



**United Nations**  
**Statistical Commission**

**Report on the thirty-ninth session**  
**(26 to 29 February 2008)**

**Economic and Social Council**

**Official Records 2008**  
**Supplement No. 4**



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## 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 [Ref. /CN.3/2008/L.2]**

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-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission**

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-ninth session;
- (b) Decides that the fortieth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 24 to 27 February 2009;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fortieth session of the Commission as set out below:

#### **Provisional agenda for the fortieth 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: climate change and official statistics.

##### **Documentation**

Report of the programme reviewer

4. Demographic and social statistics:
  - (a) Population and housing censuses;

##### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary -General

- (b) Human settlements statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

- (c) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation;

**Documentation**

Report of the Paris Group

- (d) Health statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics

- (e) Social statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary -General

- (f) Education statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- (g) Statistics on drugs and drug use;

**Documentation**

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

- (h) Washington Group on Disability Measurement;

**Documentation**

Report of the Washington Group

- (i) Migration statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary -General

- (j) Employment statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

- (k) Gender statistics.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Gender Statistics Programme

Report of the Friends of the Chair on the review of indicators on violence against women

- (l) Culture statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- 5. Economic statistics:

- (a) National accounts;

**Documentation**

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

- (b) Agricultural statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General

- (c) Business registers;

**Documentation**

Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

- (d) Energy statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

- (e) Statistics of services;

**Documentation**

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Services Statistics

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

- (f) Information and communication technologies statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development

- (g) International Comparison Programme;

**Documentation**

Report of the World Bank

- (h) Price statistics.

**Documentation**

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

- 6. Natural Resources and Environment Statistics;
  - (a) Environmental Accounting;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary -General

- 7. Activities not classified by field:
  - (a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

**Documentation**

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

- (b) Management issues in national statistical offices;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary -General

- (c) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary -General

- (d) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

**Documentation**

Report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange

- (e) Coordination of ongoing methodological work;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary -General

- (f) Statistical capacity-building;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary -General



Report of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21)

- (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) Working methods of the Statistical Commission;

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General

- (j) Regional statistical development.

**Documentation**

Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-first 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 fortieth 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 Council:

### **39/101**

#### **Programme review: employment statistics**

The Commission:

(a) Commended the high-quality programme review report prepared by the United Kingdom, took note of the recommendations therein and welcomed the constructive response and commitments made by the ILO;

(b) Emphasized the need for better coordination to improve the quality and coherence of labour statistics at the national and global levels, which should be done in consultation with the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical activities;

(c) Reiterated the importance of methodological developments including the harmonization of conceptual frameworks, related definitions and possible assessment and updating of the labour accounting framework; emphasized that this work is to be driven by the existing expert and working groups; a broad country representation including from developing countries should be ensured;

(d) Considered that full implementation of the recommendations of the programme review could overburden the ILO given existing resources, emphasized the need for prioritization of those recommendations and requested the development of a road map for their implementation;

(e) Asked the donor community to support international technical assistance to enhance the capability of developing countries to produce high quality labour statistics, and noted that technical assistance should be coordinated and implemented within existing technical cooperation programmes;

(f) Welcomed the work done by the ILO Conference of the Labour Statisticians and suggested that it might wish to review its methods of operation, in particular frequency and duration of its sessions; urged the member states to attend the forthcoming conference;

(g) Requested the ILO to report back to the fortieth session of the Statistical Commission on the outcomes of the Conference and other actions taken in the implementation of the recommendations of the review report, including the road map.

### **39/102**

#### **Education statistics**

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics on the progress of the work of the Task Force on Education Statistics;

(b) Took note of the proposed method of work in producing the final report of the Task Force;

(c) Recognizing the importance of ownership by Member States, reinforced the importance of the Task Force as a forum for discussion to elaborate on a general framework for international education statistics and to provide recommendations on mechanisms for improved coordination amongst international agencies mandated to work in education statistics;

(d) Requested that the Task Force broaden its regional representation in terms of National Statistical Offices, to reflect better the diverse realities in different parts of the world;

(e) Requested that UNESCO Institute for Statistics, on behalf of the Task Force, report back to the Commission at its next session.

