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**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL STATISTICAL
WORK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN,
JULY 2005-JUNE 2007**

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1-4	1
II. Report on the activities of the Programme of Regional Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007	5-60	2
III. Consolidated summary of the activities carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).....	-	19

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with the provisions of the resolution establishing the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (SCA-ECLAC) and the agreements adopted at its first meeting, the secretariat of the Conference submits this report to its Executive Committee and to member countries on the activities of the programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007. At its fifth meeting, the Executive Committee examined and discussed a revised version of the programme of regional statistical work 2005-2007 and ECLAC activities: a consolidated presentation (DDR/2), prepared by the secretariat, taking into account the commitment entered into at the third meeting of the Conference. It combined two documents presented at that meeting: one on the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2294(CEA.2005/4)) and the other on the programme of statistical work of the ECLAC system (LC/L.2316(CEA/2005/6)).

2. The secretariat presented for information and discussion by the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee a progress report on the activities of the programme of regional statistical work of ECLAC, which covered activities during the period from July 2005 to July 2006. The Executive Committee also had before it the report on the activities of the working groups established on the occasion of the third meeting of the Conference (LC/L.2595).

3. The document hereby presented to the fourth meeting of the Conference is an updated version (as of June 2007) of the progress report on activities that was presented and discussed at the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee. The present report is in two parts. The first highlights the main advances and achievements in regional cooperation activities, which are presented in an order reflecting the four major objectives contained in the strategic plan 2005-2015: institution-building, human resources, development of statistical capacities, and strengthening of international cooperation. The second part presents a consolidated summary of all the statistical activities conducted by ECLAC: technical assistance and advisory services, holding of expert meetings, training activities, publications, and updating and development of databases. This is not an exhaustive list; there are a number of ECLAC statistical activities which are not mentioned in this document, as they do not relate to the specific objectives of the Conference, but rather to agreements between ECLAC and various Governments, the United Nations system and other international bodies.

4. At its fourth meeting, the Conference will also have before it an information and discussion paper on the activities carried out by the working groups set up at its third meeting (LC/L.2718(CEA.4/6)).

II. REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL STATISTICAL WORK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, JULY 2005-JUNE 2007

Strategic objective 1: To strengthen the strategic and operational management practices and organization of the national statistical offices and national statistical systems in order to ensure the quality of their outputs and the satisfaction of users

5. This objective includes guidelines for action for institution-building in national statistical offices and systems, including legal and budgetary frameworks, strategic planning and operational management systems, the promotion of official statistics as a public good, and relations with users.

6. *The role of ECLAC as the secretariat of the Conference.* The Commission's main institutional activity in this area is its role as the secretariat of the Conference. ECLAC provided substantive and institutional assistance for the preparation and holding of the fifth and sixth meetings of the Executive Committee of the Conference, which took place in Mexico City from 14 to 15 November 2005 and in Madrid on 25 and 26 September 2006. During the period covered by this report, ECLAC supported the Chairperson of the Executive Committee in the follow-up to the agreements and decisions reached at its fifth and sixth meetings. In accordance with the guidelines of the Strategic Plan relating to the promotion of a regional vision in international forums, the member countries of the Conference which attended the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission met in New York on 6 March 2006 and 26 February 2007, respectively, at the invitation of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, to consider matters of mutual interest. In conjunction with the Chairperson, the secretariat carried out preparations for the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (SCA-ECLAC), including the production of substantive documentation and of reports on the progress of activities and the results of the work programme defined by the Conference.

7. Following up the third meeting of the Conference, the secretariat expanded and developed substantive discussions relating to opportunities and challenges facing national statistical systems in seeking to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The study published in December 2005¹ is based on an analysis of information from the region's national statistical offices and of national and international statistical documentation. It concludes with a set of recommendations focusing on planning and coordination of national statistical systems, increasing the availability of sources, improving access to statistics and their use in policymaking, enhancing international capacity for follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals and strengthening the role of national statistical offices in that follow-up. The secretariat prepared an updated English-language summary of that document.²

8. In response to a request from the Andean Community, the ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division carried out a technical assistance mission (21-23 February 2007) to analyse the Community's programme of statistical work and coordinate possible activities for the development and

¹ José Luis Cervera, "El seguimiento de los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio: oportunidades y retos para los Sistemas Nacionales de Estadística", *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, N° 39 (LC/L.2458-P), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC, December 2005. United Nations publication, sales No. S.05.II.G-204.

² José Luis Cervera and Hubert Escaith, "The Millennium Development Goals: strategic implications for the Latin American and Caribbean statistical systems, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, No. 48 (LC/L.2689-P), Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), March 2007. United Nations publications, Sales No. E.07.II.G.40.

strengthening of economic statistics in the countries of the subregion. At the request of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic, a technical assistance mission was carried out in Santo Domingo (12-16 March 2007) to share the experiences of other countries in the region, with a view to strengthening the national statistical system and modernizing the National Statistical Office.

9. Lastly, the secretariat continued its coordinating role with multilateral agencies and technical cooperation with member States and statistical bodies in the region. These activities include participation in international technical forums, some of which are organized jointly with ECLAC.

Strategic objective 2: To promote the training of staff in producing high-quality statistical information, managing national statistical systems and carrying out research into statistical methodology

10. This strategic objective includes lines of action to identify and document institutional needs and the work skills required for producing statistical information and for strategic management, and to promote cooperation and coordination in human-resources training in the region and research efforts on statistical innovations which are important for the region.

Courses and workshops

11. *Censuses and population projections.* As part of the project on the 2000 round of censuses jointly implemented the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC, a workshop on census evaluation and population projections was held for technical staff from the national statistical offices of Barbados and Belize, and two technical reports were produced, containing estimates and projections for those States. Collaboration was also provided for the holding of a national course in demographic analysis in the Dominican Republic and for the First Regional Demographic Analysis Workshop for the member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), in conjunction with the University of the West Indies (UWI) and CARICOM. A course on quality of life indicators in old age was held in Santiago, Chile, from 4 to 8 December 2006. The purpose of the course was to strengthen the technical capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries in the follow-up of policies and programmes aimed at older adults. The course was attended by 15 professionals from 11 countries in the region, and was financed by the Italian Government, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and national offices of UNFPA in Nicaragua, Panama and Uruguay.

12. *Training in the use of the REDATAM software and creation of census databases.* In 2006, four basic workshops on the system for retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM) were in Argentina, Chile, Haiti and Nicaragua, and a workshop was held on the creation of census databases and the use of applications for the dissemination of data on the Internet. In the first quarter of 2007, an advanced workshop was held in Chile on the processing and analysis of sociodemographic indicators using REDATAM+SP, with participants from several countries in the region, and a workshop was held in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on creating databases and applications for the dissemination of data on the Internet using REDATAM+SP. Throughout 2006 and 2007, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC has provided technical advisory services for the creation of census databases and the use of the xPlan application in countries both within and outside the region, including Gabon, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, and has received interns from two countries (Gabon and Kenya) and advisers from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Support Team in Harare, Zimbabwe. REDATAM training was also provided in Africa through a

workshop organized jointly with UNFPA and its Technical Support Team for Africa, with participants from 14 countries.

13. *Household surveys.* The Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), which is part of ECLAC, organized the fourth and fifth international courses on the use of socioeconomic indicators for impact assessment of poverty alleviation programmes. The fourth course was held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 4 to 15 July 2005, and the fifth in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, from 15 to 26 May 2006. These activities benefited from the collaboration of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) and the University of Alcalá, Spain.

14. *Environmental statistics.* In the framework of the project “Strengthening the capacity of the Latin American and Caribbean countries to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals,” and jointly with Universidad Rafael Landívar (Guatemala), ECLAC has organized a course on statistical bases for the development of indicators for Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, to be held in Guatemala City from 5 to 8 September 2006.

