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STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Seventeenth session
Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda

REPORT OF THE THE THIRD SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES AND CO-ORDINATION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The third session of the Statistical Commission's Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination took place from 6 to 8 September 1971 in Geneva.
2. The Working Group agreed that, as a general rule, the officers of the Commission should also be officers of the Group. Accordingly, Messrs. J. Ripert (France), J. Kazimour (Czechoslovakia) and E. Moser (United Kingdom) served as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur, respectively, of the third session.
3. The agenda of the meeting is set out in annex I.
4. The list of participants is contained in annex II.

II. ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING AND DATA BANKS

A. Organization and problems of electronic
data processing

5. The Working Group discussed the arrangements and proposals concerning the organization and problems of electronic data processing of economic and social statistics in the United Nations and the responsibilities and functions of the Statistical Commission in respect of these matters, based on document ST/STAT.52, "Statistical

needs and priorities of users of international computer facilities", and oral reports by the Secretariat.

6. The Working Group noted that the International Computing Centre (ICC), Geneva, was now in operation with the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization as participants. The three agencies and two observers from the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems and Related Activities (IOB), constitute the Management Committee of the ICC. (The IOB, a subsidiary body of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, mainly responsible for the development of inter-organization management information systems in the United Nations family was made responsible for the establishment of general policy guidelines for the development of the ICC, Geneva.)

7. The Statistical Office of the United Nations had transferred the electronic data processing of statistics requiring a large-scale computer, such as external trade data and certain national accounting series, to the ICC, Geneva. A branch of the Statistical Office had been established in Geneva for purposes of preparing the statistics for electronic data processing, specifying and checking the ICC services required and dealing with the output. The ICC's in Geneva and New York were concerned only with the machine processing of the data. This was at the request of the Statistical Office, which remains responsible for all aspects of the compilation and use of the data, including services to national statistical offices and other bodies which request special runs. At this juncture, the processing requested of the ICC, Geneva, was limited and could be furnished rapidly. However, there was little doubt that demands on the ICC would grow rapidly once its facilities and capacity are widely known.

8. In order to take advantage of the ICC's capacity and in order better to serve the requirements of national statistical offices and United Nations agencies in Europe, Africa and Asia, it was proposed that almost all the electronic data processing of external trade and demographic statistics should be moved to ICC, Geneva, by 1973. This requires the

transfer from the Statistical Office in New York to its branch in Geneva of practically all the staff of the International Trade Statistics Centre and most of the staff of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch engaged in compiling statistics. The Geneva branch of the Statistical Office of the United Nations would then be headed by the Assistant Director in charge of the International Trade Statistics Centre. National statistical offices, United Nations agencies and other users would then be able to request and receive special computer runs and other services directly from the branch in Geneva.

9. The Working Group also noted that the ICC, New York, was to be transferred from the Statistical Office to the Office of Administration and Management. In connexion with this transfer, alternatives were being considered in respect of the assignment of programmers and systems analysts. One alternative was to assign most of them to the substantive divisions which they served full time while leaving others in the ICC to serve divisions which could not completely utilize the full-time services of even one person. The other alternative was to leave all the programmers and systems analysts in the ICC, New York. The same question was under consideration in the case of the ICC, Geneva.

10. The Working Group called attention to Economic and Social Council resolutions 8(I) of 16 February 1946 and 8(II) of 21 June 1946 (see annex III). These resolutions charged the Statistical Commission with responsibility for promoting the development and improvement of comparable international statistics, co-ordinating the statistical activities of the specialized agencies and organizing and overseeing the statistical services of the United Nations. It was emphasized that the way in which the electronic data processing was organized and managed and its impact on the statistical services of the United Nations was a major concern of the Statistical Commission. The Working Group felt that the Commission would have been able to give helpful advice concerning the consequences for the services of the Statistical Office of the United Nations of the transfer of the ICC, New York, to the Office of Administration and Management. It was also thought that the Statistical Office of the United

Nations and the statistical services of the other members of the United Nations family should participate in any work undertaken by IOB in respect of systems of economic and social statistics.

11. On the substance of the proposed changes in the organization of electronic data processing, some members of the Working Group regretted that the ICC, New York, had been moved from the Statistical Office. They feared that this might result in a deterioration of the statistical services provided by the United Nations. However, since this change was already decided, the main aim should now be to set up procedures within the United Nations to ensure satisfactory statistical services and priorities for statistical programmes.