### **39/103**

#### **International Comparison Programme**

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the successful completion of the 2005 round of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), covering 146 countries, as a major achievement and took note of the release schedule of the results;

(b) Expressed appreciation to the World Bank, the ICP Global Office, the Executive Board, Technical Advisory Group, the regional coordinators, participating countries and various ICP partners providing technical and funding support to bring the 2005 round to conclusion;

(c) Took note of the comprehensive report of the Friends of the Chair on the evaluation of the 2005 round and supported its conclusions and recommendations:

(i) Strongly endorsed the continuation of the ICP programme with a target year 2011 for the next round to keep the momentum from the accumulated experience and enhanced capacity at the country level, and to link the programme better with the OECD/Eurostat programme;

(ii) Supported the ambition to cover the full GDP in the comparison to contribute to national accounts development in the countries;

(iii) Requested the World Bank to continue hosting the ICP Global Office and acknowledged the outstanding role the World Bank has played in this complex undertaking;

(iv) Encouraged regional coordinating offices to maintain their ICP coordination role for the next round;

(d) Endorsed the establishment of an interim Executive Board composed from members of the current Executive Board and the Convenor of the Friends of the Chair group as well as interested members of the Friends of the Chair group. A subcommittee of this Interim Board, with a Terms of Reference endorsed by the Commission's Bureau, should handle operational matters critical for the start of the next round, including the hiring of the next Global Manager, fundraising strategy, organizing feedback from users, addressing the lessons learned from the 2005 round as well as taking up pilot studies to carry out methodological studies;

(e) Looked forward to the discussion at its fortieth session of the full modalities for the implementation of the next round and requested the World Bank to prepare a strategic paper including:

(i) a plan to extend ICP coverage to more countries, in particular Pacific, Caribbean, and Central American countries;

(ii) clarification of data access and data sharing policies;

(iii) proposals to engage key stakeholders and senior user communities of participating countries to generate support and ensure higher priority for participation in the ICP;

(iv) proposals to build sustained technical cooperation programmes not only in price statistics but also in national accounts, in order to prepare the implementation of the programme;

- (v) proposals on how to integrate the ICP into national statistical programmes;
- (vi) an outline of a plan to work with key national and international users of the ICP, both current as well as potential future users, to encourage the use of the results;

Took note of the concern that 2011 as proposed benchmark year for the next round may present difficulty in several countries as it overlaps with conducting population censuses, therefore, requested the ICP organizers to consider a suitable strategy to deal with this matter;

Encouraged the partners in the programme to continue their capacity building efforts in developing countries, to increase the quality of the data available for the next round.

### **39/104**

#### **National accounts**

The Commission:

(a) Expressed the appreciation of the members of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts – the Statistical Office of the European Communities, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations and the World Bank,– and members of the Advisory Expert Group on national accounts for their dedicated hard work leading to the submission of Volume 1 of the updated System of National Accounts and recognized the significant contributions by Ms. Carol Carson, the Project Manager and Ms. Anne Harrison, the Editor of the SNA Update;

(b) Adopted, in principle, Volume 1 of the updated System of National Accounts as the international standard for national accounts statistics and encourages Member States, regional and international organizations to implement the standard and support all aspects of the implementation of the updated SNA, including the national and international reporting of national accounts statistics based on the updated System of National Accounts;

(c) Recognized that the time to evaluate Volume 1 of the updated System of National Accounts as a whole was insufficient and endorsed the ISWGNA proposal to introduce an additional two-month period, until the end of April 2008, for completing its review. This review period will allow all stakeholders to examine the conceptual coherence and consistency of the System with the recommendations on the 44 issues adopted by the Commission at its thirty-eight session in 2007 and the clarifications and consistency issues that flowed from these. During this two-month review period, countries and international organizations are invited to bring to the attention of the ISWGNA their observations but not pure drafting changes or revisions to the agreed recommendations;

(d) Mandated the ISWGNA to proceed with the finalization and publication of Volume 1, after approval by the Bureau of the Commission, in pre-edit electronic and paper versions, taking into account the substantive observations made during the two-month review period;

(e) Recognized that the official editing of Volume 1 will be undertaken as a priority and notes the plan for the subsequent publication in the official languages of the United Nations;

(f) Requested the ISWGNA to take appropriate measures to ensure that Volume 2 of the updated System of National Accounts is duly completed and presented for adoption to the fortieth session of the Commission in accordance with its commitment to the thirty-eighth session of the Commission;

(g) Urged the ISWGNA to present a strategy for implementation of the updated System of National Accounts in the context of development cooperation to the fortieth session of the Commission. The strategy should take account of the inputs from the 6-8 May 2008 Conference on