Strategic objective 3: To promote the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to generate high-quality statistical information in the region

15. This strategic objective aims to promote cooperation and sharing of experiences on best practices and methodological documents to enable national statistical offices and systems to deal appropriately with the main challenges of the next stage, which is the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the development of sociodemographic and gender statistics needed for follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation in all the countries of the region of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA), and the methodology review scheduled for 2008. At the same time, this strategic goal aims to develop capacities to ensure that countries, taking account of the specific conditions in each one, have access to statistics and indicators on their natural resources and environment and on science and technology.

Economic statistics and national accounts

16. *Workshops, seminars and meetings.* ECLAC has constantly worked to build technical capacities in areas such as national accounts and economic statistics in the countries of the region, and to this end, it has organized international workshops, seminars and meetings, the subject matter of which relates to international classifications, recommendations on data collection procedures and processing methods, promoting standardization and consolidation of results region-wide.

17. *Economic statistics.* The use of new methodological tools and compliance with international recommendations requires constant efforts to update and develop technical and methodological capacities in the field of economic statistics. In that perspective, and in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Division, ECLAC organized the Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services (Panama City, 13-16 September 2005), with 20 participants from Latin American countries. In addition, ECLAC hosted the meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (Santiago, Chile, 2-5 April 2006). Responding to a request from the Central Bank of Nicaragua, ECLAC organized an internship for its officials on methods of calculation for external trade indices (Santiago, 13-15 April 2006); it also held a capacity-building workshop on the use of specialized trade databases (Santiago, 16-17 March 2006) for officials who negotiate trade agreements on behalf of a number of Latin American countries. Along similar lines, ECLAC took part in the meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force

on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, organized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome from 17 to 19 April 2007. Participants discussed topical issues such as the content and metadata of international merchandise trade databases, international trade indices, the coordination of technical assistance provided by international agencies, and emerging issues relating to globalization and the role of multinationals in the international merchandise trade.

In conjunction with the United Nations Statistics Division and the Andean Community, ECLAC also organized a workshop on international merchandise trade statistics in Lima, Peru, from 8 to 11 May 2007, with the participation of 30 representatives from Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Lastly, a workshop on international merchandise trade statistics was organized under the auspices of ECLAC and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, with the collaboration of the United Nations Statistics Division, in Panama City, from 8 to 11 May 2006. The workshop, which was attended by 30 participants from Latin American and Caribbean countries, analysed in detail new international classifications such as the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) rev. 4 and the Central Product Classification (CPC) rev. 2.

18. *Implementation of SNA 1993.* Since 2002, the annual seminars organized by ECLAC have provided a very useful opportunity to discuss methodological issues relating to the modernization of systems of national accounts of the region's countries. The outcomes of these yearly meetings contribute to progress in harmonizing the methods and results of national accounts in the countries of the region. From 23 to 25 October 2006, the annual seminar on national accounts was held in Guatemala. Participants tackled key issues for the development of national accounts in the region and discussed the document on National Accounts: conceptual, methodological and practical guidelines (in publication), which summarizes the main problems and obstacles facing the process of modernizing the national accounting system. A draft of this document was analysed at a workshop organized by ECLAC in Santiago, Chile (28-30 August 2006), and attended by several national accounts experts from the region and Europe.

19. *Tourism satellite accounts.* ECLAC signed an agreement with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), with the main aim of providing methodological support for countries as they set up and strength their systems of tourism statistics and create tourism satellite accounts. ECLAC played an active part in the World Conference on the Tourism Satellite Account, held in Iguazú from 3 to 6 October 2005, where it organized a workshop on links between tourism and the environment in the framework of systems of summary statistics. ECLAC also took part in the meeting of the Statistical Committee of UNWTO (Madrid, 27 and 28 March 2006) and, together with UNWTO, the Tourism Studies Institute (IET) of Spain and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), contributed to the organization of the eighth Ibero-American meeting on the measurement and analysis of tourism (Cartagena, Colombia, 16-19 May 2006). The participants in these meetings included technical experts from institutions responsible for creating and strengthening statistical systems and tourism satellite accounts in the countries of the region (national tourism offices, national statistical institutes and central banks). The assessments made by the participants demonstrate the notable progress that the countries of the region have made in statistical work in the area of tourism, and the ever-increasing number of experimental exercises in tourism satellite accounts in the Latin American countries, making it possible to standardize and consolidate statistical outputs at the regional level. ECLAC also took part in the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism (Lisbon, 26-28 March 2007), where participants analysed the new recommendations on the conceptual and methodological aspects of tourism statistics that will be presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission between February and March 2008 for consideration, approval and adoption at the international level.

Population and housing censuses

20. *Technical assistance for census preparations:* CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC provided advisory services to El Salvador and Peru in preparation for their population censuses conducted in 2007, while also taking part in census evaluation in Nicaragua, in conjunction with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC continued to advise five Caribbean countries that have not yet finished processing their 2000 round of population censuses. It also took part in a meeting held by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics of Mexico (INEGI), a meeting organized in May 2006 in Rio de Janeiro by the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), on alternative methods for demographic censuses, and a meeting held in the framework of the Statistical Conference and the Joint Population Census for MERCOSUR on the shared evaluation of the 2000 round of censuses with a view to implementing changes in the 2010 round (Buenos Aires, June 2006).

21. *Technical assistance for the processing, use and dissemination of census data.* CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC continued to advise the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on the use of the system for retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM) for the dissemination and use of census data. As a result, the census databases of 12 countries (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago) can be processed online using the REDATAM server. In addition to population census databases, a national vital-statistics database for Chile was produced (2004).

22. *Technical assistance for assessments and estimates of demographic data.* As part of the technical assistance it provides to countries in the assessment and projection of demographic data, CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC has advised the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru on the production of population estimates and projections based on data from the 2000 round of censuses. Guatemala received advice on projections relating to urban and rural areas and the economically active population. In May 2007, ECLAC offices provided assistance to officials of the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Sciences for the production of subnational population projections.

23. *Seminars on alternative methods for demographic censuses.* In the first quarter of 2004, in the framework of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the Presidents of the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) of Mexico and the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), along with representatives of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) of France, agreed to organize an exchange of experiences for certain countries in the region that were interested in the subject of alternative methods for demographic censuses. The first seminar was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 13 to 15 October 2004, with the aim of presenting the methodology developed by France for its new population census and efforts under way in Spain and the United States. The seminar was attended by representatives from the statistical institutes of 13 countries and 4 international agencies. The seminar was highly productive, as it presented the methodological basis for the rotative censuses carried out in France and the technical advances of the American Community Survey in the United States. The seminar also provided the opportunity to exchange experiences and opinions with other countries in the region and to find out about preparations for innovative population census projects in Colombia and Peru. Participants at the first seminar agreed on the importance of exchanging knowledge and experiences. The second seminar was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 4 to 6 July 2005, and was attended by 70 officials from 22 countries and 8 international agencies. The seminar included presentations on the experiences of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Spain

and the United States and their demographic censuses. This led on to a discussion of the scope and limitations of traditional censuses and the use of new methodologies such as continuous censuses. While the new methodologies were seen as providing countries with up-to-date information, at first they would not result in any major budgetary savings in comparison with conventional census methodology. Participants concluded that the matter should continue to be studied, with a view to identifying new methodologies that would result in significant savings while guaranteeing high-quality demographic information within the region. The third seminar was held from 29 to 31 May 2006 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The fact that the seminar was attended by representatives from the region's countries, France, Spain, the United States and several international agencies such as the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Statistical Division resulted in a high level of technical representation and an open exchange of experiences. Progress reports were presented on relevant work under way in Colombia, France and the United States. Participants considered the more general applicability of the methodologies presented, and a far-reaching discussion took place into the pros and cons of changing the traditional methodology, adopting new alternatives and combining existing ones, always bearing in mind the budgetary resources available. One aspect highlighted by participants was the link between the quality of information from administrative records and the use of innovative methods, such as the one being used in France. It would be difficult to make the move to rotative censuses in countries with low-quality administrative records. At the end of the meeting, participants agreed that any changes that may be suggested or implemented should take account of the actual resources and the characteristics of statistical information in each country. Exercising caution was not necessarily at odds with innovation or the well-planned allocation and use of public resources.

