



Distr.
LIMITED
LC/L.2809
15 November 2007
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the
Statistical Conference of the Americas of the
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Bogotá, Colombia, 29 and 30 November 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND

Resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council states that The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) shall have the following duties: to carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; to draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of activities of regional and international cooperation on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; to follow up the implementation of the agreements reached at the Conference and the tasks entrusted to it by the Conference, particularly the biennial programme of activities; and to decide on the documentation required for its meetings.

At its fourth meeting, held in Santiago, Chile, in July 2007, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC determined that the composition of the Executive Committee would be as follows: Chairperson: Colombia; members: Bahamas, Dominican Republic, France, Honduras, Mexico and Paraguay. On this, as on other occasions, however, all the member countries of the Conference are welcome to participate in the deliberations of the Executive Committee.

Among its duties, the Executive Committee is responsible for discussing and preparing a plan of action to monitor implementation of the agreements adopted at the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

Pursuant to the provisions of resolution 5 (IV), adopted by the Statistical Conference at its fourth meeting, the Executive Committee is expected to consider and adopt final versions for the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation 2007-2009; the programme of work of the knowledge transfer network; and the programme of the Working Group on Gender Statistics. The Executive Committee is also expected to discuss and adopt the necessary measures whereby countries may avail themselves of the electronic hardware and software for data capture in censuses and surveys offered free of charge by some countries and share in the methodology for the preparation of housing directories. Lastly, the Executive Committee will discuss and adopt, in relation to the 2010 round of censuses, measures to promote the implementation in the countries of the region of resolution 38/102 of the United Nations Statistical Commission and, in relation to the monitoring of progress in the region in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals, measures to promote the implementation of resolutions 2006/6 of the Economic and Social Council and 38/110 of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

At its seventh meeting, the Executive Committee will also have the opportunity to review the programmes of the working groups set up by Conference and take note of advances in their activities, and to consider the projects of the Programme on Regional Public Goods, which are significant achievements of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation 2007-2009 adopted by the Conference. The Executive Committee may also consider and promote the cooperation activities being carried out by the different international organizations in the region.

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Committee will have before it the provisional agenda set out below for consideration and adoption, following any amendments deemed appropriate:¹

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of measures for implementing the resolutions emanating from the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (a) Approval of the final version of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009
 - (b) Programme of work of the knowledge transfer network
 - (c) Programme of activities of the new working group on gender statistics
 - (d) Technological and methodological cooperation for the conduct of the 2010 round of censuses
 - (e) The 2010 round of censuses
 - (f) Monitoring of progress towards fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals
 - (g) Report on the activities of the Working Group on National Accounts
 - (h) Report on the activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies
3. Status report on the projects of the Programme on Regional Public Goods
 - (a) Project on integration and harmonization of instruments for social statistics (INAES),
 - (b) Project for the update of poverty measurement methodology used in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (c) Project on dissemination and evaluation of harmonized census statistics for social programmes for sustainable development in MERCOSUR, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico
 - (d) Project on migration and the pattern of remittances to Central American countries
4. Consideration of regional and international cooperation initiatives
 - (a) Initiative of ECLAC and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) relating to the European Statistics Code of Practice
 - (b) Proposal for an integrated programme of statistical activities
 - (c) Other regional and international cooperation initiatives
5. Other matters
6. Agreements

¹ LC/L.2798/Rev.1.

2. Adoption of measures for implementing the resolutions emanating from the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 2)

Under this agenda item, the Executive Committee is expected to consider different issues raised in the resolution emanating from the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and measures to be adopted for its implementation.

- (a) Approval of the final version of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009

The ECLAC secretariat will present, for information and approval by the Executive Committee, an updated version of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009, incorporating the contributions and suggestions emanating from the fourth meeting of the Conference.

Working documents:

- Report of the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (LC/L.2795)
- Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814)

- (b) Programme of work of the knowledge transfer network

The Conference has instructed the Executive Committee to examine and approve the first biennial programme of work of the knowledge transfer network for training in statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. The training programme of the knowledge transfer network is designed to strengthen knowledge transfer and sharing of experiences at an intermediate and advanced level. The activities of the programme focus on the training of official statisticians and experts, and of instructors who will be able to pass on the knowledge acquired at the national and subregional levels (training of teaching staff). These activities are complementary to those being developed by national training centres. On behalf of the Council of the network, Spain will present the programme of work to the Executive Committee for discussion and approval and will request the Committee's support in securing funding for the programme and ensuring that the coordination of training activities in the region are done through the network.