*“International Outreach and Coordination in National Accounts for Sustainable Growth and Development”*, jointly organized by the United Nations Statistics Division/Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Statistical Office of the European Communities, and other inter-governmental and regional meetings elaborating on action plans for the implementation;

(h) Recognized that the detailed strategy should reflect the need for regional and sub-regional coordination, given the different levels of statistical development, and elaborate on the advocacy strategy to engage users, especially those engaged in policy formulation and analysis;

(i) Welcomed the ISWGNA proposal to convene a meeting in 2008 for interested countries and other stakeholders to work out the modalities of the creation of a high-level group on national accounts and report the outcome of the meeting to the fortieth session of the Commission;

(j) Requested the ISWGNA to seek the opinion of Member States, during the two - month review period of Volume 1, on the title of the updated System of National Accounts based on a balanced consideration of the preferences for the title and inform the Bureau of the Commission of its assessment. The Bureau will seek concurrence of the Commission members with its decision.

### **39/105**

#### **Integrated economic statistics**

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed with appreciation the high quality and comprehensiveness of the report and congratulated the moderator and members of the Friends of the Chair group for producing this original and excellent report;

(b) Agreed with the findings and the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair as presented in the report;

(c) Affirmed the role of the System of National Accounts as the integrating framework in economic statistics and recognized the importance of increasing the coherence of basic economic statistics for enhancing the quality and analytical value of both basic economic statistics and macroeconomic statistics;

(d) Agreed with the need to collect and disseminate case studies and develop other practical knowledge material to share experience and guide countries in the process of implementing an integrated approach in their national statistical systems and that there might be a need to develop a framework for establishing such guidelines;

(e) Recommended that guidance on practical aspects of integration should focus, in particular, on the need for cooperation with users and data suppliers; development of central business registers and use of administrative data; conceptual harmonization of data content across surveys, strong and centralized coordination of survey operations within the national statistical institution; the need to have within a national statistical institution an entity that is specialized in preparing administrative data to be matched to survey data; a sampling strategy that takes into account the burden of the reporting entities;

(f) Underscored that such guidelines should be tied to economic theory and highlight the differences between a centralized and decentralized statistical system;

(g) Took note of the difficulties faced by developing countries in collecting basic economic statistics, the cost of setting up and maintaining a central business register, building an administrative infrastructure of data collection, maintaining databases, obtaining data from respondents not captured in business surveys, and suggested that such issues be given due

consideration in providing guidance with a view to furthering the integration of economic statistics;

(h) Acknowledged that the merits of developing an integrated system of statistics deserve consideration beyond economic statistics;

(i) Suggested that the follow-up should be led by a new Friends of the Chair group and requested interested countries to join in the collaborative effort as well as express interest for undertaking the role of the moderator of the group.

### **39/106**

#### **Tourism statistics**

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the joint report by the Secretary-General and the World Tourism Organization and commended the United Nations Statistics Division and World Tourism Organization on the successful completion of the revision process;

(b) Adopted the *International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics 2008* (IRTS 2008) and requested that the final text of the recommendations be edited to reflect suggestions by the Commission;

(c) Requested UNWTO and UNSD to develop an implementation programme including preparation of a compilation guide and organization of training workshops in collaboration with supranational and regional organizations;

(d) Took note of the updated version of *Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008*;

(e) Requested that *International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics 2008* and *Tourism Satellite Account: Recommended Methodological Framework 2008* are made available in all official UN languages as soon as possible.

### **39/107**

#### **Distributive trade statistics**

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on Distributive Trade Statistics and the background document entitled *International Recommendation for Distributive Trade Statistics 2008* (IRDTS 2008);

(b) Adopted *International Recommendation for Distributive Trade Statistics 2008* as contained in the background document;

(c) Agreed to the implementation programme of *International Recommendations for Distributive Trade Statistics 2008* as outlined in the report including a conduct of regional training workshops, collection of national practices on distributive trade statistics and preparation of *Distributive Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual* and *Indices of Distributive Trade: A Handbook of Good Practices*; requested that implementational concerns expressed by the Commission members are taken into account.