24. *Sociodemographic information on indigenous and Afro-descendent population groups.* CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC completed its activities on the project "Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: relevance of sociodemographic information to policies and programmes", The censuses of Bolivia, Ecuador and Panama were used along with REDATAM and census data from the 2000 round to produce and analyse sociodemographic indicators for indigenous population groups (and Afro-descendants in the case of Ecuador) in the three countries. The corresponding sociodemographic studies have been published. The studies led to the publication of three indigenous population maps, one for each country, the final versions of which are also available. One chapter of the Social Panorama of Latin America, 2006 was entitled "Indigenous peoples of Latin America: old inequities, mixed realities and new obligations for twenty-first century democracies". This chapter emphasizes the sociodemographic inequalities that affect indigenous peoples, in the context of structural discrimination and cultural specificities, from the viewpoint of the new international agreements on the individual and collective rights of these peoples. In a similar area, technical assistance was provided for data capture in terms of ethnic groups within the national statistical system of Peru, and research proposals have also been presented on this topic. The International seminar entitled "Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: relevance of sociodemographic information to policies and programmes." was organized by CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, and sponsored by the Government of France and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with the cooperation of the French Centre for Population and Development (CEPED). The seminar was attended by representatives from 14 countries, and the papers presented were published as a book.³ In Panama City in 2005, a second workshop on the use of sociodemographic information and indicators in policies and

³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *"Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: relevance of sociodemographic information to policies and programmes," Documentos de proyectos*, No. 72 (LC/W.72) Santiago, Chile, May 2006.

programmes⁴ was organized by the Statistics and Census Office of Panama in coordination with CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC. A regional workshop was also held on an ethnic approach in sources of health data (the Mapuche experience in the southern corridor of Argentina and Chile): recommendations for future development in the Americas. The workshop was held in Temuco, Chile, on 18 and 19 April 2007, as part of a cooperation agreement between CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). It was attended by representatives of Mapuche organizations, health centres and Mapuche leaders from Argentina and Chile, as well as professionals and technical staff from national statistical institutes, health ministries, universities and other relevant stakeholders. These activities will be used to systematize local experiences in the selected countries and draw up a series of recommendations for incorporating the ethnic variable in health information systems (redesign of data collection instruments, awareness-raising and training for sectoral staff and the general population, plus strategies for the capture, input, consistency, dissemination and use of information), which will be implemented in the second stage of the project.

25. *Research on ageing and migration.* Between June 2005 and May 2007, national reports on ageing policies were produced in Chile, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay. The reports included profiles relating to ageing and the situation of older persons and ageing prepared using data from censuses (1990 and 2000 rounds) and household surveys from the countries concerned. The reports were produced with funding from the Italian Government and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In April 2007, a study was completed on social protection for older people in Ecuador, including a sociodemographic analysis of the older adult population using data from censuses and household surveys. The study was produced in the context of an agreement with the Technical Secretariat of the Ministry for the Coordination of Social Development and was funded by the World Bank. In the period under consideration, CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC has made progress towards producing a set of indicators to monitor the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The purpose of the system is to support the region's countries in their follow-up of the situation of older people and progress in the implementation of the Regional Strategy. The first stage involves creating a database of census indicators to monitor the process of population ageing and the sociodemographic characteristics of older people between censuses and by their area of residence, age group and gender. This first stage is expected to provide the region's countries with a minimum set of indicators and their respective technical definitions (metadata) for establishing baselines or monitoring interventions in this area. A comparative study of internal migration in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico in the past two decades, at the level of major administrative divisions, is due to be completed by mid-2007. This study is intended to assist development policies at different geographical levels through the standardization of available census data and to offer a methodological alternative for the identification of the sociodemographic impacts of internal migration.

In the Dominican Republic and Uruguay, in the second half of 2005 and early 2006, profiles relating to ageing and the situation of older persons and ageing were prepared using data from censuses (1990 and 2000 rounds) and household surveys from the countries concerned. Those inputs were included in the country reports on those two countries in the framework of the project entitled "Follow-up to the agreements reached at the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing: Towards a Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Santiago 2003." The purpose of the project is to develop strategies to support the design of policies for the application at the country level, in the Dominican Republic and Uruguay, of the

⁴ Three such national workshops were held in late 2004 in Bolivia, Ecuador and Panama, as part of the IDB/ECLAC project on indigenous and Afro-descendent population in censuses.

Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Social statistics

26. *Technical assistance in social statistics.* Since the second half of 2005, ECLAC has conducted a number of technical assistance activities in the production and analysis of social statistics, relating to sample design, data acquisition in the field and the use and analysis of household survey data to follow up government action in the social sphere. In particular, technical assistance has been provided to the following bodies: the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Bolivia, for consistency analysis of the Survey of Living Conditions; the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala, in the analysis of data from the National Employment and Income Survey and the generation of labour-market indicators; the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, for the analysis of data from the Labour Force Survey; the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Costa Rica, in the statistical and economic analysis of the 2004 Household Income and Spending Survey; the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala, in the statistical design of the Continuous Employment Survey 2007 and the supervision of the Survey of Living Conditions 2006; the National Statistical Office and the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, for the conceptual and statistical design of the Household Income and Spending Survey 2006-2007; the Social Cabinet attached to the office of the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic, in the analysis of the Single Beneficiary Identification System, designed for the selection of the beneficiaries of social programmes; the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala, in the analysis of and recommendations on the quality of information in the 2005 Living Standards Survey 2005; National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru, in the analysis of the quality of information and methodology used to measure poverty; the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Uruguay, in the review of methodological aspects of poverty measurement; the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Costa Rica and the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala, in the follow-up of the above-mentioned assistance; the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, for technical assistance in the employment survey; the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Nicaragua, in analysis of data from the 2005 Survey of Living Conditions; the Social Cabinet attached to the office of the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic and the subsidy programme *Comer es Primero* (“Eating comes first”); the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Costa Rica, to analyse the quality of the result of the 2004-2005 Income and Expenditure Survey and design the Quarterly Employment Survey; and the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala, for the analysis of the 2006 Survey of Living Conditions.

27. *Workshop on household satellite accounts.* On 5 and 6 June 2006, jointly with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), ECLAC conducted an “International Workshop on Household Satellite Accounts: Gender and Health. Measuring Women's Unpaid Work Contribution to Health and Economic Development” at its headquarters in Santiago. The purpose of the workshop was to present and discuss conceptual and methodological progress and empirical results in measuring the contribution of household members’ unpaid work to national economic activity and to the development of countries’ human and social capital. Emphasis was placed on presenting and discussing progress and results in the development of health satellite accounts for households and of time use surveys, particularly stressing the significance of unpaid health care in households.

28. *Capacity-building for monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals.* ECLAC is conducting a project entitled “Strengthening the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals.” The project activities include the formulation of a proposal for adapting the Millennium Development Goals to the region’s particular characteristics, by including complementary

indicators to improve the monitoring and analysis of the Goals in the areas of education, gender and the environment. The project has also included a comparison of statistics from country reports and those used for monitoring at the international level, as a basic ingredient for progress towards improved harmonization of data between countries and international bodies. Several meetings of experts and regional workshops have been held as part of the project. On 5 and 6 December 2005, in Santiago, ECLAC organized the first meeting of experts on Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (“Ensure environmental sustainability”). A proposal was discussed at that meeting, and was subsequently revised and discussed again at the second meeting of experts (8-10 August 2006, Santiago). On 12 and 13 June 2006, ECLAC organized another expert meeting in Santiago on the gender perspective in the MDG Indicators. In the area of education indicators, ECLAC organized a meeting of experts entitled “Towards a broadening of the framework of analysis on education in the context of follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals” (3 and 4 August 2006, Santiago), to discuss a proposal for complementary indicators relating to Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals. On 9 and 10 November 2006, the seminar “National Statistical Offices and the Millennium Development Goals: A New Evaluation” was held in Santiago, Chile. The seminar was the continuation of discussions that began in 2005 at the joint IADB-World Bank-UNDP-ECLAC workshop entitled “National Statistics Offices face the Millennium Development Goals”, held in Santo Domingo with the cooperation of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic. The second meeting enabled participants to review some of the issues that arose at the first, in terms of the role of National Statistical Offices in the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals, and the actions to be implemented to face current challenges and take advantage of opportunities. Several technical assistance missions have also been carried out as part of the project, in relation to Millennium Development Goal indicators on gender and education. As far as gender is concerned, the countries that received assistance include Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador and Paraguay. As for education, assistance was provided to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

29. *Measurement of the Millennium Development Goals in urban areas in Latin America.* ECLAC has conducted a new study relating to the measurement of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in urban areas in Latin America, in the framework of an agreement with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT). The resulting document presents a set of indicators calculated on the basis of microdata from population and housing censuses and household surveys which are comparable at the regional level, for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals in 36 urban areas in nine Latin American countries.