Working document:

- Draft programme of work of the knowledge transfer network for training in official statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2008-2009 (LC/L.2815)

- (c) Programme of activities of the new Working Group on Gender Statistics

At its fourth meeting, the Conference approved the creation of a Working Group on Gender Statistics to encourage efforts to systematize national statistical information with a gender perspective and promote in all countries the implementation of the time use survey or the inclusion in household surveys of a module to measure women's unpaid contributions, and the systematic and regular submission to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the relevant statistical information for the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, the Conference

requested the Executive Committee to review and approve the programme of work of the group. Mexico, the country designated by the Conference to coordinate this working group, will present a programme of activities for consideration and approval by the Executive Committee.

Working document:

- Report of activities and Draft programme of work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2816)

(d) Technological and methodological cooperation for the conduct of the 2010 round of censuses

The Conference has requested the Executive Committee to take the necessary measures to facilitate the technical and methodological cooperation offered for the use, free of charge, of the electronic hardware and software developed for data capture in censuses and surveys and the sharing of methodology for the preparation of housing directories. To this end, Colombia, on behalf of the countries that made the offer, will present a status report and a preliminary proposal on the matter.

Working document:

- Report on the proposal for technical and methodological cooperation in conducting censuses (LC/L.2819)

(e) The 2010 round of censuses

With respect to the 2010 round of censuses, the Conference has requested the Executive Committee to adopt measures to promote the implementation in the countries of the region of resolution 38/102 of the United Nations Statistical Commission, and in particular to start to implement the second revision of Principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses in the countries;² the United Nations Statistics Division and other international bodies have been requested to increase their technical assistance to national statistical offices in order to strengthen national capacity for the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC will present an information paper on the implementation of this resolution and the technical assistance activities scheduled at the regional level. The Working Group on Censuses will also present a report on its activities.

Background papers:

- Report on the World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses 2010 (DDR/5)
- Report on the activities of the Working Group on Censuses (DDR/3)

(f) Monitoring of progress towards fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals

With respect to the Millennium Development Goals, the Conference has requested the Executive Committee to take action to promote the implementation of resolution 2006/6 of the Economic and Social Council and resolution 38/110 of the United Nations Statistical Commission and, especially, to request the United Nations Statistics Division, the regional commissions and other international bodies to pursue

² E/CN.3/2007/3.

and intensify their efforts to strengthen countries' technical capacity for monitoring the achievement of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals; and to encourage international organizations to use national statistical data more extensively and produce estimates only when national data are not available, and to urge international bodies to ensure that consultation with countries takes place prior to dissemination of international Millennium Development Goals figures, especially with respect to imputations of missing data. The ECLAC secretariat will present an oral report on the progress made with on-going research into the differences between data from national databases and international organizations and information on measures to strengthen the technical capacity of countries in monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, headed by Argentina, will present a revised programme of work which takes into account the agreements reached at the fourth meeting of the Conference.

Working document:

- Programme of work of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (LC/L.2818)

(g) Report of activities of the Working Group on National Accounts

The purpose of the group is to contribute to the implementation of the System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) in the region by providing an assessment of the development of SNA in the countries of the region and its technical and institutional linkages with the production of economic statistics and by defining the priority stages for the implementation of SNA in the countries of the region. Brazil, which directs the work of this group, will present a status report on its activities incorporating an update of the matrix of requirements of Latin American and Caribbean countries in terms of compiling solid basic data in keeping with the guidelines set out in 1993 SNA.

Background paper:

- Report of the activities of the Working Group on National Accounts (DDR/6)

(h) Report on the activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies

At its fourth meeting, the Conference approved this Working Group's proposal that each national statistical office should, to the extent possible, adopt and implement the list of core indicators endorsed in resolution 38/104 of the United Nations Statistical Commission, on access to, and use of, information and communications technologies (ICTs) in household and business surveys; that the compendium of practices on the inclusion of ICT questions in household and business surveys should be adopted as a reference methodology; and that ECLAC, through the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC), should be requested to administer the information system on ICTs and social, demographic and economic indicators and keep the compendium updated. This Working Group, headed by the Dominican Republic and supported by OSILAC, will present a report on its activities relating to the implementation of the above-mentioned agreements.

Background paper:

- Report on the activities of the working group on information and communications technologies (DDR/1)

3. Status report on the projects of the Programme on Regional Public Goods (agenda item 3)

The Executive Committee will consider the status of the projects of the Programme on Regional Public Goods.