### **39/108**

#### **Industrial statistics**

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on Industrial Statistics and the background document entitled “International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 2008”;

(b) Adopted Part I of the document on International Recommendation for Industrial Statistics 2008, containing the recommendations for statistical units, characteristics of statistical units, data items and their definitions and the data items for international reporting as the international recommendations for industrial statistics;

(c) Endorsed Part II of the document, containing guidance on performance indicators, data sources and data compilation methods, data collection strategy, data quality and metadata, and dissemination of industrial statistics, as supplementary guidance for the implementation of the international recommendations;

(d) Agreed to the proposal for implementation of the International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 2008 through regional capacity-building workshops in cooperation with UNIDO and the development of a knowledge-base platform on basic economic statistics;

(e) Took note of the proposed future work of the UNSD on industrial statistics, including the completion of the revision of the Manual on Index Numbers of Industrial Production;

(f) Requested that implementational concerns expressed by Commission members are taken into account.

### **39/109**

#### **International merchandise trade statistics**

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report by the Secretary-General on International Merchandise Trade Statistics and endorsed the United Nations Statistics Division initiative and strategy to revise the existing recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics; requested that the draft revised recommendations be submitted to the Commission for adoption at its forty-first session in 2010;

(b) Took note of the terms of reference for the Expert Group on international merchandise trade statistics;

(c) Requested that the revised recommendations provide an updated conceptual framework as well as guidance on data compilation and dissemination in the context of an integrated approach to economic statistics;

(d) Requested that the revised recommendations are harmonized to the extent possible with the updated recommendations for statistics of international trade in services, the system of national accounts and the balance of payments statistics;

(e) Requested that in revising the recommendations a due consideration be given to the concern of minimizing the cost of data collection and compilation;

(f) Took note of the commitment expressed by the Statistical Office of the European Community, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the World Customs Organization to actively participate in the revision process.

### **39/110**

#### **Statistics of human development**

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme and expressed its appreciation for the steps being taken to enhance data quality assurance;

(b) Underscored the importance of the Human Development Report at national and international levels as a source of information on development issues;

(c) Welcomed actions taken to ensure the quality of data and indicators published in the Human Development Report, in particular, creation of a Statistical Advisory Panel; institution of a statistical Peer Review Process and embarking on regular consultations with member states;

(d) Emphasized the need for Human Development Report Office to further improve transparency in the process of preparing the Human Development Report; in particular, the Commission urged the Office to:

(i) intensify consultations with countries on the statistics used in the calculation of the Human Development index;

(ii) make additional efforts, in accordance to with ECOSOC Resolution 2006/6, to use country data instead of international estimates whenever and wherever those data are available;

(iii) conduct pre-publication quality checks on data and indicators with National Statistical Offices;

(iv) in case of missing data, the use of international estimates in the preparation of the Human Development Report should be handled with care in full consultation with countries and in a transparent manner;

(e) Took note of the initiative by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) to compile information on regional training institutions that would help to assess statistical training needs and capacities across regions;

(f) Invited the United Nations Statistics Division and World Bank, in consultation with the CCSA, to explore the feasibility of developing an electronic platform that could house information on demand for training, potential training providers and funding options including description of donor funding objectives and policies.

### **39/111**

#### **Collection and dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division**

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report containing an update on UNSD's current practices with respect to the data collection and data dissemination activities;

(b) Encouraged UNSD to continue with initiatives to reduce the reporting burden on countries, e.g. through joint data collection agreements;

(c) Reconfirmed the Division's mandate to act as a facilitator to address country concerns with respect to duplicate data requests by international organizations;



(d) Welcomed initiatives to further facilitate and harmonize data exchange, and encouraged CCSA to continue its work on developing appropriate tools.

(e) Encouraged UNSD to make data available free of charge, so as to facilitate its dissemination and use.

(f) Encouraged UNSD to continue its initiative to facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries with respect to dissemination policies and practices.

(g) Congratulated UNSD for the development of the data portal UNdata, urging UNSD at the same time to speed up its implementation, in order to develop its full potential by bringing together sectoral global, regional and national databases.