30. *Latin American Compendium of Social Indicators.* In the framework of the project entitled “Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics” (REDESA), a proposal was prepared for a Latin American compendium of social indicators, based on agreements reached at a number of United Nations summits and conferences, and presenting a set of 105 internationally comparable indicators for the monitoring and follow-up of social development in Latin America. In the second half of 2005, project completion was marked the closing meeting of the social component of the REDESA project (“results and future prospects”), in Santiago, Chile, on 21 and 22 July 2005. The participants discussed the aforementioned proposal for a minimum set of social indicators, and reviewed the current status of statistics on non-traditional social topics. Participants included national experts from statistical bodies in 25 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

31. *Review of the method used for poverty measurement.* ECLAC is implementing a project to review the method used for poverty measurement in the countries of Latin America. The project involves a number of activities such as methodological and empirical research and the construction of new poverty lines, the development of working groups with active participation by the countries of the region, the holding of technical seminars and regional workshops on subjects relating to the measurement of well-

being, a regional training course on the new methodological proposal, and the generation of databases using new figures on poverty and indigence. The project is currently completing the research stage, and the first results will be discussed by expert workshops and working groups in the second half of 2007.

32. *System of indicators to monitor and assess the degree of social cohesion.* In the framework of the EUROsociAL Programme of the European Commission's EuropeAid cooperation office, ECLAC is developing a set of indicators to monitor and assess the degree of social cohesion in the countries of Latin America. This project has produced an operational definition of social cohesion that is relevant to the region, while a set of matching indicators, with their respective technical specifications, is also being developed.

33. *Harmonization of social statistics.* Some of the projects mentioned in relation to strategic goal 3 are intended to support harmonization in the production of social statistics at the regional level. They include the proposal for a Latin American social statistics compendium, based on the agreements reached at various United Nations summits and conferences and prepared in the context of the project entitled "Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics" (REDESA). Moreover, the project "Strengthening the capacity of Latin America and the Caribbean countries to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals" includes the formulation of a proposal to adapt the Goals to the characteristics of the region by including complementary indicators that would improve the follow-up and analysis of the Goals, and that could be calculated on the basis of information produced by the countries. In addition, the ECLAC project to review poverty measurement methods in Latin American countries is intended to generate a new, income-based measurement standard that can be applied at the regional level, in order to move towards a higher degree of comparability for poverty statistics. Lastly, in the context of the EUROsociAL programme launched by the European Commission Cooperation Office, ECLAC is developing a standardized system of indicators to monitor and assess the level of social cohesion in the countries of Latin America.

34. *Compendium of best practices for poverty measurement.* In the context of the work of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics (Rio Group), ECLAC and the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) produced the Compendium of Best Practices in Poverty Measurement, which was presented at the eighth meeting of the Rio Group, held in Rio de Janeiro on 24 and 25 August 2006. This document reviews existing poverty measurement methods at the global level and discusses their main advantages and disadvantages, as well as contextual factors to be taken into account in their implementation.⁵

35. *Social Panorama of Latin America 2005 and 2006.* The English version of the *Social Panorama of Latin America 2005* was launched in late 2005. It covers various topics of interest to the countries of the region. In particular, it analyses recent poverty trends, the increase in remittances from abroad and their impact on the well-being of the population. It also considers trends in social spending and their impact on income distribution. There is also an exploration of whether the demographic transition that has been taking place in the Latin American countries over the past 15 years has helped to narrow the long-standing gaps in mortality and birth rates between socioeconomic groups and regions. Attention is also drawn to the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Caribbean countries, together with a summary of the main changes in the health sector, and the policies and programmes being used to cope with them. The *Social Panorama of Latin America 2006* was launched in December 2006. This edition presents the most recent figures on the magnitude of poverty and income inequality estimated by ECLAC. The document also analyses the main changes in the labour market between 1990 and 2002, provides a detailed study of the sociodemographic profile of indigenous peoples from the viewpoint of new

⁵ Rio Group, *Compendium of Best Practices in Poverty Measurement*, Rio de Janeiro, September 2006.

international standards concerning their individual and collective rights, and lastly analyses the transformations in family structures and the public programmes aimed at the region's families and their development.

Gender statistics

36. *Gender analysis in population censuses by racial or ethnic group.* ECLAC processed data from the latest censuses available from Bolivia (2001), Brazil (2000), Ecuador (2001), Guatemala (2002) and Panama (2000) in order to conduct a gender analysis, especially in areas with poor sample coverage for household surveys and others where census data are especially important in categorizing the population by racial and ethnic background. The tabulation plan included the thematic areas of population, fertility, area of activity and education and the data produced are now being analysed. The information is available on the ECLAC web page on gender statistics (http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles_en/).

37. *Processing of gender indicators available for the use of Latin American and Caribbean countries.* Both to update the data available and to provide a historical perspective for users, ECLAC continued to process the household surveys for 1994, 1999, 2002 and 2004 from 18 Latin American countries. During 2007, information from 2005 is being processed, as information on poverty was not available in 2004 due to problems related to a review of the measurement methodology used. ECLAC also processed information from the most recent national demographic and health surveys, with a view to completing the set of gender indicators of the database of the ECLAC Women and Development Unit on population, fertility, household and family, education, work and income, poverty, health and violence against women. The information produced was used for the study "Estadísticas para la equidad de género: Magnitudes y tendencias en América Latina", which is being published in the *Cuadernos de la CEPAL series*, with the financial support of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

38. *Technical assistance on gender statistics in the Caribbean.* With financial support from UNFPA, and in the framework of the project entitled "Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States", ECLAC headquarters provided technical assistance to ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port of Spain, for the creation of a set of gender indicators for the countries of the subregion, seeking to maximize their compatibility with indicators already existing in the countries of Latin America. It also evaluated a strategy to strengthen the production of gender statistics in the countries of the subregion; this included the organization of workshops with experts from Caribbean countries, and the formulation of other indicators specific to gender issues. This effort led to the construction of a baseline for the Caribbean countries, integrating data from 1990 for 14 countries, and subsequently processing data from 2000 for five countries, to be complemented in 2006 by data from the 2000 round of censuses, in the framework of another project financed by the Caribbean regional offices of UNFPA and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). This is an ongoing effort, due to the problems in obtaining and processing data. The initial version of the Caribbean database is available on the ECLAC web page on gender statistics (http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles_en/default.htm). At the request of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Women's Rights of Haiti, cooperation activities have begun to establish a system of gender indicators, and will continue during the second half of 2007.

39. *Technical meeting of the authorities of national statistical offices and national women's offices in Caribbean countries.* The aim of the meeting, held in the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean (Port of Spain, November 2006), was to assess the status of gender statistics in the Caribbean. The meeting consisted of four panel discussions on: the presentation of the study prepared by ECLAC on the subject; information available in the databases of international and intergovernmental organizations in

the Caribbean; the processing of information on emerging issues such as reproductive health and poverty from a gender perspective; and the presentation of some national experiences relating to the production and use of gender statistics from the 1990 and 2000 census rounds, with a view to promoting dialogue between users and producers of statistical information.