12. On the question of programmers and systems analysts, the Working Group stressed the advantages of assigning programmers and systems analysts who were needed full time in respect of the electronic data processing of the Statistical Office in New York and Geneva to the relevant sections of the Statistical Office. The preparation of adequate and efficient processing sequences and programmes required very close co-operation and frequent consultations between programmers and systems analysts, on the one hand, and subject-matter personnel, on the other. Given this co-operation, the systems analysts would then be able to acquire a better understanding of the inputs provided and the outputs required; at the same time, the subject-matter personnel would be able to work with a better understanding of the potentialities and requirements of electronic data processing. The experience of some national statistical offices attested to the desirability and advantages of assigning programmers and systems analysts to the substantive divisions and the disadvantages of pooling them in an electronic data processing service.

13. The Working Group welcomed the proposal to shift the electronic processing of all the work of the Statistical Office on external trade and demographic statistics from New York to Geneva. It agreed that it would be desirable to effect the transfer, as soon as possible, of these activities and the appropriate staff of the International Trade Statistics Centre and of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch to the Geneva branch of

the Office. These changes should alleviate any difficulties which European users of external trade data who require special tabulations, tapes, etc., might encounter because of the division of responsibilities between parts of the Statistical Office in New York and Geneva. The new arrangements should also assist in improving the rapidity and effectiveness of the services rendered to these users. This was an important objective in establishing the ICC, Geneva. The Working Group noted that the transfer should not require any increase in the Statistical Office staff and that copies of the data-bank tapes and discs would still be available in both New York and Geneva.

14. The Working Group recognized that the aforementioned transfer of units would markedly increase the Statistical Office requirements for services from the ICC, Geneva, and as a result questions might arise in respect of the priorities to be assigned to these services. It was noted that new demands would be made for the services of the ICC, New York, despite the transfer of a substantial portion of the Statistical Office electronic data processing work to Geneva. As a consequence, serious questions of priority might arise at New York. In view of these problems and other questions of equipment and management that would arise, the Working Group considered it essential that the Statistical Office should participate in the Management Committee of the ICC, Geneva, and in any similar arrangements established for the ICC, New York. This should be of considerable assistance in ensuring that electronic data processing of statistics required nationally and internationally, was adequately provided for, given the appropriate attention and assigned due high priority.

15. The Working Group felt that, at subsequent sessions, it should receive reports on the organization, policies and arrangements for the electronic data processing of economic and social statistics in the United Nations and on the adequacy of the facilities provided for this work. These policies, arrangements and facilities were constantly evolving and the meetings of the Statistical Commission were too infrequent for bringing to bear on the consideration of these matters, the implications and consequences

for the statistical services of the United Nations. Moreover, there was no other intergovernmental body in the United Nations which was charged with these responsibilities.

16. It was considered vital that the views of the Working Group and the Statistical Commission on the aforementioned questions should be brought to bear on the deliberations and actions of the appropriate Secretariat groups if the views were to affect the management and activities of the electronic data processing and related facilities of the United Nations. To achieve this end, the Statistical Office of the United Nations should participate in the Management Committee of the ICC, Geneva, in any similar arrangements established for the ICC, New York, and in related groups.

B. Data banks

17. The Working Group discussed the availability and co-ordination of data banks in the statistical services of the United Nations family.

18. The Group was informed that the data bank of the Statistical Office of the United Nations now covered statistics in respect of external trade, national accounts, industrial activity, the supply and consumption of energy, and population. Special tabulations and sections of the tapes of these data can be made available at cost on request. It is proposed to extend the banks to the statistics issued in the Statistical Yearbook and Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and the indicators required for the Second United Nations Development Decade. This would involve the incorporation of data gathered and compiled by the statistical services of the specialized agencies. The Statistical Office proposed to construct an inventory of international data banks in respect of economic and social statistics, with the assistance of the ICC, Geneva. This inventory would be maintained on a current basis.

19. The Working Group noted that the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) also had well-established data banks. The data bank of IBRD consisted of statistics of external data, which could be made available

on request, provided the series were not classified as confidential. The Bureau of Statistics of the IMF maintained a data bank in respect of all the series appearing in International Financial Statistics and Direction of Trade. Thirty thousand time series were stored, consisting of annual data beginning with 1948 and monthly or quarterly data starting with 1957. The IMF hoped to be able to furnish up-dated magnetic tapes from the data bank monthly to member countries who wished to have the tapes. In the case of WHO, all the health statistics gathered and compiled were computerized.