### **39/112**

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

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) initiative and recognized with appreciation the sponsors' leadership in heading an important initiative for more efficient data communication at national and international levels;

(b) Recognized and supported SDMX as the preferred standard for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata, requested that the sponsors continue their work on this initiative and encouraged further SDMX implementations by national and international statistical organizations;

(c) Emphasized the need to further involve national and international agencies in the SDMX initiative by enabling opportunities for collaboration with the sponsoring organisations in order to influence decision-making and its governance to address their needs, especially in the area of developing cross-domain concepts. This should complement the activity already taking place with the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and its wide range of international institutions;

(d) Underlined the importance of capacity-building and outreach by organizing seminars, workshops, preparing handbooks, manuals and implementation guidance through training and technical assistance;

(e) Welcomed the availability of the improved SDMX website as the centrepoint of information about SDMX standards, cross-domain guidelines, activities in domains, implementations, tools and events, which also included opportunities to submit comments and information to be shared about national and international SDMX developments;

(f) Requested the SDMX sponsors to continue their work in fostering the development of freely available tools and software to benefit statistical systems in interchanges of data and metadata;

(g) Took note of the list of applications and projects at national and international level that are making use of SDMX as a standard.

### **39/113**

#### **Regional statistical development in Africa**

The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report and expressed satisfaction with the re-establishment of a focal point on statistics activities at the ECA with the establishment of the African Centre for Statistics.;

(b) Endorsed the proposed recommendations aimed at addressing the challenges facing African national statistical systems as outlined in paragraph 25 of the report;

(c) Congratulated the African region for holding the first Statistical Commission for Africa and recognised that the Commission represents the apex entity of statistical system on the continent;

(d) Noted that problems and solutions thereof, as well as the creation of various institutions for statistical coordination in Africa have relevant lessons for other regions of the world;

(e) Called upon African countries to intensify efforts to develop their national capacities to produce timely and reliable statistics in support of their development effort;

(f) Noted with appreciation the provision of the technical and financial support for statistical capacity building in the African region by various agencies and development partners and urged international agencies and the donor community to strengthen their support to statistical development in Africa.

### **39/114**

#### **Development indicators**

The Commission:

(a) Considered the report by the Secretary-General on the indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals and commended the efforts by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG Indicators in implementing some of the recommendations contained in the ECOSOC resolution 2006/6 and in including an increasing number of member states in its deliberations;

(b) Took note of paragraph 19 of the report on the deliberations of the IAEG and the recommendations on the way forward;

(c) Took note of the serious concerns expressed by several member states about the quality of the measurement of indicators and requested submission of an updated report to the next Commission session.

(d) Reaffirmed the ECOSOC resolution on Statistical Capacity Building 2006/6 and reiterated the great importance it attaches to its full implementation;

(e) Asked the IAEG to give greater consideration to the need for improving the capacity of countries to produce the indicators;

(f) Asked the IAEG to develop recommendations on ways to improve statistical capacity building in countries, to be put forward at the fortieth session of the Statistical Commission;

(g) Asked the IAEG and all bodies involved to increase efforts to further improve the indicators of all MDGs through methodological and technical refinements;

(h) Welcomed the assessment of data availability on MDG indicators, as presented yearly in the report and requested the IAEG to report back on in-depth analysis of data availability and, to the extent possible, on data discrepancies between national and international data sets on MDG indicators, at its fortieth session;

(i) Recognized the urgency of assisting countries in monitoring all internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs and called on all partners, including the regional commissions, the UN and all international agencies, to assist countries in their statistical development in full respect of countries' demand and priorities, and to facilitate the increase in financial support.

### **39/115**

#### **Health Statistics**

The Commission took note of the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics as well as the report of the December 2007 meeting of the ISWG on Health Statistics presented as a background document, and expressed its support for the ongoing work to improve coordination of health statistics and the proposed development of a framework.

### **39/116**

#### **Programme questions: United Nations Statistics Division**

The Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division; in particular the Commission

- (i) took note of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2010-2011 circulated in an informal background paper;
- (ii) in compliance with the General Assembly resolution 62/133, approved the formation of a Friends of the Chair group to conduct an in-depth technical review of proposed indicators to measure violence against women and requested the group to report back to the fortieth session of the Commission.
- (iii) noted the Division's intention to take the work on social statistics further and insisted that any proposal to the next session of the Commission to form a city group in this field should be supported by specific terms of reference.

### **39/117**

#### **Documents considered by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session**

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports which were before it at its thirty-ninth session:

Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses;<sup>1</sup>

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames;<sup>2</sup>

Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics;<sup>3</sup>

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services;<sup>4</sup>

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes;<sup>5</sup>

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/16.

<sup>2</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/17.

<sup>3</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/18.

<sup>4</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/19.

<sup>5</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/20.