40. *Time use surveys and health satellite accounts.* ECLAC organized an expert meeting on time use surveys, their design and application (Santiago, Chile, 21-23 November 2005), during which international experts discussed and shared their experience of the design and formulation of time use surveys, with a view to generating statistics on both paid work and unpaid domestic work, while at the same time promoting the inclusion of a time-use module in existing household surveys in the countries of the region, to facilitate the calculation of key indicators on the allocation of women's and men's time. On that occasion, the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC presented a document on the limitations and potential of incorporating a time-use module in household surveys. As described above, in June 2006, ECLAC conducted an "International Workshop on Household Satellite Accounts: Gender and Health. Measuring Women's Unpaid Work Contribution to Health and Economic Development". The methodological advances made during this period were used as the basis for one of the subjects of the position document that ECLAC will present at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 6-9 August 2007), concerning the analysis of women's contribution to the economy and social protection, especially in terms of their unpaid work.

41. *Millennium Development Goals indicators from a gender perspective.* ECLAC is currently conducting a project on the follow-up to Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals. A proposal was prepared for complementary indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, and a cross-cutting gender perspective has been included for other objectives contained in the Millennium Declaration. The aim was to promote and facilitate the integration of the proposed indicators and to design strategies with the producers and users of information for adapting the Millennium Development Goals to conditions existing in the various countries, while maintaining comparability at the regional level. In addition to the activities listed below, the project included training activities and technical assistance missions in Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Paraguay to assess the quality of the information available to follow-up the Millennium Development Goals and of the state of relations between users and producers of gender statistics.

42. *Workshop for experts on the Millennium Development Goals and gender equity.* ECLAC organized a meeting of specialists on the gender perspective and the Millennium Indicators (Santiago, Chile, 12 and 13 June 2006), held in the framework of the project entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve the Millennium Development Goals." For that meeting, the ECLAC Women and Development Unit prepared a document on the Millennium Development Goals and gender equity, describing a series of complementary indicators designed to monitor and evaluate the situation in the region in relation to gender equity, in addition to the official indicators provided for in Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals, "promote gender equality and empower women." (See <http://www.cepal.cl/mujer/>).

43. *Processing of information relating to gender violence available in Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS).* As part of the production of the inter-agency regional report entitled "Not one more! Women's right to a life free of violence in Latin America and the Caribbean" (forthcoming), the ECLAC Women and Development Unit searched for available information on gender violence and HIV/AIDS that could be compared among various countries in the region. From the point of view of comparability, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) provided the best source of information, and data from surveys carried out from 2000 onwards were used as they include a module on gender violence.

Environmental statistics

44. *Technical assistance in environmental statistics.* ECLAC has provided assistance on environmental statistics to the following bodies: to the National Environment Commission of Chile (CONAMA) and the Chilean Ministry of Health, in the development of their environmental indicators relating to solid waste (since March 2006); to the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, in the development of national indicators for water resources (May 2006); staff training for various organizations in Brazil on progress and methodology in statistics and environmental indicators in the region (June and August 2006); and provided technical assistance to a number of bodies in Guatemala on environmental information systems, statistics and indicators, in the framework of the project “Cuenta con Ambiente” (September 2006). Similarly, technical assistance on environmental statistics and Millennium Development Goal indicators was provided at the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay from 24 to 26 April 2007. Assistance took the form of, inter alia, review of an instrument for recording environmental information that the country will use to compile its first record of the availability of environmental statistics.

Strategic objective 4: Promote coordination and cooperation between the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and international agencies

45. The lines of action required to achieve this strategic goal are geared to promoting regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral cooperation as a very effective tool for achieving the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and, in particular, for supporting a regional programme to harmonize statistical information in key areas.

International Comparison Programme

46. *Data collection, harmonization and consolidation activities.* ECLAC has taken on responsibility for activities relating to the collection, harmonization and consolidation of data on national accounts, the external sector and domestic prices as part of the International Comparison Programme (with the joint coordination of Statistics Canada), which in the 2005 round covered the South American countries. The results and the active participation of national statistical offices were presented in June 2007.⁶

47. *Expert workshops.* Frequent meetings of price and national accounts experts were held in order to evaluate the results of each quarterly measurement of prices and weighting harmonization, taking into account the comparability and representativeness of the products included in the basket of goods and services defined at the beginning of the International Comparison Programme. In the second half of 2005 and the first half of 2006, regional meetings were held in Montevideo (8-16 August 2005), Buenos Aires (14-19 November 2005) and Santiago, Chile (3-12 April 2006). The meetings were usually attended by two experts (one on national accounts and one on prices) from each of the countries involved and also experts from the project’s coordinating organizations in South America. As a result of these activities, purchasing power parity exchange rates will be available, as well as other relevant data that will be used to prepare studies of exchange-rate policy, productivity and international competitiveness as well as poverty studies. In order to analyse the overall results of the project in terms of GDP parities and expenditure components,

⁶ Regional coordinators for South America, “Final results of the International Comparison Program for South America, 2005”, *Documentos de proyecto*, No. 138 (LC/W.138), Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), June 2007.

Directors of National Accounts met on 11 and 12 January 2007 in Santiago, Chile, to agree on a time line for studies prior to the publication of those results in June 2007.

48. *Technical meeting for harmonization of the consumer price index (CPI) and parity calculation.* In order to extend the geographical coverage of the programme and prepare the Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua), plus the Dominican Republic and Panama, a technical meeting was organized jointly with the Central American Monetary Council on harmonization of the consumer price index and calculation of purchasing power parities in Central America. At this meeting, held in San José, Costa Rica, from 13 to 17 March 2006, a programme of work to achieve the project's goals was drafted, in cooperation with experts on prices and national accounts. A second technical meeting for the project was held in Guatemala City from 24 to 27 October 2006, with the aim of analysing the basket of goods and services in order to construct a harmonized consumer price index (CPI) for the subregion. Progress was also made in terms of the preliminary exercise for the calculation of purchasing power parities.

The third technical meeting was held in Tegucigalpa from 20 to 23 March 2007, where participants analysed the results produced for the harmonized CPI. With the same aim, several technical assistance missions were carried out in the seven countries involved in this type of calculation.

Development and maintenance of databases in the region

49. *Updating of the database on spatial distribution and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean (DEPUALC).* *Demographic Bulletin* No. 75 of January 2005 contained updated data from the DEPUALC database, using the information available up to 2004 for 13 countries (Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay). It included information at the major administrative division level on the number of inhabitants in populated areas and identified all those population centres with more than 20,000 inhabitants at any given moment of time during the period studied (1950-2000). It also included information on the total, urban and rural population and the group of localities with between 2,000 and 20,000 inhabitants in each major administrative division. In September 2006, the DEPUALC database was launched on the CELADE website so that all users may process information directly and free of charge. Information is currently being compiled from censuses and other surveys from 2004 (Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay), with a view to updating the database during 2007. The long and complex process of geographically selecting cities in the databases of census microdata has also begun. This will enable the processing of census microdata at the city level which, in turn, will make it possible to define cities in much more detail.

50. *Updating of information for the programme on Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA).* The information for this programme was updated. It is used to study populations counted in censuses outside their country of birth, and information is currently available on the foreigners included in the most recent censuses of Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay. The IMILA databases may be consulted online and downloaded free of charge from the web page of CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC. Information on the dissemination of IMILA programme data was also published in *Demographic Observatory* No. 1.

51. *Updating of population estimates and projections.* ECLAC has updated the estimates and projections for the urban and rural population using information available from the new population censuses published in *Demographic Bulletin* No. 76 of July 2005 and available in the population

estimates and projections database on the website of CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC. The database of estimates and projections for the economically active population was updated and published in: *Latin America and the Caribbean: Demographic Observatory No. 2* of October 2006 and the corresponding database on the website was updated.