20. Other specialized agencies were engaged in developing data banks. The Statistics Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was engaged in planning a data bank in respect of agricultural statistics and was in contact with the Statistical Office of the United Nations on this subject. While the Statistical Branch of the International Labour Office (ILO) had not computerized the statistics that they gather, compile and publish, these series could be made available to the ICC, Geneva, in appropriate form, for inclusion in the data bank of the Statistical Office of the United Nations. In return, the Branch would expect to receive copies of the tapes produced for possible use in the ILO electronic computer facility. The statistical service of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had begun to use electronic data processing late in 1970 and was developing this work.

21. The Working Group approved the plan to build and maintain an inventory of international data banks of economic and social statistics. This inventory would be of considerable value to the Statistical Commission in the work on co-ordination of the statistical activities of the United Nations family. It would also be of assistance in informing national statistical offices and other potential users of the data banks concerning the available information.

22. The Working Group stressed that the concepts, classifications and formats used in the various international data banks had to be consistent and co-ordinated if data from the banks were to be interchanged or jointly used. The methods of achieving compatibility and uniform formats in the data banks should, therefore, be studied. This was an important aspect of the Statistical

Commission's concerns in respect of co-ordination of the statistical activities of the United Nations family and, in particular, of the data banks:

III. STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE SECOND
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

A. Current programme of assistance for
developing countries

23. The Working Group received a report ST/STAT.57, "United Nations programme of technical assistance in statistics" prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, which presented a description of the work carried out under the United Nations programme. Particulars were given on the type of assistance provided and activities in the training of statisticians in the developing countries. The report also gave a list of statistical experts on United Nations missions as of 30 June 1971.
24. The Working Group was informed of Economic and Social Council resolution 1566(L), which in paragraph 7 "Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations system of organizations, to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-second session, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, a report on the existing technical assistance of the United Nations system of organizations to the developing countries as well as on the steps envisaged to assist those countries in improving their statistical services with a view to meeting the requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade".
25. The Working Group agreed that in future a comprehensive report should be submitted describing the technical assistance activities of not only the United Nations but also the other organizations of the United Nations system. It was also desirable that the report should provide some evaluation of the effectiveness of the activities in the various countries. The Working Group felt that such a report was of particular importance in connexion with the review and appraisal of progress in the economic and social fields during the Second Development Decade. The Working Group recommended that the report should be made available to the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission.

26. The needs of the developing countries for statistical data on which to base their economic and social planning and indeed to conduct their day-to-day administrative work was growing steadily. In addition, their participation in the Second Development Decade required special efforts for purposes of identifying and giving quantitative precision to both goals and progress. In these circumstances, the Working Group found it regrettable that the resources made available for assistance in statistics under the United Nations technical co-operation programme had decreased in 1970 and was also expected to show reductions in 1971 and 1972. To meet the urgent needs of the Second Development Decade, the Working Group felt that a high priority of both the Statistical Commission and the statistical services of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies should be to give additional impetus to the development of statistics in the countries concerned. In this connexion, the Working Group welcomed the financing forthcoming from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

27. The Working Group requested that the Secretariat, together with the statistical services of the agencies, ensure that future reports on this subject covered present and proposed activities under the regular programmes of each agency, as well as under the United Nations Development Programme Technical Assistance and Special Fund programmes and other special sources of financing. Such a report would enable the Statistical Commission to view the technical assistance programme as a whole and to determine the weight given to technical assistance in each field of statistics by the international organizations. The Working Group felt, moreover, that in developing the programme of technical assistance, the statistical services of the organizations might exercise greater initiative in suggesting to national offices the fields in which expert assistance might be necessary. In this connexion, the Working Group felt that special efforts might be required to ensure that missions concerning technical assistance engaged the interest of the national statistical service in the activities of the missions since instances had occurred where the national statistical service had, in a real sense, been by-passed.

