

Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission held its seventh session in New York February 2-13, 1953. The Canadian member is Mr. Herbert Marshall, the Dominion Statistician. In addition to determining its work programme and priorities for the coming year, the Commission reviewed a number of studies and memoranda aimed at improving the accuracy and assuring the comparability of various categories of statistics. The principal subjects so discussed at the seventh session were as follows: concepts and definitions of capital formation; definitions in basic industrial statistics; standard procedures in compiling external trade statistics; wholesale price statistics and a standard system of index numbers for wholesale price indices; a system of national accounts and supporting tables; uniformity in air transport statistics; classification of industrial activities of households; distribution statistics; balance of payment statistics and money and banking statistics; cost of living indices and principles for a vital statistics system. Resolutions were recommended for adoption by ECOSOC commending to member governments agreed principles relating to definitions in basic industrial statistics, migration statistics, and a vital statistics system. The Secretary-General was asked to continue study of some of these subjects and to bring certain memoranda to the attention of member governments with a request for their comments. The Commission examined memoranda received from the International Monetary Fund on balance of payment statistics and money and banking statistics and suggested that they be submitted to governments and to interested national organizations for comment. A number of comments were made by the Commission itself on a memorandum from the International Labour Organization regarding its plans for discussing cost of living index numbers at its Eighth General Conference. Finally, the Secretary-General was asked to draw to the attention of member governments a proposal that they examine their basic requirements for statistics so that a realistic schedule of priorities could be established, and to prepare a check list which they might use in making their surveys. The fifteenth session of ECOSOC noted the Commission's report and adopted several resolutions drawing the attention of member governments to certain statistical techniques recommended by the Commission.

Commission on the Status of Women

The seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held in New York March 16 — April 3, 1953,¹ and recommended to ECOSOC nine substantive resolutions dealing with the nationality of married women; the status of women in private law; the political rights of women; educational opportunities for women; and technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women. The first of these contained the text of a draft Convention on the Nationality of Married Persons, to be circulated to member governments for comment, which is intended to ensure that the legal effects of marriage

¹For an account of action taken at the seventh session of the General Assembly on the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, see pp. 44-45.