52. *Updating of the Database on Internal Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIALC).* In the reference period, work continued on updating this database, available at http://www.eclac.cl/migracion/migracion_interna/. It includes standardized tabulations with the processing results, the REDATAM programmes employed and copies of published official matrices (initial back-up for the new calculations). It also contains useful results on aspects of migration flows and migrants, many of which have never been previously obtained or disseminated. In March 2007, the database was expanded to include new indicators and reconfigured for smoother online processing and access. The database has been intensively used as part of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and ECLAC project on migration and development in Latin America, and has been used to produce several publications. It was also used in national workshops on internal migration and development held in Brazil, Chile and Mexico.

53. *Updating of census databases in the countries of the region.* The census databank was updated with the databases of the 2000 round of population censuses. During the period studied, definitive data from Barbados, Belize, Chile, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay were added to the census data bank. An online regional indicator databank has also been created.

54. *Technological development of REDATAM.* In 2005 a new version of REDATAM was developed with better management and display facilities. It included an update of specific applications developed to strengthen the analysis of data from censuses and other sources such as indirect mortality estimates; indirect fertility estimates; and concentration measurement indices (Gini coefficient). The Beta R⁺ Linux version was developed and presented at a specialized workshop that was held in the second half of 2005. A French-language version of the REDATAM programme has also been made available to users. In the first quarter of 2007, a new version (REDATAM 5.0) was developed in all four official languages of the ECLAC programme of work: English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

55. *Gender indicators in public policymaking.* The activities carried out by ECLAC through the project "Use of gender indicators in public policymaking" include maintaining a web page on dissemination of gender statistics (<http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles/>). At present, users have access to 22 profiles of countries in the region, based on a minimum set of indicators, as well as a series of socioeconomic indicators that are comparable at the regional level and refer to the following topics: population, fertility, household and family, education, work and income, poverty; health, violence and political participation. A group of comparative indicators at the regional level, based on a historical time line that included the years 1994, 1999 and 2002, was updated to include 2004.

56. *System of indicators for follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.* ECLAC, with financial support from UNFPA, developed the regional system of indicators for follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action, using the R+G4xPlan application of the REDATAM programme. This was made available to Internet users at the end of June 2005, together with regional systems of indicators for follow-up to the programmes of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 2002), prepared by the CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC. Methodological notes on construction of the indicators were also included.

57. *Updating of the Social Indicators and Statistics Database (BADEINSO) and Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).* The Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC has continued to update BADEINSO, which is available free of charge from the ECLAC website. This database contains data for 29 series of indicators in the areas of education, health, employment, remuneration, economics and the Millennium Development Goals, for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Meanwhile, work has continued with the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG), a fundamental input for preparing studies and constructing economic and social indicators for Latin American and Caribbean countries. BADEHOG is available for use by all ECLAC divisions, national offices and subregional headquarters through the ECLAC Intranet, and offers both an information tabulation module and data for a more disaggregated analysis.

Preparation of economic projections for Latin America and the Caribbean

58. *Economic Projections.* ECLAC is carrying out extensive work for the preparation of short-term economic projections, as well as business analysis in the region. These activities strengthen the technical capacity of statistical users both within the national statistical offices and in other institutions. The Economic Projections Centre of the ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division provided the macroeconomic projections (GDP, inflation and external sector) for the *Preliminary Overview of the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean 2006*, *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2005-2006* and *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy, 2005-2006*. In the context of the Macroeconomic Dialogue Network (REDIMA), macroeconomic projections were produced for Andean countries and then included in the document “Convergencia Macroeconómica Andina 2007”, published by the Executive Secretariat of the Andean Community. Steel demand projections for Latin America were also carried out as part of the project implemented with the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute (ILAFA); these were published as “Estimación de Demanda de Acero para América Latina” (*Revista Acero Latinoamericano*, No.º 497). Medium-term growth scenarios were prepared for countries participating in the Project for Political Analysis and Future Scenario being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

59. *Modelling.* Activity was focused on the application of computable general equilibrium models in trade policymaking and analysis. The following documents were published as part of these efforts: “Los acuerdos comerciales de Colombia, Ecuador y Perú con los Estados Unidos: efectos sobre el comercio, la producción y el bienestar”, *Revista de la CEPAL*, N° 91, “Acuerdos de libre comercio entre los países andinos y los Estados Unidos: ¿Cuánto se puede esperar de ellos?”, *Comercio internacional series*, N° 77 and “El modelo GTAP y las preferencias arancelarias en América Latina y el Caribe: Reconciliando su año base con la evolución reciente de la agenda de liberación regional”, *Manuales series*, N° 53. On 12 and 13 April 2007, as part of the REDIMA project, the regional meeting on computable general equilibrium models in public policymaking and analysis was held at ECLAC headquarters, Santiago, Chile. In the context of the Information Society project, the following documents were produced: “Growth, productivity and information and communications technologies in Latin America, 1950-2005”, and “Information and Communication Technologies in Latin America: Investment and Contribution to Economic Growth”, which were presented at the meetings on information and communications technologies, productivity and growth, held on 30 November and 1 December 2006, and 29 and 30 March 2007, at the ECLAC headquarters, and which will be published as part of the book on the project. In addition, the following documents were produced in the framework of the business surveys component of the REDIMA project: “Indicadores líderes compuestos, resumen de metodología de referencia para construir un indicador regional en América Latina”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, N° 49 and “Un sistema de indicadores líderes compuestos para América Latina”. Both were presented at a joint

ECLAC/OECD seminar on business surveys in Latin America, held on 13 and 14 November 2006 at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile. Issues 45 and 46 of the *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series* were given over to the Commission's efforts to provide countries with tools for quantitative analysis. Lastly, under the project with the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute (ILAFA), the document "Estimación del índice de producción industrial ponderado por consumo de acero" was presented at the seminar on econometric models for the steel industry, which was jointly organized with ILAFA on 27 October 2006 at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago.

60. *Business surveys.* ECLAC, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Commission jointly organized the seminar on business surveys that took place on 8 and 9 May 2006, at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile. The meeting was attended by delegates from 10 countries in the region. This was the fifth seminar on business accounts in the context of cooperation between ECLAC and OECD, and the first with the participation of the European Commission. The objectives of the meeting were to evaluate progress in the harmonization of business surveys in the region and to formulate a plan of work for the construction and dissemination of regional composite indicators on the basis of data from harmonized business surveys in the manufacturing sector. With regard to the construction of regional indicators, the countries agreed that ECLAC would be responsible for the substantive work. This work will include both the selection of a specific methodology and the construction of a regional composite indicator. For this purpose, the countries agreed to send ECLAC the historical series of reports on surveys of the manufacturing sector.

III. CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

Technical assistance and advisory services

2005

- Technical assistance for consistency analysis of the Survey of Living Conditions (Bolivia, 24-29 2005).
- Technical assistance with the analysis of data from the National Employment and Income Survey and the generation of labour-market indicators (Guatemala, 21-26 August 2005).
- Technical assistance in projection and national accounts techniques (British Virgin Islands, 19-23 September 2005).
- Technical assistance in the analysis of information from the National Labour Force Survey (Dominican Republic, 23 October-5 November 2005).
- Technical assistance for analysis of methodology to calculate social services as a proportion of GDP in Cuba (Havana, 7-9 November 2005).

2006

- Technical assistance in census preparations, database creation and applications R+SP xPlan: Argentina (2006), Brazil, (2006), Ecuador (2006) and Peru (2006).
- Technical assistance in census preparations, database creation and applications R+SP xPlan: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Nicaragua, Panama, Rwanda, Uganda (2006).
- Technical assistance for the analysis of information quality and poverty measurement methodology (Peru and Uruguay).
- Technical assistance to assess the quality of information in the 2005 living standards survey (Guatemala and Nicaragua).
- Technical assistance on mainstreaming the gender perspective in the Millennium Development Goals (Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador and Paraguay).
- Dissemination of the proposal to extend the terms of reference for follow-up to the Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua).
- Technical assistance for the development of environmental indicators relating to solid waste (Chile, from March 2006).
- Technical assistance for estimating the economic impact of the free-trade agreement between Chile and China (Chile, March 2006).
- Technical assistance for statistical and economic analysis of the 2004 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey (Costa Rica, 13-17 March 2006).
- Technical assistance for the statistical design of the 2007 Current Employment Survey and monitoring of the 2006 National Living Standards Survey (Guatemala, 20-24 March 2006).
- Technical assistance for the development of national indicators for water resources (Dominican Republic, May 2006).
- Technical assistance for the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Nicaragua in evaluating the 2005 census (November 2005 and July 2006).