B. Development Statistics Project

28. The Working Group considered this subject on the basis of document ST/STAT.51, "Development Statistics Project", prepared by the Statistical Office.
29. The Working Group considered this item of utmost importance and recalled the action programme of the General Assembly for the Second United Nations Development Decade entitled "International Development Strategy". In the section of Assembly resolution 2626(XXV) dealing with the "Review and appraisal of both objectives and policies", the Strategy indicated that "appropriate arrangements are necessary to keep under systematic scrutiny the progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Decade - to identify shortfalls in their achievement and the factors which account for them". Moreover, the work of the Second Development Decade presented the Statistical Commission with a challenge and an opportunity to speed up the progress of statistical work in the developing countries.
30. The Working Group was pleased to have the assistance in its discussions, of the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who accepted the invitation of the Chairman of the Working Group to participate in the session.
31. The Working Group recognized that the specific needs of the Second United Nations Development Decade called for a new concerted programme in statistics involving the compilation and publication of the relevant series of data within a framework that was designed to meet the statistical requirements of the Decade. Existing gaps in international statistical standards and guidelines needed to be eliminated and countries should be assisted in collecting, compiling and reporting internationally comparable data on as current a basis as was feasible.
32. The Working Group considered that the report of the Statistical Office of the United Nations on establishing a special project on development statistics, coupled with the elaboration of the statistical implications of the International Development Strategy by the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, enabled the Group to consider the statistical tasks of the Development Decade in the perspective of the over-all work on reviews and appraisals.
33. The Working Group approved the general direction of the proposed activities in the field of development statistics. It considered that the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission should review the Development Statistics Project

in detail.

34. The Working Group noted that the Development Statistics Project would:

- (i) reveal the relevant gaps in international standards currently receiving attention;
- (ii) provide a timetable for commencing work on eliminating other gaps;
- (iii) indicate the improvements required in the international collection of data;
- (iv) provide for the seminars, workshops, interregional and regional advisers needed in addition to those listed in paragraph 35 below;
- (v) provide estimates of the new resources required in the Statistical Office of the United Nations in order to collect and compile data and issue a publication on development statistics (the first issue to appear early in 1973); and
- (vi) provide estimates of the resources required for the implementation of the over-all Development Statistics Project.

35. The preliminary review of the need for seminars, workshops, interregional and regional advisers indicated that in the near future, the following were of primary importance:

- (i) seminars on statistical organization in 1972 for Latin America and in 1973 for Africa and for Asia;
- (ii) workshops on the new System of National Accounts as a whole and related aspects (e.g., production accounts and associated basic statistics), to be held in Latin America, Africa and Asia in 1972-1975;
- (iii) seminars on the System of Demographic, Manpower and Social Statistics, including social indicators, to be held in Latin America, Africa and Asia in 1972-1975;

- (iv) the provision of two interregional advisers to assist, from 1972 onward, with the design and development of national and social accounting and correlated systems of economic and social statistics;
- (v) a regional adviser in Latin America and another in Africa to assist with the design and development of national and social accounting and correlated systems of economic and social statistics.

36. The Working Group considered that in carrying out the elements of the Project described in paragraphs 34 and 35 above, special importance should be given to matters arising from the requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade.

37. The Working Group agreed that the report to the seventeenth session of the Commission on the Development Statistics Project should contain a comprehensive description of the Project as well as details on the timing of its components.

38. The Working Group noted with satisfaction the proposed set of consultations that are designed to ensure that the Project meets the needs of both national and international users of development statistics. It recognized, in particular, the values of the proposed consultations with the sections of the international secretariats concerned with economic analysis, projection and planning. In these consultations, the needs of intergovernmental bodies and the requirements of the international secretariats for development statistics would be considered.

39. The Working Group considered that the statistical activities which are directed toward the compilation and publication of the data required for reviews and appraisals and toward the improvement of the statistical services of the developing countries, should be given very high priority by the United Nations.

40. The Working Group took note of the suggestion of the United Nations Committee for Development Planning concerning the establishment of a joint working group of the Committee and the Statistical Commission. The Group recommended that this suggestion be discussed by the seventeenth session of the Commission. In the meantime, in order to facilitate co-operation, the Group

considered it advisable that this report of the Working Group should be brought to the attention of the Committee at its next session.

C. Seminars on statistical organization

41. The Working Group considered document SI/STAT.53, "The Second International Seminar on Statistical Organization", prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations.

42. The Working Group agreed that the arrangements for the proposed seminars conformed to the action programme for the Second United Nations Development Decade, approved in General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV), which in paragraph 78 states: "Developing countries will, as appropriate, establish or strengthen their planning mechanisms including statistical services, for formulating and implementing their national development plans during the Decade". The Group recommended that the seminars should be given high priority in the work programme of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.

