinators and other institutions involved for their joint efforts as they approach the completion of the 2005 round of global purchasing power parity comparisons based on improved methodology and data quality.

(b) Welcomed the high level cooperation of 144 countries and the respective regional coordinators participating in the project.

(c) Took note of the release dates September 2007 for price level data for household consumption data and December 2007 for the full GDP results.

(d) Urged the World Bank to derive maximum benefit from the global results by actively engaging users to increase their understanding of the results, thereby raising their

awareness of the richness of data produced by the project and promoting the variety of analytical and policy uses of ICP data.

(e) Took note of the concern that the next round should proceed reasonably quickly so that the investment in the current round would not be lost and that the ICP be aligned with the CPI data collection to the maximum extent possible.

(f) Agreed to the creation of a Friends of the Chair group to evaluate the current ICP programme with respect to its scope and activities, and to make a proposal on desirability of a new round of the ICP programme taking into consideration the lessons learnt from the evaluation and report back to the Commission in 2008.

(g) Encouraged the World Bank and its international partners to actively seek funding to be able to maintain a core capacity as developed during the current round of the ICP.

### **38/113.**

#### **Programme questions: United Nations Statistics Division (Item 5)**

The Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities of the United Nations Statistics Division (see Chapter. ..., paragraph.... )and approved the following changes to the 2006/7 work programme:

- (i) replacing the UNSD newsletter with multiple newsletters focusing on different substantive areas, providing more targeted information to colleagues throughout the world.
- (ii) deferring the Manual on Waste Statistics to the 2008-09 programme cycle.

**38/114. Multi-year programme of work of the Commission for 2007-2010 (Item 6)**

The Commission approved its multi-year programme of work for 2007-2010, contained in document E/CN.3/2007/29, as orally amended.

**38/115. Documents considered by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session**

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports which were before it at its 38<sup>th</sup> session:

Report of the Secretary-General on Integrated Economic Statistics  
(E/CN.3/2007/8).

Report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics (E/CN.3/2007/16)

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/17)

Report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2007/18)

Report of the Secretary-General on distributive trade statistics (E/CN.3/2007/19)

Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/20)

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics  
(E/CN.3/2007/21)

Report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on  
Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/22)

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/23)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee on the Coordination  
of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2007/24)

Report of the Steering Committee on the Partnership in Statistics for Development  
in the twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2007/25)

Report on an initiative to foster common open standards for the exchange and  
sharing of data and metadata (E/CN.3/2007/26)

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social  
Council that are relevant to the work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2007/27)



Note by the Secretariat containing the proposed programme of work of the  
Statistical Division for the biennium 2008-2009 (E/CN.3/2007/28)

## **Chapter II**

### **Items for discussion and decision**

#### **A. Programme review: education statistics**

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (a) at its 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings on 27 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Programme reviewer on education statistics (E/CN.3/2007/2).
2. At the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, on 27 February, the representative of Canada made an introductory statement.
3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, Cuba, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Japan, Ukraine and the United States, as well as by the observers for Australia, New Zealand and Norway. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.
4. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund. The observers for the European Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development also made statements

5. Also at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Chairman, as well as the Director of the Statistics Division and the representative of Canada, responded to points made and the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Programme review: education statistics**

6. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (a).

7. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Canada, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/101).

### **B. Population and housing censuses**

8. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (b) at its 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings, on 27 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2007/3).

9. At the 1st meeting, on 27 February, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, DESA and the representative of Canada made introductory statements.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, China, Ukraine, Hungary, the Republic of Korea, Jamaica and United Kingdom, as well as by the observers for Peru, Egypt, Suriname, Lebanon, the Niger, New Zealand, Morocco and Madagascar.

11. The representatives of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Population Fund and the Economic Commission for Africa also made statements, as well as the observer for the Commonwealth of Independent States.

12. The Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Population and housing censuses**

13. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (b).

14. At the same meeting, following statements by the representative of the United Kingdom and the observer for Suriname, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/102).

**C. Disability measurement**

15. The Commission considered agenda item 3(c) at its 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings, on 27 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it a Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/4).

16. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, on 27 February, the representative of the United States made an introductory statement.

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Japan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the observers for the Philippines, Italy, Australia, Ireland, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, the Niger, Botswana and India. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

18. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by the representative of the International Labour Organization.

19. Also at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Commission****Disability measurement**

20. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (c).

21. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/103).

#### **D. Information and communication technology (ICT) statistics**

22. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (d) at its 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings on 27 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development (E/CN.3/2007/5).

23. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, on 27 February, the representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made an introductory statement.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Finland, Cuba, Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Colombia and the Republic of Korea, as well as by the observers for the Egypt, the Dominican Republic, Morocco, Spain, Rwanda, Australia and India.

25. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia also made a statement.

26. Statements were also made by the observers for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics and the Latin American Integration Association.

27. The Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Information and communication technology (ICT) statistics**

28. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (d).

29. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Cuba and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/104).

### **E. Agricultural statistics**

30. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (e) at its 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings on 27 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (E/CN.3/2007/6).

31. At the 2nd meeting, on 27 February, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, made an introductory statement.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Netherlands, Japan, Finland, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, the United States, Mexico, Ukraine, Germany, Canada, China, Cuba and Mauritania, as well as by the observers for the Philippines, Rwanda, Australia, Turkey, Brazil, Morocco, Italy, Uganda, Mongolia, Malawi, India, Kazakhstan and Peru. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

33. At the same meeting, the observers for the European Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development made statements.

34. The Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

## **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Agricultural statistics**

35. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (e).

**36. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/105).**



## F. National accounts

37. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (f) at its 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings on 27 and 28 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2007/7).

38. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, on 27 February, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch and the representative of the International Monetary Fund made introductory statements.

39. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Canada.

40. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, on 28 February, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, South Africa, the Russian Federation, Cuba, Germany, China, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Jamaica and Mauritania and by the observers for Cameroon, Saint Lucia, the Philippines, Denmark, Norway, Iraq, Australia, Brazil, Ghana, Slovenia, India, Switzerland, Pakistan and New Zealand. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

41. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund as **well as by the observers**

for the European Central Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

42. The Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **National accounts**

43. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (f).

44. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Germany, the United States and Finland, as well as the observers for Morocco and Iraq, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/106).

#### **G. Integrated economic statistics**

45. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (g) at its 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings on 28 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on Integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2007/8).

46. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, on 28 February, the Chief of the Economics Statistics Branch, DESA, made an introductory statement.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Integrated economic statistics**

47. At its 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, on 28 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on Integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2007/8). (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

### **H. Environmental accounting**

48. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (h) at its 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings on 28 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2007/9).

49. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, on 28 February, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch, DESA, and the representative of Germany made introductory statements.

50. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the China, Finland, Canada, Cuba, the United Kingdom, Ukraine and the United States, as well as by the observers for Australia, Morocco, Italy, Norway and Côte d'Ivoire.

51. At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, statements were made by the representative of Germany as well as by the observer for Niger. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

52. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Commission.

53. At the same meeting, the representative of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Environmental accounting**

54. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (h).

55. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/107).

## **I. International economic and social classifications**

56. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (i) at its 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings on 28 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2007/10) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Office (E/CN.3/2007/11).

57. At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 28 February, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch, DESA, who introduced document E/CN.3/2007/10.

58. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Hungary, the Republic of Korea and Cuba, as well as by the observers for New Zealand and India.

59. The observer for the European Commission also made a statement.

60. The Director of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

61. At the same meeting, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the representative of the International Labour Organization, who introduced document E/CN.3/2007/11.

62. A statement was made by the observer for Australia.

63. The Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

## **Action taken by the Commission**

### **International economic and social classifications**

64. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (i).

65. At the same meeting, following a statement by the observer for Australia, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 37/108).

### **J. Management issues in national statistical offices: access to microdata**

66. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (j) at its 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings, on 28 February and 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/12).

67. At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 28 February, the observer for Australia made an introductory statement.

68. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Cuba, Colombia, Japan, the United Kingdom, Mauritania and the United States, as well as by the observers for Suriname, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, Ecuador, Chile, India, Uganda, Barbados, Costa Rica, Cameroon and Egypt. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

69. Also at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe as well as by the observer for the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries.

70. The Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Management issues in national statistical offices: access to microdata**

71. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (j).

72. At the same meeting, following statements by the observers for Suriname and New Zealand, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/109).

## **K. Development indicators**

73. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (k) at its 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings, on 28 February and 1 and 2 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2008/13).

74. At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 28 February, the Chief of the Statistical Planning and Development Section, DESA made an introductory statement.

75. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Ukraine and Germany, and by the observer for Pakistan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

76. At the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as by the observers for the Philippines, the Niger, Brazil, Egypt, Cameroon and Italy.

77. At the same meeting, the Chairman also made a statement.

78. The Director of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.



## **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Development indicators**

79. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (k).

80. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Canada and Cuba, and the observers for the Niger and Brazil, as well as the representative of the Economic Commission for Europe, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/110).

### **L. Statistical capacity-building**

81. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (l) at its 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening national capacity in statistics (E/CN.3/2007/14).

82. At the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the Chief of the Statistical Planning and Development Section, DESA made an introductory statement.

83. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, the United Kingdom, Mauritania and the Russian

Federation, and by the observers for Cameroon, Morocco, Suriname, Thailand, Australia, Uganda, Sweden, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe, Guyana, Senegal, Nepal, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sri Lanka and Jordan.

84. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as well as by the observers for the European Commission, the Asian Development Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Economic Community of West African States, and the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne.

85. The Director of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Statistical capacity-building**

86. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (l).

87. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of the United States and Cuba and the observer for Suriname, as well as the representative of the Economic Commission for Europe, the International Labour Organization and the observer for the Economic Community for Western African States, the Commission adopted the decision

contained in the Rapporteur's paper, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/111).

## **M. International Comparison Programme**

88. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (m) at its 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings, on 28 February and 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2007/15).

89. At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the representative of the World Bank made an introductory statement.

90. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and Canada, and by the observers for Australia, India, the Niger, Mongolia and Ghana.

91. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

92. The Director of the Statistics Division summarized the discussion.

## **Action taken by the Commission**

## **International Comparison Programme**

93. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing **a decision for action by the Commission under agenda item 3 (m).**

94. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of the United States, Cuba and Canada and the observers for Suriname and India, as well as the representatives of the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, the Commission adopted the decision contained in the Rapporteur's paper, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/112).

## **Chapter III**

### **Items for information**

#### **A. Migration statistics**

95. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (a) at its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on 27 February 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics (E/CN.3/2006/16).

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Migration Statistics**

96. At its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, on 27 February 2007, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics (E/CN.3/2006/16). (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

## **B. Health statistics**

97. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (b) at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on 1 March 2007. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/17).

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Health statistics**

98. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/17) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

## **C. Industrial statistics**

99. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (c) at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the Report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2007/18).

100. At the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, a statement was made by the representative of Japan.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Industrial statistics**

101. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the Report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2007/18) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

### **D. Distributive-trade statistics**

102. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (d) at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on distributive trade statistics (E/CN.3/2007/19).

### **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Distributive-trade statistics**

103. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on distributive trade statistics (E/CN.3/2007/19). (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

**E. Energy statistics**

104. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (e) at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/20) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/21).

**Action taken by the Commission****Energy statistics**

105. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/20) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/21). (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

**F. Finance statistics**

106. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (f) at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/22).

## **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Finance statistics**

107. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/22). (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

### **G. Price statistics**

108. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (g) at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/23).

109. At the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, statements were made by the observers for Saint Lucia and Suriname.

## **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Price statistics**



110. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2007/23). (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

## **H. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes**

111. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (h) at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2007/24\*) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Steering Committee on the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2007/25).

112. At the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, statements were made by the representative of France as well as by the observer for the Niger.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Coordination and integration of statistical programmes**

113. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2007/24\*) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the

Steering Committee on the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the twenty-first Century (E/CN.3/2007/25).. (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

#### **I. Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata**

114. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (i) at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on an initiative to foster common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata (E/CN.3/2007/26).

#### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata**

115. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on an initiative to foster common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata (E/CN.3/2007/26). (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

#### **J. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions**

116. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (j) at its 5th meeting, on 1 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2007/27).

### **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions**

117. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 1 March, the Commission took note of note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Commission (E/CN.3/2007/27). (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).

## **Chapter IV**

### **Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)**

118. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 March 2007. It had before it the note by the Secretariat containing the proposed programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2008-2009 (E/CN.3/2007/28).

119. At the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made an oral report on the current activities, plans and priorities of the United Nations Statistics Division.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)**

120. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the oral report made by the Director of the Statistics Division (see para.\_\_\_\_, above) and approved the revisions made by the Director of the Statistics Division to the programme of work of the Statistics Division for 2007. (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/113). The Commission also took note of the note by the Secretariat containing the draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2008-2009 (E/CN.3/2007/28) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/115).-

## **Chapter V**

### **Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission**

121. The Commission considered agenda item 6 at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting on 2 March 2007. It had before it the provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2007/L.3) and a note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission for the period 2007-2010 (E/CN.3/2006/29), which were introduced and orally revised by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch, DESA.

122. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany and Canada and the observer for Switzerland, to which the Director of the Statistics Division responded.

### **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission**

123. At the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 March, the Commission approved its provisional agenda, as orally amended, and entrusted the Bureau to streamline and finalize it, and recommended it, as orally amended, to the Economic and Social Council for adoption. (see chap. I, sect. A).

124. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its thirty-ninth session should be held from 26 to 29 February 2008 (see chap. I, sect. A).

### **Action taken by the Commission**

#### **Draft multi-year programme of work for the Commission for 2007-2010**

125. At the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 2 March, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2007-2010 (contained in document E/CN.3/2007/29), as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 38/114).

## Chapter VI

### Report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session

126. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 6th meeting on 2 March 2007.