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics;<sup>7</sup>

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income;<sup>8</sup>

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics;<sup>9</sup>

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting;<sup>10</sup>

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities<sup>11</sup> and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21);<sup>12</sup>

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization on updating the International Standard Classification of Occupations and plans to implement the updated classification;<sup>13</sup>

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission;<sup>14</sup>

Note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of principles governing international statistical activities, information note by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities;<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/21.

<sup>7</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/22.

<sup>8</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/23.

<sup>9</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/24.

<sup>10</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/25.

<sup>11</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/26.

<sup>12</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/27.

<sup>13</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/28.

<sup>14</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/30.

<sup>15</sup> See E/CN.3/2008/31.

## **Chapter II**

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

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

The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st and 7th meetings on 26 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary -General transmitting the report of the Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on employment statistics (E/CN.3/2008/2).

At the 1st meeting, on 26 February, the representative of the United Kingdom made an introductory statement.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, the Netherlands, Japan and Canada, as well as by the observers for Ghana, Australia, New Zealand, Suriname, Spain, Cuba, Cameroon, Jordan, Morocco and India. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the observers for the European Community and OECD. The representatives of the ILO and ECLAC also made statements.

At the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (a) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/101).

#### **B. Education statistics**

The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 1st and 7th meetings, on 26 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary -General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Education Statistics (E/CN.3/2008/3).

At the 1st meeting, on 26 February, the representative of UNESCO made an introductory statement. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada and Japan, as well as by the observers for Australia and Cuba. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

At the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (b) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Canada, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/102).

### **C. International Comparison Programme**

The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 26 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary -General transmitting the report of the Global Office of the International Comparison Programme at the World Bank (E/CN.3/2008/33) and the note by the Secretary -General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the review of the ICP (E/CN.3/2008/4).

At the 2nd meeting, on 26 February, the representatives of the World Bank and Norway made introductory statements.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Finland, China, Japan, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States, France, the Russian Federation, Lebanon, Hungary and Belarus, as well as by the observers for India, Cameroon, Slovenia, Suriname, Uganda, Niger, Mongolia, Gabon, Ghana, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Senegal, Australia, Bahamas and Cuba.

Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the observers for the OECD, the European Community, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank and by the representatives of IMF and the ESCWA.

At the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (c) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of France, Canada and South Africa and the observers for Suriname, India, Palestine, Niger and the Bahamas, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/103).

### **D. National accounts**

The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3rd and 7th meetings on 26, 27 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary -General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2008/5).

At the 2nd meeting, on 26 February, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch and the representative of IMF made introductory statements.

Also, at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of France, Germany and the Russian Federation, and by the observer for Côte d'Ivoire.

At the 3rd meeting, on 27 February, statements were made by the representatives of the United States and Japan, as well as the observers for the Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil, Malaysia and Jordan.

At the same meeting, the observers for the European Community and the IMF and the representative of the ESCAP also made statements.

Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (d) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Germany, France and Lebanon, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/104).

## **E. Integrated economic statistics**

The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings on 27 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary -General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2008/6).

At the 3rd meeting, on 27 February, the observer for Switzerland made an introductory statement.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Finland, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica and the United States, as well as by the observers for Egypt, Niger, Malaysia and Morocco.

Also at the 3rd meeting, the observer for the European Community and the representative of ILO also made statements.

At the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (e) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/105).

## **F. Tourism statistics**

The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings on 27 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the joint report of the Secretary -General and the World Tourism Organization on tourism statistics (E/CN.3/2008/7).

At the 3rd meeting, on 27 February, the representative of UNWTO made an introductory statement.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Oman, China, Canada and Mexico, as well as by the observers for India, New Zealand, Philippines, Italy, Saint Lucia, Cuba and the Bahamas. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (f) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, following a statement by the observer for Senegal, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/106).

## **G. Distributive trade statistics**

The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings on 27 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on distributive trade statistics (E/CN.3/2008/8).

At the 3rd meeting, on 27 February, the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch, made an introductory statement.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Canada, France, the United States and Belarus, as well as by the observer for the Philippines. The observer for the European Community also made a statement.

Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (g) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/107).

## **H. Industrial statistics**

The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings on 27 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the report by the Secretary-General on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2008/9).

At the 3rd meeting, on 27 February, the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch, made an introductory statement.

At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of Lebanon, Japan and the Russian Federation and by the observers for Australia, the Republic of Korea, Chile and Peru.

Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the observer for the European Community and the representative of UNIDO.

At the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (h) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, following statements by the representative of France and UNIDO, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/108).