- Training on new developments and methodologies for environmental statistics and indicators in the region (Brazil, June and August 2006).
- Technical assistance in the conceptual and statistical design of the 2006-2007 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey, and in the analysis of the Single Beneficiary Identification System (Dominican Republic, 2-21 July 2006).
- Technical assistance on systems of environmental information, statistics and environmental indicators (Guatemala, September 2006).
- Technical assistance for estimating the economic impact of the free-trade agreement between Chile and Japan (Chile, October 2006).
- Technical assistance for statistical and economic analysis of the 2004 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey (Costa Rica, 20-24 November 2006).
- Technical assistance for the employment survey (Colombia, 6-8 December 2006).

2007

- Technical assistance in the conceptual design and testing of the form for the 2007 census in El Salvador.
- Technical assistance in census preparations, database creation and applications R+SP xPlan: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2007).
- Technical assistance for assessing the quality of the results of the 2004-2005 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey and designing the quarterly employment survey (Costa Rica).
- Technical assistance for producing population estimates and projections in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Paraguay (incorporating information from the 2002 census).
- Technical assistance for producing nationwide and urban/rural population estimates and projections, incorporating information from the 2002 census, in Haiti.
- Technical assistance for assessing the Single Beneficiary Identification System and the subsidy programme *Comer es Primero* (“Eating comes first”) (Dominican Republic, 19 February-2 March 2007).
- Technical assistance in census preparations, database creation and applications R+SP xPlan: Colombia (April 2007) and Costa Rica (March 2007).

Expert meetings

2005

- International seminar entitled “Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: relevance of sociodemographic information to policies and programmes (Santiago, Chile, 27-29 April 2005).
- Regional workshop and closing meeting of the social component of the REDESA project entitled “results and future prospects” (Santiago, Chile, 21 and 22 July 2005).
- Regional meeting of the International Comparison Programme (Montevideo, 8-16 August 2005).
- Working meeting on modelling, input-output matrices and fiscal harmonization (Santiago, 29 and 30 August 2005).
- World conference on the tourism satellite account (Iguazú, 3-6 October 2005).

- Annual seminar on national accounts of the Latin American countries (Caracas, 24-28 October 2005).
- Regional meeting of the International Comparison Programme (Buenos Aires 14-19 November 2005).
- Regional meeting on the design and implementation of time-use surveys (Santiago, Chile, 21-23 November 2005).
- First meeting of experts on the environmental module relating to Millennium Development Goal 7 “Ensure environmental sustainability” (Santiago, Chile, 5 and 6 December 2005).

2006

- Working meeting on growth, productivity and ICT, ECLAC/IVIE/OECD (16 March 2006).
- Meeting on harmonization of CPI and PDA calculation in Central America (San José, Costa Rica, 13-17 March 2006).
- Seventh Meeting of the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism of the World Tourism Organization (Madrid, Spain, 27 and 28 March 2006).
- Regional meetings of the International Comparison Programme (Santiago, Chile 3-12 April 2006).
- Regional meeting on computable general equilibrium models in public policymaking and analysis (Santiago, Chile, 12-14 April 2006).
- Seminar on business surveys in Latin America (ECLAC/OECD/EU, 8 and 9 May 2006).
- Seventh Ibero-American meeting on the measurement and analysis of tourism (Cartagena, Colombia, 16-19 May 2006).
- International Workshop on Household Satellite Accounts: Gender and Health. Measuring Women’s Unpaid Work Contribution to Health and Economic Development (Santiago, Chile, 5 and 6 June 2006).
- Expert meeting on the gender perspective in the Millennium Indicators (Santiago, Chile, 12 and 13 June 2006).
- Meeting of the Expert Group on Poverty Statistics (Rio Group) (Rio de Janeiro, 24 and 25 August 2006).
- Expert meeting on expansion of the analytical framework for education in the context of follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (Santiago, Chile, 3 and 4 August 2006).
- Second meeting of experts on the environmental module relating to Millennium Development Goal 7 “Ensure environmental sustainability” (Santiago, Chile, 8-10 August 2006).
- Workshop on modernizing national accounts in Latin America (Santiago, Chile, 28-20 August 2006).
- Annual seminar on national accounts of the Latin American countries (Guatemala City, 23-25 October 2006).
- ECLAC/ILAFSA meeting on econometric models for the steel industry (Santiago, Chile, 27 October 2006).
- Second technical meeting (Guatemala City, 24-27 October 2006).
- Regional seminar entitled “National Statistical Offices and the Millennium Development Goals: A New Evaluation” (Santiago, Chile, 9 and 10 November 2006).
- Seminar on business surveys in Latin America (Santiago, Chile, 13 and 14 November 2006).
- Seminar on information and communications technologies (ICTs), growth and productivity (Santiago, Chile, 30 November-1 December 2006).

2007

- National workshops on internal migration, ECLAC/IDB project (Santiago, Chile: 10 April; Mexico City: 16 April; Brasilia: 30 April).
- Technical meeting to analyse the overall results of the International Comparison Programme (Santiago, Chile, 11 and 12 January 2007).
- Third technical meeting of the project on harmonizing the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and calculating purchasing power parity in Central America (Tegucigalpa, 20-23 March 2007).
- Meeting of the UNWTO Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism (Lisbon, 26-28 March 2007).
- Seminar on information and communications technologies (ICTs), growth and productivity (Santiago, Chile, 29 and 30 March 2007).
- Meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, organized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) (Rome, 17-19 April 2007).
- Workshop on international merchandise trade statistics (Lima, 8-11 May 2007).
- Technical meeting on the analysis and publication of the overall results of the International Comparison Programme (Santiago, Chile, 24 and 25 May 2007).
- IBGE and IMF cooperation to organize a technical seminar on the basic statistical systems that support the production of national accounts and establish differentiated strategies to advance in the process of adopting SNA 1993 and its revision 1 in Latin America (Rio de Janeiro, 5 and 6 June 2007).
- Workshop on international classifications (Panama, 4-8 June 2007).

Training activities**2005**

- Seminar on business surveys in Latin America (ECLAC-OECD-EU), 8-9 May 2006.
- Specialized REDATAM workshop on the Beta R+ version, held in the second half of 2005.
- Fourth international course on the use of socioeconomic indicators for impact assessment of poverty alleviation programmes (Cartagena, Colombia, 4-15 July 2005).
- Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services (Panama City, 13-16 September 2005).

2006

- Meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (Santiago, 2-5 April 2006).
- Internship for employees of the Central Bank of Nicaragua on foreign trade indicators (Santiago, 13-15 April 2006).
- Workshop on the use of specialized trade databases (Santiago, Chile 16 and 17 March 2006).
- Fifth international course on the use of socioeconomic indicators for impact assessment of poverty alleviation programmes (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 15-26 May 2006).
- Course on statistical fundamentals for developing indicators for Millennium Development Goal 7 (Guatemala City, Guatemala, 5-8 September 2006).

2007

- Course on environmental statistics and Millennium Development Goal indicators at the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay (24-26 April 2007).