43. The Working Group took note of the financial implications involved in organizing the Second International Seminar on Statistical Organization and agreed that three consecutive seminars should be held. In accordance with the special requests for assistance expressed at the sixteenth session of the Statistical Commission, the first of these seminars should take place in Latin America in 1972; the other two seminars should follow in 1973.

44. The purpose of the seminars should be to make possible discussions with the chief statisticians of the developing nations on the statistical requirements of the Second Development Decade and the ways and means of strengthening their statistical services in order to meet the new requirements of the 1970 s. The discussions envisaged should cover a range of issues related to the planning and carrying out of statistical programmes. The seminars should focus on the tasks and problems of the national statistical services, including measures for improving the status and organization of statistical activities (programme planning, data collection, processing of statistical information, use of technical assistance, training activities etc.). The first two or three days of each seminar should, if possible, be attended by the chiefs of planning services or other senior government officials who can influence

national decisions on statistical matters.

45. The Working Group agreed that in order to ensure a high level of discussion, a number of statistical experts from national statistical services with considerable experience in statistical organization, should participate in the seminars. The Group expressed the hope that the national statistical services would co-operate in making their experts available. The proposal in the report to consult the Working Group on the programme of the seminars, was noted with approval.

46. The Working Group agreed that in the planned revision of the Handbook of Statistical Organization^{1/} use should be made of the seminar papers prepared by the Secretariat, the invited experts and the national participants. Members of the Statistical Commission should be consulted in the preparation of the revised Handbook.

IV. DIRECTORY OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

47. The Working Group received an oral progress report on the Directory of International Statistics.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A. International Statistical Reporter

48. The Working Group took note with satisfaction of the proposal to establish a periodic report on international statistical developments as a joint publication of the statistical services of the United Nations system and hoped that the publication would appear as soon as possible. The Statistical Commission should be informed of progress on the subject at its next session. The view was expressed that items concerning important national statistical activities should also be included in the document. The Group considered that this would be a useful way of keeping national statistical offices informed concerning these developments.

B. Draft provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission

49. The Working Group discussed a draft of the provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission.

^{1/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 55.XVII.7.

50. The Group expressed the wish that in the provisional agenda emphasis should be given to items which involved substantive discussions and decisions by the Statistical Commission and to items which were of major importance for the improvement and expansion of the statistics of the developing countries. Progress reports on the various areas of work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations should, therefore, be separated from substantive papers and should be placed at the end of the provisional agenda. Subjects of particular significance to furthering statistical development in the developing countries should appear early in the provisional agenda so that sufficient time would be available for their consideration. For this purpose, it would be desirable:

- (i) to revise the title of item 2 of the draft provisional agenda so that it was clear that the subject covered was the improvement and expansion of the statistics of the developing countries; and
- (ii) to add a sub-item under item 2 on the order of priority in which the statistics might be developed.

51. In order that the Statistical Commission might devote adequate attention to the items of major importance to the statistical systems of the developing countries, the Working Group felt that it might be necessary to shorten the agenda of the seventeenth session. Members of the Group made various suggestions in this respect for further consideration by the Secretariat.

52. It was suggested that in view of the urgent need to improve and expand national and international social statistics (for example, data on employment, unemployment, under-employment and in respect of education) for purposes of the Second Development Decade, the agenda of the seventeenth session of the Commission should include specific items in respect of these areas of statistics. The statistics cited fall within the area of competence of the ILO and UNESCO, respectively. The Working Group felt that the possibilities of including such items on the Statistical Commission's agenda should be explored with the statistical services of the relevant specialized agencies.

C. Base year for international compilation of
index numbers

53. The Working Group took note of the proposal to shift the comparison and weight base for index numbers, constant-price data, etc. from 1963 to 1970.

It was indicated that 1970, instead of 1968, was proposed for the following reasons:

- (i) 1970 was preferable for purposes of analyses in respect of the Second Development Decade;
- (ii) benchmark data in respect of population and employment were more readily available for 1970 than 1968; and
- (iii) certain countries had already adopted 1970 as the base year for economic and social statistics.

54. It was emphasized that some countries would find it difficult to use 1970 as a weight base, as well as a comparison base, in the case of industrial and certain other economic statistics because they took their economic censuses in 1968 or a proximate year. If 1970 were used as a base year, the question as to whether to change base years every five years also arises, since in the case of a number of countries 1975 would not be a benchmark year in respect of population or economic statistics.

