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STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

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ECE/Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses  
(Geneva, 3-6 March 1997)

#### FUTURE WORK ON POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

##### Note by the secretariat

1. In past decades, work undertaken by the Conference in the field of population and housing censuses has generally been planned and organized in the following way:

- (a) in years leading up to the new round of censuses, the Conference has convened several work sessions to assess countries' experience in complying with the previous set of recommendations and to identify ways in which the previous set of recommendations should be amended to obtain an updated set for the next round of censuses (e.g. the May 1995 Work Session on Population Censuses and the October 1995 Work Session on Housing Censuses);
- (b) as soon as possible in the decade concerning the new round of censuses, the Conference convenes a formal meeting to finalize the draft new set of recommendations for the next round of censuses (e.g. the March 1997 meeting);
- (c) the Conference has generally avoided convening meetings on censuses around the time that most countries conduct their censuses, in order to permit their staff to devote their attention to the duties they must do in the years immediately prior and subsequent to the census (for example, since most countries in the region conducted their 1990 round census in 1990 or 1991, the Conference did not convene a meeting on censuses in the 1988-1992 period); and

- (d) in the "quieter" period that precedes the intensive work on the preparation of a new set of recommendations for the next round of censuses, the Conference convenes a seminar or a meeting to consider methodological and related issues concerning censuses (e.g. the May 1984 Seminar on the evaluation of census results and methodology that was held in Rome, and the April 1989 Seminar on the relevance and importance of population and housing census data that was held in Wiesbaden).

2. If the above general pattern were to continue, this would suggest that at least one meeting or seminar could be held during the period from 2003 - 2007 to provide an opportunity for countries to exchange experiences on methodological problems and issues related to population and housing censuses. Consequently, under this agenda item participants are expected to consider (i) whether they should recommend to the Conference that such a meeting be convened, and (ii) if so, the recommended scheduling (year) of the meeting and the substantive topics that are recommended to be discussed at it.

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