(a) Project on integration and harmonization of instruments for social statistics (INAES)

This project will be executed by the Working Group on Institution-building and is designed to integrate and harmonize instruments and tools for the production of social statistics, to establish a set of international standards for each area and to identify the extent to which countries comply with the recommended international standards. Another aim of the project is to identify best practices for each area, in order to adopt them as the subregional standard, disseminate them to countries and train and assist interested countries in the implementation of the agreed statistical standards. The first phase —effective participation by countries— has already been completed and 19 countries of the region participated. The second phase is now under way and consists in the preparation of electronic questionnaires on health, education and the labour market, which are the core issues for an assessment of the situation in the different countries. Colombia, which is coordinating this project, will report to the Executive Committee on the scheduled activities and the expected outcomes for the period 2007-2008.

Background paper:

- Report of scheduled activities and expected outcomes, 2007-2008, of the project on integration and harmonization of instruments for social statistics (INAES) (DDR/2)
- (b) Project for the update of poverty measurement methodology used in Latin America and the Caribbean

This project is being conducted by the ECLAC secretariat and its purpose is to establish updated standards for poverty measurement as a basic input for formulating poverty reduction policies and evaluating fulfilment of Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals. The methodology used by ECLAC for more than three decades for estimating poverty will be updated by incorporating various methodological advances and up-to-date information based on the most recent income and expenditure surveys conducted by the different countries. The ECLAC secretariat will report to the Executive Committee on the scheduled activities and expected outcomes for the period 2007-2008.

Background paper:

- Report on the activities of the Project for the update of poverty measurement methodology in Latin America and the Caribbean (DDR/4)
- (c) Project on dissemination and evaluation of harmonized census statistics for social programmes for sustainable development in MERCOSUR, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico

This project, assigned to the Working Group on Censuses, seeks to develop and share methodologies and mechanisms for the thematic and operational harmonization of censuses for dissemination in the region; to promote the application of United Nations Principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses and to improve training for experts in census

activities. Chile, which heads this Working Group, will report to the Executive Committee on the scheduled activities and expected outcomes.

Background paper:

- Report on the activities of the Working Group on Censuses (DDR/3)
- (d) Project on migration and the pattern of remittances to Central American countries

The aim of this project is to measure international migration movements and the receipt of remittances by Central American households in order to generate, in an orderly and systematic manner, basic information that can be used to prepare standardized regional statistics for comparative socio-economic analyses of the countries of the region and of the situation within each country. The first phase of the project consisted in the design of a migration and remittances module, which will be included in the household surveys. The project is currently at the stage of collection, processing and analysis of the information, depending on the progress achieved in the different countries. Honduras, which is coordinating the project, will report to the Executive Committee on the scheduled activities and expected outcomes.

Background paper:

- Report on scheduled activities and expected outcomes of the project on migration and the pattern of remittances to Central American countries (DDR/7)

4. Consideration of regional and international cooperation initiatives (agenda item 4)

- (a) Initiative of ECLAC and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) relating to the European Statistics Code of Practice

In response to an initiative put forward by a number of countries, the Conference, at its fourth meeting, requested that the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean should prepare a programme of action to promote awareness and discussion of the European Statistics Code of Practice with a view to adapting this Code to the situation of the countries in the region. The two organizations will present a programme of work for examination and approval by the Executive Committee.

Working document:

- Draft programme of work on the dissemination of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2817)
- (b) Proposal for an integrated programme of statistical activities

As stated in Strategic Plan 2005-2015, the mission of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, in its capacity as the intergovernmental statistical body in Latin America and the Caribbean is to promote the development of official statistics in the region, work to strengthen national statistical offices and national statistical systems, contribute to the improvement of technical quality through human resources training and the statistical development of each country, and foster international, regional and bilateral coordination and cooperation and the harmonization of statistics at the regional and subregional levels. A

significant improvement in the coordination and cooperation of the statistical work of the different agencies that operate in the region is crucial to the achievement of the objectives of the Conference. Experience in Europe shows that the development of an integrated programme of statistical activities can be a very powerful tool for facilitating coordination and cooperation efforts for the Conference and its Executive Committee. The ECLAC secretariat will make a presentation on this issue, in the light of the experience acquired in this area by the Conference of European Statisticians.

(c) Other regional and international cooperation initiatives

Under this heading, the Executive Committee will consider other cooperation initiatives. Special attention will be paid to the regional project being conducted in Latin America by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as part of the global project “Measuring the Progress of Societies”, launched by OECD and other international partners. The OECD representative will present the regional initiative and the Executive Committee will determine whether it will be feasible for the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC to take part in the global project.

5. Other matters (agenda item 5)

The Executive Committee will consider any other matters the delegations deem relevant.

6. Agreements (agenda item 6)

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC will adopt decisions as appropriate and will decide on the date and venue of its eighth meeting.