Publications**2005**

- *Social Panorama of Latin America 2005* (LC/G.2288-P/I), Santiago, Chile, March 2006.
- *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2004* (LC/G.2264-P/B), Santiago, Chile, April 2005.
- CELADE, Latin America: urban and rural population projections”, Demographic Bulletin, No. 76 ((LC/G.2280-P), July.
- Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género: el caso de México”, *Mujer y desarrollo series*, No. 67 (LC/L.2339-P), Santiago, Chile, June 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.83.
- Isolda Espinoza, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género: el caso de Nicaragua”, *Mujer y desarrollo series*, No. 68 (LC/L.2353-P), Santiago, Chile, June 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.83.
- Rosa Bravo and Daniela Zapata, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género. El caso de Bolivia”, *Mujer y desarrollo series*, No. 71 (LC/L. 2367-P), Santiago, Chile, August 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.108.
- Claudia Giacometti, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género. El caso de Argentina”, *Mujer y desarrollo series*, No. 72 (LC/L.2368-P), Santiago, Chile, August 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.109.
- Rosa Bravo, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género. El caso de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela”, *Mujer y desarrollo series*, No. 73 (LC/L.2377-P), Santiago, Chile, September 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.121.
- Isolda Espinosa, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género. El caso de Guatemala”, *Mujer y desarrollo series*, No. 74 (LC/L.2378-P), Santiago, Chile, September 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.122.
- Claudia de Camino, “Comercio internacional de servicios en América Latina y el Caribe” *Documentos de proyecto*, N° 46 (LC/L.2434-P/E), Santiago, Chile, December 2005.
- Andrés Schuschny, “Tópicos sobre el modelo de insumo-Producto: teoría y aplicaciones”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, No. 37 (LC/L.2444-P/E), Santiago, Chile, December 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.191.
- Francisco Villarreal, “Elementos teóricos del ajuste estacional de series económicas utilizando X-12-ARIMA y TRAMO-SEATS”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, No. 38 (LC/L.2457-P/E), Santiago, Chile, December 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.203.
- José Luis Cervera, “El seguimiento de los objetivos del milenio: oportunidades y retos para los Sistemas Nacionales de Estadísticas”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, No. 39 (LC/L.2458-P/E), Santiago, Chile, December 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.204.
- Hernán Frigolett, “Cuentas de producción y análisis de insumo-producto, hacia la integración de los datos micro, meso y macroeconómicos”, *Documento de proyectos*, No. 38 (LC/W.68), Santiago, Chile, December 2005.

- Claudio Aravena, “Demanda de exportaciones e importaciones de bienes y servicios para Argentina y Chile”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, No. 36, LC/L.2434-P/E), Santiago, Chile, December 2005.
- Simone Cecchini “Propuesta para un compendio latinoamericano de indicadores sociales”, serie *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos*, N° 41 (LC/L.2471-P/E), Santiago, Chile, December.

2006

- Alejandra Ovalle, “América Latina: evolución del índice de precios de los principales productos de exportación 1980-2005”.
- “Latin America and the Caribbean. Projections 2006-2007”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, No. 42, (LC/L.2528-P/I), Santiago, Chile, Economic Projections Centre, April 2006.
- Simone Cecchini, Jorge Rodríguez and Daniela Simioni “La medición de los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio en las áreas urbanas de América Latina”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, No. 43 (LC/L.2537-P), Santiago, Chile, June 2006. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.06.II.G.64.
- Albert Carreras and others “Importaciones y modernización económica en América Latina durante la primera mitad del siglo XX. Las claves de un programa de investigación”, serie *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos*, N° 44 (LC/L.2583-P/E), Santiago, Chile, September.
- Hubert Escaith, “Can Latin America Fly? Revising its Engines of Growth”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, N° 45, (LC/L.2605-P/I), Santiago, Chile, September 2006.
- Claudio Aravena and André Hofman, “Estimación de demanda de acero para América Latina”, *Revista Acero Latinoamericano*, N° 497, July-August 2006, pp. 40-45.
- Rayén Quiroga, “Indicadores ambientales y de desarrollo sostenible: avances y perspectivas para América Latina y el Caribe” (updating of the *Manuales series*, N° 16 de 2001).
- Mauricio Folchi and María del Mar Rubio, “El consumo aparente de energía fósil en los países Latinoamericanos hacia 1925: una propuesta metodológica a partir de las estadísticas de comercio exterior”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, No. 47, (LC/L.2658-P), Santiago, Chile, 2006.
- Albert Carreras and Xavier Tafunell, “Importaciones e inversión en América Latina en 1913 y 1925”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, N° 44 (LC/L.2583-P), Santiago, Chile, 2006.
- CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC, International migration, Demographic Observatory, No. 1 (LC/G.2315-P), Santiago, Chile, April.
- CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC, Manual sobre indicadores de calidad de vida en la vejez, *Documentos de proyecto*, N° 113 (LC/W.113), Santiago, Chile, December.

2007

- Michel Seruzier, “Cuentas nacionales: lineamientos conceptuales, metodológicos y prácticos”, *Manuales series* (forthcoming).
- Rayén Quiroga, “Propuesta regional de indicadores complementarios al objetivo de desarrollo del Milenio 7: Garantizar la sostenibilidad del medio ambiente”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, N° 50 (LC/L.2746-P), Santiago, Chile (forthcoming).

- José Durán, Carlos de Miguel and Andrés Schuschny, “Los acuerdos comerciales de Colombia, Ecuador y Perú con los Estados Unidos: efectos sobre el comercio, la producción y el bienestar”, *Revista de la CEPAL*, N° 91, (LC/G.2333-P/E), Santiago, Chile, April 2007.
- José Durán, Carlos de Miguel and Andrés Schuschny, “Acuerdos de libre comercio entre los países andinos y los Estados Unidos: ¿cuánto se puede esperar de ellos?”, *Comercio internacional series*, N° 77, (LC/L.2678-P), Santiago, Chile, April.
- Andrés Schuschny, José Durán and Carlos de Miguel, “El Modelo GTAP y las preferencias arancelarias en América Latina y el Caribe: reconciliando su año base con la evolución reciente de la agenda de liberalización regional”, *Manuales series*, N° 53 (LC/L.2679-P/E), Santiago, Chile, February.
- Mauricio Gallardo and Michael Pedersen, “Indicadores líderes compuestos: resumen de metodología de referencia para construir un indicador regional en América Latina”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, N° 49, (LC/L.2707-P), Santiago, Chile.
- Andrés Schuschny, “El método DEA y su aplicación al estudio del sector energético y las emisiones de CO2 en América Latina y el Caribe”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series*, N° 46 (LC/L.2657-P), Santiago, Chile.
- Claudio Aravena and others “Crecimiento, productividad y tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones en Latinoamérica, 1950-2005”, Santiago, Chile, (forthcoming).
- CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC, “Población económicamente activa”, Demographic Observatory N° 2 (forthcoming).

Updating and development of databases

- Updating of census databases of the countries of the region.
- Updating of databases on internal migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIALC).
- Updating of database of population estimates and projections.
- Updating of the multilateral projects database (BADEPRO).
- Updating of the database on spatial distribution and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean (DEPUALC).
- Updating of the Social Indicators and Statistics Database (BADEINSO).
- Updating of information for the programme on Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA).
- Updating of economic indicators in CEPALSTAT.
- Updating of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).
- Updating of the System of gender statistics and indicators on the web page of the Women and Development Unit and incorporation of comparative information for the Caribbean countries, based on a special processing of information sources at the subregional level (see: www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles_en/default.htm).
- Development of the database of gender statistics for the Caribbean, already available on the ECLAC web page (see the English version of the site: http://www.cepal.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles_en/default.htm).
- Development of the CEPALSTAT database portal (see <http://websie.eclac.cl/sisgen/ConsultaIntegrada.asp>).
- Technological development in REDATAM. In 2005 a new version of REDATAM was developed with a more user-friendly format and improved display facilities.
- Standardization of input/output matrices in Chile and Nicaragua according to the format of the GTAP project.

- Integration of new indicators (monetary, financial, public finances, employment, production, external sector, national accounts, balance of payment) into the CEPALSTAT database of economic indicators.
- Online ECLAC projections in the atlas of growth available from <http://www.eclac.cl/> (in Spanish only).