The Statistical Commission and the United Nations

Overview

Content

✓ The United Nations
✓ The Statistical Commission
✓ United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
The United Nations

The purposes of the United Nations are to:

- maintain international peace and security
- develop friendly relations among nations
- cooperate in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms
- be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in attaining these ends

Focus of the Economic and Social Council

The United Nations System
The United Nations System

✓ Six principal organs
  • General Assembly
    - 193 Member states
  • Security Council
    - 15 Member states (5 Permanent members)
  • Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
    - 54 Member states
    - Principal organ to coordinate economic, social, and related work of the UN
    - The Statistical Commission reports to ECOSOC
  • Secretariat
    - Carries out the day to day work of the UN
  • International Court of Justice
    - 15 judges with nine-year terms of office
  • Trusteeship Council
    - Suspended operation on 1 November 1994

The Statistical Commission

✓ Established 1947
✓ 24 Members
  ▪ 5 from Africa
  ▪ 4 from Asia
  ▪ 4 from Eastern Europe
  ▪ 4 from Latin America and the Caribbean
  ▪ 7 from Western Europe and other States
✓ Members elected by the Economic and Social Council
  ▪ 4 year terms for each member
✓ 1947 – 1999 Biennial meetings
✓ Since 1999 – Annual meetings
The Statistical Commission

- Serves as global forum on all statistical matters
- Approves statistical standards and methodological guidelines
- Advises UN system on statistical matters
- Coordinates statistical work of international agencies
- Recognized as apex entity of the global statistical system
Multi-year programme of work

Proposed multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission 2014-2018

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda item</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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The terms of reference as set forth in Economic and Social Council resolution 156 (XV) of 3 May 1961, reaffirming its resolution 11 (II) of 19 February 1960, as amended by resolution 11 (III) of 21 June 1960, state that the Commission shall assist the Council:
1. In promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;
2. In the coordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies;
3. In the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat;
4. In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information;
5. In promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally.

The Commission considers special issues of concern in international statistical development, methodological issues, coordination and implementation of international statistical activities, and in this regard, in the terms of the above resolutions, may be required to take action to ensure the implementation and coordination of the work of specialized agencies, to cooperate with the statistical agencies of governments, organisations and the United Nations, and to assist the development countries in strengthening their statistical systems.

5.4 Proponents and their experts shall ensure that the tools of their work and the coordination of their work are consistent with the long-term development and improvement of the statistical systems in the countries in which they work.
UN Statistics Division (UNSD)

✓ Acts as the Secretariat for the UN Statistical Commission
✓ Coordinates statistical activities of the UN System
✓ Acts as a focal point for UN indicator work
✓ Promotes good statistical practices
✓ Harmonizes statistical standards
✓ Undertakes statistical capacity building
✓ Compiles statistics at global level

UN Statistics Division (UNSD)

✓ Global statistical data sets include:
  ▪ international trade statistics
  ▪ national accounts
  ▪ energy statistics
  ▪ industry statistics
  ▪ environment statistics
  ▪ demographic statistics
  ▪ social statistics