THIRD COMMITTEE: COMMERCIAL POLICY

SECTION E - GENERAL COMMERCIAL PROVISIONS
(Articles 32 - 39)

Norway - Proposed redraft of Article 38

In document C.3/1/Add.39 the delegation of Norway proposed a redraft of Article 38 (E/CONF.2/C.3/10 - Item 52). After consultation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations, the delegation of Norway presents a revised draft of its previous proposal. The language deleted from the original Norwegian proposal is shown in square brackets, the language added is underlined.

A background paper prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations is attached.

Article 38 - Information, Statistics and Trade Terminology

1. The Members shall communicate the statistics of their external trade as promptly and in as much detail as is reasonably practicable to the Organization or to such agency as may be agreed upon by the Organization in consultation with the appropriate organs of the United Nations, the statistics relating to their external trade (imports, exports, re-exports, governmental revenue from duties and other taxes levied on imports and exports, and payments of subsidies directly affecting such trade). Such statistics shall be as detailed as is reasonably practicable and shall reveal the operation of restrictions on trade under each tariff item.

2. The Members shall publish regularly and as promptly as possible the statistics of their external trade referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. The Members shall give careful consideration to any recommendations which the Organization and other appropriate organs of the United Nations may make with a view to improving the statistical information furnished regarding their external trade.

4. The Organization shall arrange to obtain such other statistical information as it may require for its operations through the statistical services of...
services of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies in accordance
with the agreements negotiated with the United Nations under Article 84 of
this Charter.

5. The Organization, taking into account the needs of all international
agencies and in order to avoid all unnecessary duplication shall arrange in
consultation with the appropriate organs of the United Nations, for the
collection, exchange and publication of such statistics of external trade
as are appropriate to the needs of international agencies.

6. The Organization, in co-operation with the organs of the
United Nations may study the question of adopting standards, nomenclatures,
terms and forms to be used in international trade and in the official
documents and statistics of Members relating thereto, on the basis of
agreements reached with the appropriate organs of the United Nations may
recommend the general acceptance by Members of such standards, nomenclatures,
terms and forms.
ARTICLE 38

BACKGROUND PAPER PREPARED BY THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS


General Responsibilities

1. The Statistical Commission, having the general responsibility for advising the Economic and Social Council on statistical matters, has been given broad terms of reference including,

(a) promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;
(b) the co-ordination of the statistical work of the Specialized Agencies;
(c) the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat;
(d) advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, interpretation and dissemination of statistical information;
(e) promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally. (E/30, 22 February 1946 and E/76 Rev.1, 1 July 1946).

2. The responsibility of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, organized by the Secretary-General as a part of the Department of Economic Affairs, is derived from several general recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, and of the General Assembly. These recommendations relate to

(a) the organization of a central statistical unit in the Secretariat of the United Nations;
(b) the collection, analysis and evaluation of statistics from Member Governments, Specialized Agencies and other sources;
(c) the publication of statistics;
(d) the co-ordination of statistical activities of the Specialized Agencies;
(e) the promotion
(e) the promotion of development and improvement of statistics in general;
(f) the maintenance of an international center for statistics;
(g) the maintenance of close contact and close co-ordination with national governments on programmes of statistical research, submission of statistical data, analysis and publication.
(E/76 Rev.1, 1 July 1946)

3. A central statistical unit having been authorized within the United Nations Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly that the responsibility for the statistical activities of the League of Nations be transferred to the United Nations. (E/76 Rev.1).

4. The General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General "to assume and continue the non-political functions and activities of the League of Nations previously performed by the League of Nations Secretariat". (A/46 Add.1/50/(1), 14 December 1946). Under this authority the statistical activities previously performed by the League of Nations Committee of Statistical Experts, as well as those of the Economic, Financial and Transit Department of the League of Nations Secretariat, and the statistical work of the Economic and Financial Committees, were assumed by the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council and the Statistical Office in the Secretariat, respectively.

Specific Responsibilities Relating to International Trade and Trade Terminology

5. In continuing the collection and publication programme of the League of Nations, the Statistical Office has collected and published current international trade statistics in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics. In the statistical yearbook now in preparation the Statistical Office will continue the statistical series on international trade previously published in the Statistical Yearbook of the League of Nations. The preparation of statistics for the continuation of such publications of the League of Nations as the Network of World Trade, Europe's Trade, and the World Economic Survey are now under way.

6. The Economic and Social Council has approved the programme of work for the development of an international standard industrial classification for the statistics relating to branches of economic activity. (E/43/40 (iv), 29 March 1947). Similarly, a programme of work directed toward the standardization of the classification of commodities entering into external trade, a classification by personal status, and the classification of occupations
occupations has been undertaken by the Statistical Commission and the Statistical Office. (E/577, 23 September 1947). A Committee of the Statistical Commission, assisted by the staff of the Statistical Office is at work on a draft proposal for the standardization of the classification of commodities entering into external trade. A group of expert consultants in this field is being organized to supplement the staff of the Statistical Office.

7. The general responsibility for studies leading toward the promotion of international comparability of statistics of external trade, along with other branches of statistics, has been assumed by the Committee on Statistical Classification of the Statistical Commission of the Economic and Social Council.