55. The Working Group suggested that the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission should consider the question of the change of base year from 1968 to another year.

D. Functions of the Working Group

56. The Working Group recognized that its role in the matter of co-ordination and development of the programme of international statistics required it:

- (i) to deal with questions of policy, co-ordination and priorities in the case of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system;
- (ii) to constitute a means by which the Statistical Commission could maintain contact, between biennial meetings, with the work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations and of the statistical services of the specialized agencies;
- (iii) to consider current questions of the organization, policies, arrangements and priorities for the electronic data processing of economic and social statistics, including data banks; and

(iv) to consider questions in respect of the statistics that are required for purposes of the reviews and appraisals during the Second United Nations Development Decade.

57. The Working Group, therefore, recommended that it should be convened more frequently, perhaps twice a year when necessary, in order to consider these questions.

Annex I

AGENDA

1. Election of Chairman
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Electronic data processing
 - (a) Progress report on the establishment of the ICC in Geneva
 - (b) Co-ordination of international data banks
 - (c) Access of national statistical offices to international data banks
4. Statistical requirements of the Second United Nations Development Decade
 - (a) Current programme of assistance for developing countries
 - (b) Development Statistics Project
 - (c) Second International Seminar on Statistical Organization
5. Directory of International Statistics
 - (a) Progress report
 - (b) List of international statistical series
6. Other business
 - (a) The establishment of an International Statistical Reporter
 - (b) Draft provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Statistical Commission
 - (c) Base year for international compilation of index numbers, quanta, prices, employment, etc.
 - (d) Future activities of the Working Group

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

United Nations

Working Group (of the Statistical Commission) on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination

- J. Ripert, Directeur général de l'Institut national de la Statistique et des Etudes économiques, France (Chairman)
- J. Kazimour, President, Federal Statistical Office, Czechoslovakia (Vice-Chairman)
- C.A. Moser, Director, Central Statistical Office, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Rapporteur)
- J. Shiskin, Chief Statistician, United States of America
- L.M. Volodarsky, First Deputy Chief, Central Statistical Board, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

United Nations Secretariat

- J. Mosak, Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- P.J. Loftus, Director, Statistical Office
- A. Aidenoff, Acting Director, Statistical Office
- B.N. Davies, Director, Statistical Division, Economic Commission for Europe
- G. Parniczky, Special Assistant, Research Division, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- B. Ivanović, Chief, Statistics Section, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- W. Cox, Industrial Development Officer, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Specialized agencies

- H.P. Lacroix, Chief Statistician, International Labour Organization
- V.P. Dhital, Senior Officer, Trade and Prices Statistics Group, Statistical Development Service, Statistics Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- K.G. Brölin, Director, Office of Statistics, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- Dr. W.P.D. Logan, Director, Division of Health Statistics, World Health Organization
- A.E. Tiemann, Senior Statistician, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- E. Hicks, Director of Statistics, International Monetary Fund
- L. Till, Chief Statistician, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

Interagency bodies

- W.A. Mackay, Director, International Computing Centre, Geneva

Secretary of the Working Group

- Z. Kenessey, Acting Principal Officer, Statistical Office

Annex III

FUNCTIONS OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

1. Resolution 8(I) of 16 February 1946, as amended by resolution 8(II) of 21 June 1946, of the Economic and Social Council indicated that the Statistical Commission shall assist the Council:

- "(a) in promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;
- (b) in the co-ordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies;
- (c) in the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat;
- (d) in advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information;
- (e) in promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally."

2. Moreover, section 5 of resolution 8(II) states:

" In organizing the Statistical Division in the Secretariat, the Secretary-General is requested to take into consideration the recommendations of the Statistical Commission [contained in document E/39_] concerning:

- (a) Organization of a central statistical unit in the Secretariat of the United Nations;
- (b) Collection, analysis and evaluation of statistics from Member Governments, specialized agencies, and other sources;
- (c) Publication of statistics;
- (d) Co-ordination of statistical activities of specialized agencies;
- (e) Promotion of development and improvement of statistics in general;
- (f) Maintenance of an international centre for statistics;
- (g) Maintenance of close contact and co-ordination with national Governments on programmes of statistical research, submission of statistical data, analysis and publication. The submission of statistical data and their publication will be undertaken with the consent of the Governments concerned."