127. At the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session (E/CN.3/2007/L.3), together with an informal text of decisions.

128. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, the United Kingdom, Cuba, Germany, the United States and Finland and by the observers for Suriname, Morocco, Iraq, Australia, New Zealand, the Niger, Brazil and India.

129. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, as well as by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Economic Commission for Europe. The observer for the Economic Community of West African States also made a statement.

130. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division responded to points raised.

## **Action taken by the Commission**

### **Report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session**

131. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report as contained in E/CN.3/2007/L.3 and the text of decisions, as orally amended, and entrusted the Rapporteur with finalizing it.



E/CN.3/2007/L.3

## Chapter VII

### Organization of the session

#### A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its thirty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 27 February to 2 March 2007. The Commission held 6 meetings (1st to 6th).
2. At the 1st meeting, the Chairman made an opening statement in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Commission. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of Finland, China, South Africa, Hungary, Jamaica, Germany and Canada.

#### B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of 24 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2007/INF/1.

#### C. Election of officers

4. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February 2007, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

*Chairperson:* Gilberto Calvillo Vives (Mexico)

*Vice-Chairpersons:* Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland)  
Pali Lehohla (South Africa)  
Xie Fuzhan (China)

*Rapporteur:* Peter Pukli (Hungary)

#### D. Agenda and organization of work

5. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2007/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:

- 
- (a) Programme review: education statistics;
  - (b) Population and housing censuses;
  - (c) Disability measurement;
  - (d) Information and communication technology (ICT) statistics;
  - (e) Agricultural statistics;
  - (f) National accounts;
  - (g) Integrated economic statistics;
  - (h) Environmental accounting;
  - (i) International economic and social classifications;
  - (j) Management issues in national statistical offices: access to microdata;
  - (k) Development indicators;
  - (l) Statistical capacity-building;
  - (m) International Comparison Programme.
4. Items for information:
- (a) Migration statistics;
  - (b) Health statistics;
  - (c) Industrial statistics;
  - (d) Distributive-trade statistics;
  - (e) Energy statistics;
  - (f) Finance statistics;
  - (g) Price statistics;
  - (h) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;
  - (i) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;
  - (j) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions.
5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).
6. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission.
7. Report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session.
6. Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.3/2007/L.1), as orally amended.
7. At the same meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at the thirty-eighth session: Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, European Central Bank, Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries.

**E. Documentation**

8. The documents before the Commission at its thirty-eighth session are listed in the annex to the present report.

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**Annex****List of documents before the Commission at its thirty-eighth session**

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
E/CN.3/2007/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.3/2007/2	3 (a)	Report of the programme reviewer on education statistics
E/CN.3/2007/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses
E/CN.3/2007/4	3 (c)	Report of the Washington Group on disability measurement
E/CN.3/2007/5	3 (d)	Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development
E/CN.3/2007/6	3 (e)	Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on agricultural statistics
E/CN.3/2007/7	3 (f)	Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on national accounts
E/CN.3/2007/8	3 (g)	Report of the Secretary-General on integrated economic statistics
E/CN.3/2007/9	3 (h)	Report of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting
E/CN.3/2007/10	3 (i)	Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications
E/CN.3/2007/11	3 (i)	Report of the International Labour Office on international economic and social classifications
E/CN.3/2007/12	3 (j)	Report of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on measurement issues in national statistical offices: access to microdata
E/CN.3/2007/13	3 (k)	Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators
E/CN.3/2007/14	3 (l)	Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building
E/CN.3/2007/15	3 (m)	Report of the World Bank on the International Comparison

<i>Document symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
		Programme
E/CN.3/2007/16	4 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on migration statistics
E/CN.3/2007/17	4 (b)	Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on health statistics
E/CN.3/2007/18	4 (c)	Report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics
E/CN.3/2007/19	4 (d)	Report of the Secretary-General on distributive trade statistics
E/CN.3/2007/20	4 (e)	Report of the Oslo Group on energy statistics
E/CN.3/2007/21	4 (e)	Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on energy statistics
E/CN.3/2007/22	4 (f)	Report of the International Monetary Fund on finance statistics
E/CN.3/2007/23	4 (g)	Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on price statistics
E/CN.3/2007/24	4 (h)	Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
E/CN.3/2007/25	4 (h)	Report of the Steering Committee on the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21)
E/CN.3/2007/26	4 (i)	Report of the Task force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange
E/CN.3/2007/27	4 (j)	Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions
E/CN.3/2007/28	5	Note by the Secretariat containing the proposed programme of work of the Division for the biennium 2008-2009
E/CN.3/2007/29	6	Note by the Secretary-General containing the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission
E/CN.3/2007/L.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the Organization of the work of the session
E/CN.3/2007/L.2	6	Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission
E/CN.3/2007/L.3	7	Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session