1. In a statement to the third session of the Statistical Commission, the International Labour Office presented an outline of its work on the subject of family living studies. The topic was on the agenda of the Third International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 1926 which adopted a series of resolutions on the conduct of family budget studies. For this conference, the Office prepared a study of Methods of Conducting Family Budget Studies. Subsequently, the Office published a series of reports of individual family living studies analyzed according to a standard pattern and summarized these in four articles covering various aspects of methods, for example, number and selection of families, methods of collection of data, the periods covered, incomes and expenditures, food consumption and other points. A revised document, Methods of Family Living Studies, was published in 1940. This emphasized the changes which had occurred in the fifteen years since the earlier report.

2. In connexion with discussions of cost of living statistics, the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians meeting in Montreal in 1947 recommended that the Governing Body of the Office place the subject of methods of family living studies on the agenda of an early conference. Accordingly, the subject will be considered at the Seventh International Conference of Labour Statisticians to be convened in Geneva in October 1949.

3. A Preliminary Meeting of Statistical Experts has been called for 9 May immediately following the fourth session of the Statistical Commission in Geneva to consider the reports to be submitted to the Seventh Conference on the different items of the agenda. A draft report on Methods of Family Living Studies will be presented to this meeting and later, with appropriate revisions as suggested by the Statistical Experts, to the Seventh Conference.

4. The report will contain draft resolutions for the consideration of the Conference covering points on which the resolutions adopted by the Office at the Fifth Session of the Statistical Commission in 1948 may need to be revised in the light of the developments since then.
the Third Conference need to be amended or supplemented. Important among these points are the following. First, a resolution on the application of sampling techniques to the selection of families. This will embody the recommendations of the Sub-Commission on Statistical Sampling, which furnish an authoritative statement on the application of sampling in this field. Second, a resolution on the definitions of the terms used, the accounting procedures to be followed and the classifications to be adopted in the analysis of family income and expenditure. Third, a resolution on the application of the technique of consumption unit analysis covering the two points that all studies should (1) state the specific consumption scales utilized, and (2) give the age and sex composition of the groups surveyed.

5. Reference will be made also to the question of repeating the surveys at intervals, the use of small sample surveys to throw light upon changes in consumption habits (for purposes of determining whether to take a full scale survey), etc. The question of setting up a committee of specially qualified technical experts to consider the special problems of family living studies in under-developed territories will also be discussed. These points may suffice to give an indication of the scope and character of the draft report and the proposed resolutions.

6. Copies of the draft report will be available for examination by the members of the Statistical Commission.

7. This note will be supplemented by an oral statement at the meeting of the Commission by the representative of the International Labour Organisation attending the session.