## **I. International merchandise trade statistics**

The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4th and 7th meetings on 27 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/2008/10).



At the 3rd meeting, on 27 February, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 27 February, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, as well as by the observers for Cuba, Egypt, India and Australia.

At the same meeting, the observers for the European Community, the WTO and the World Customs Organization and the representative of UNCTAD also made statements.

Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (i) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, following a statement by the observer for India, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/109).

## **J. Statistics of human development**

The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 27 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary -General transmitting the report of the Human Development Report Office of UNDP (E/CN.3/2008/11).

At the 4th meeting, on 27 February, the representative of UNDP made an introductory statement.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Japan, South Africa and Jamaica, as well as by the observers for Senegal, Australia, Niger, Jordan, Peru, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Cuba and Mongolia. The observer for the European Community also made a statement.

At the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (j) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/110).

## **K. Collection and dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division**

The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 27 and 29 February 2008. It had before it the report of the Secretary -General on data collection and dissemination of statistics by the UN Statistics Division (E/CN.3/2008/12).

At the 4th meeting, on 27 February, the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch, made an introductory statement.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, China, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Jamaica and Canada, as well as the observer for Suriname.

Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (k) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/111).

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

The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 27 and 29 February 2008. It had before it 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.3/2008/13).

At the 4th meeting, on 27 February, the observer for the European Community made an introductory statement.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, China, Netherlands, Oman and the United States, as well as the observers for Italy, Saint Lucia, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand, Chile and India.

Also at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the observer for OECD made a statement.

At the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (l) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, following statements by the observers for India and New Zealand, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/112).

## **M. Regional statistical development in Africa**

The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 28 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the ECA (E/CN.3/2008/14).

At the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 28 February, the representative of ECA made an introductory statement.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of France, Canada, Japan and Mauritania, as well as by the observers for Niger, Ghana, Australia, Suriname, Thailand and India. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

Also at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the observers for the Islamic Development Bank, the African Development Bank, OECD and the European Community and the representatives of IMF, the World Bank, UPU, ILO and UNIDO made statements.

At the same meeting, the Chairman made a statement and the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (m) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, following statements by the observers for Suriname and Palestine, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/113).

## **N. Development indicators**

The Commission considered item 3 (n) of its agenda at its 5th and 7<sup>th</sup> meetings, on 28 and 29 February 2008.

At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Jamaica, Japan, China, Finland, Canada, Sudan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Colombia, Mauritania and Egypt, as well as by the observers for Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Argentina, India, Brazil, Jordan, Egypt and Suriname. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

At the same meeting, the Chairman made a statement and the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (n) of its agenda.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland and the United States and the observers for Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and India. In her statement, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda (speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), expressed concerns about the quality of indicators. The Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/114).

## **Chapter III**

### **Items for information**

#### **A. Health statistics**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 6th meeting on 28 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics (E/CN.3/2008/15).

At its 6th meeting, on 28 February, following statements by the representatives of the United States and Japan as well as by the observer for Australia and the representatives of ILO and WHO, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on health statistics (E/CN.3/2008/15) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/115).

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

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

The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2008/16) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

#### **C. Round table on business survey frames**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames (E/CN.3/2008/17).

At the 6th meeting, on 28 February, following a statement made by the observer for Australia, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames (E/CN.3/2008/17) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

#### **D. International merchandise trade statistics**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2008/18)

(see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

#### **E. Statistics of international trade in services**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2008/19) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

## **F. Ottawa Group on Price Indexes**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes (E/CN.3/2008/20) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

## **G. Statistics of science and technology**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Institute for Statistics of UNESCO (E/CN.3/2008/21) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

## **H. Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2008/22) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

## **I. Agricultural statistics**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income (E/CN.3/2008/23).

At the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 28 February, the statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and France, as well as by the observer for Peru. The representative of the European Community also made a statement.

At the same meeting, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income (E/CN.3/2008/23) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

## **J. Environment statistics**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2008/24) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

## **K. Environmental accounting**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (k) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2008/25) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

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

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

The Commission considered item 4 (l) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2008/26) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21) (E/CN.3/2008/27) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

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

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

The Commission considered item 4 (m) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization (E/CN.3/2008/28).

At the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 28 February, following a statement by the representative of ILO, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of ILO (E/CN.3/2008/28) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

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

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

The Commission considered item 4 (n) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of ECOSOC that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2008/30) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

## **O. Principles governing international statistical activities**

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

The Commission considered item 4 (o) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 28 February 2008, when it took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of principles

governing international statistical activities (E/CN.3/2008/31) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/117).

## **Chapter IV**

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

The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 7th meeting, on 29 February 2008.

At the 7th meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made an oral report on the current activities, plans and priorities of the UN Statistics Division.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Canada, the United States and South Africa, as well as by the observer for India. The Observer for Palestine also made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission took note of the oral report made by the Director of the UN Statistics Division (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 39/116).



## Chapter V

### **Provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission**

The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 7th meeting on 29 February 2008. It had before it the provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2008/L.2) and a note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission, 2008-2011 (E/CN.3/2008/32), which were introduced and orally revised by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch.

At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Finland, Lebanon and South Africa, as well as by the observers for Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and India. The Observer for Palestine and the representative of UNESCO also made statements, to which the Director of the UN Statistics Division responded.

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

At its 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its fortieth session as orally amended and entrusted the Bureau to streamline and finalize it. The Commission also decided to recommend it, as orally amended, to ECOSOC for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to ECOSOC that its fortieth session should be held from 24 to 27 February 2009 (see chap. I, sect. A).

Also at its 7th meeting, on 29 February 2008, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2008-2011, as orally amended.

## **Chapter VI**

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

The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 7th meeting on 29 February 2008.

At the 7th meeting, on 29 February, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session (E/CN.3/2008/L.3), together with an informal paper of decisions.

At the same meeting, the representative of Finland made a statement and orally revised document E/CN.3/2008/L.3.

Also at the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, statements on the text of the informal paper were made by the representatives of Canada, France, South Africa, Germany, Lebanon, Finland and the United States, as well as by the observers for Suriname, India, Niger, the Bahamas, New Zealand and Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China). The observer for Palestine and the representative of UNIDO also made statements.

At the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division responded to points raised during the discussion.

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

At its 7th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report, including the draft decisions therein, as orally amended, and entrusted the Rapporteur with finalizing it. After the adoption of the draft report, the representative of the United States made a statement.

## Chapter VII

### Organization of the session

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

The Statistical Commission held its thirty-ninth session at UN Headquarters from 26 to 29 February 2008. The Commission held 7 meetings (1st to 7th).

#### B. Attendance

The session was attended by representatives of 23 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.3/2008/INF/1.

#### C. Election of officers

At its 1st meeting, on 26 February 2008, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

*Chairperson:*

Pali Lehohla (South Africa)

*Vice-Chairpersons:*

Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland)

Hector Maldonado Gomez (Colombia)

Mr. Ali Bin Mahboob bin Hassan (Oman)

*Rapporteur:*

Péter Pukli (Hungary)

#### D. Agenda and organization of work

At the same meeting, following statements made by the observer for Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and the representative of China, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2008/1, as orally revised. 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: employment statistics;
  - (b) Education statistics;
  - (c) International Comparison Programme;

- (d) National accounts;
  - (e) Integrated economic statistics;
  - (f) Tourism statistics;
  - (g) Distributive trade statistics;
  - (h) Industrial statistics;
  - (i) International merchandise trade statistics;
  - (j) Statistics of human development;
  - (k) Collection and dissemination of statistics by the UN Statistics Division;
  - (l) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;
  - (m) Regional statistical development in Africa
  - (n) Development indicators.
4. Items for information:
- (a) Health statistics;
  - (b) Population and housing censuses;
  - (c) Round table on business survey frames;
  - (d) International merchandise trade statistics;
  - (e) Statistics of international trade in services;
  - (f) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes;
  - (g) Statistics of science and technology;
  - (h) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics;
  - (i) Agricultural statistics;
  - (j) Environment statistics;
  - (k) Environmental accounting;
  - (l) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;
  - (m) International economic and social classifications;
  - (n) Follow-up to ECOSOC policy decisions;
  - (o) Principles governing international statistical activities.
5. Programme questions (UN Statistics Division).
6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission.
7. Report of the Commission on its thirty-ninth session.

Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session (E/CN.3/2008/L.1), as orally revised.

At the same meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at the thirty-ninth session: The Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT); the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; the Statistical,

Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries; the Bank for International Settlements, the Banque Centrale des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (BCEAO), and the Pacific Community.

## **E. Documentation**

The documents before the Commission at its thirty-ninth session are listed on the website of the Statistical Commission <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2008.htm>

