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Seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the  
Statistical Conference of the Americas of the  
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Bogotá, Colombia, 29 and 30 November 2007

**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 \***

\* Report prepared by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) of Mexico.

## **A. REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS**

### **1. Background**

At its fourth meeting, held from 25 to 27 July 2007, the Statistical Conference of the Americas adopted the Strategic Plan 2005-2009<sup>1</sup> and considered the Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2007-2009,<sup>2</sup> the definitive version of which will be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee at the meeting to be held on 29 and 30 November 2007. As regards strategic goal 3 of the plan, that is, “to promote the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to generate high-quality statistical information in the region”, and, in particular, specific goal 5 “promote and develop gender statistics in all the countries of the region”, the Conference approved the establishment of the Working Group on Gender Statistics, spearheaded by Mexico, and requested ECLAC to provide secretariat services for the Group through the Women and Development Unit. Meanwhile, the Group was instructed to present its programme of work 2007-2009 to the Executive Committee for its consideration and approval.

The idea of setting up a working group on gender statistics may be traced back to the International Meetings on Gender Statistics for Public Policies, held over the past eight years. At one of these events, it was decided to approach the Chairperson of the Statistical Conference of the Americas with a view to the creation of a working group. Thus, the Eighth International Meeting on Gender Statistics for Public Policies, held in Aguascalientes from 5 to 7 September 2007, was conducted as an activity of the Group, insofar as a special meeting was held, which served, to all intents and purposes, as its inaugural session. These meetings have brought together national statistical offices and national women’s offices under the auspices of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the National Women’s Institute (INMUJERES) and the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI), both of Mexico, more recently, ECLAC and, in 2007, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The gender meetings have been valuable forums for reflection, sharing experiences and deepening the conceptual and methodological debate; they have helped to promote the production and dissemination of gender statistics and indicators, as well as their application in the design and evaluation of public policy; they have also been an opportunity to find out about the progress achieved by the various countries in the region in this area and in strengthening the relationship between national statistical offices and national women’s offices. The objectives of these meetings are substantially the same as those now attributed to the Working Group on Gender Statistics.

The scope of the international meetings has been changing and expanding. Consisting originally of Central American countries, the group now also encompasses the South American nations; At the most recent meeting, 16 countries were represented: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Uruguay. In total, 161 persons (127 women and 34 men) attended the 2007 meeting, which covered almost all the issues of interest for gender analysis as well as emerging issues and other questions arising from international initiatives, such as the Millennium Development Goals. The most important issues discussed ranged from education, health, paid and unpaid work, time use, poverty, violence and indigenous peoples, to proposed information and classification systems.

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<sup>1</sup> LC/L.2715(CEA.4/3)/Rev.1.

<sup>2</sup> LC/L.2717(CEA.4/5).

During the opening session of the Eighth International Meeting on Gender Statistics for Public Policies, attention was drawn to the importance of inter-agency work for the meetings and participants welcomed the creation of the Working Group on Gender Statistics. In approaching the agenda items, participants focused on how statistics contribute to the design, execution and evaluation of public policies in the fields of education, health, labour, violence, indigenous peoples and poverty. The countries reported on their advances, while some referred to the commitment made at the previous meeting. The Meeting agreed to prepare a programme of work for the Working Group on Gender Statistics, to hold annual sessions of the International Meetings on Gender Statistics for Public Policies as the forum for the Working Group on Gender Statistics, and to continue to build the relationship between the national statistical offices and the national women's offices.

The workshop on gender statistics, held in Aguascalientes on 8, 10 and 11 September as part of the Eighth International Meeting on Gender Statistics for Public Policies, was convened in order to strengthen the technical capacity of experts in gender statistics to enable them to mainstream the gender perspective in their respective statistical programmes and thus contribute to the formulation and monitoring of public policies. The working methodology, the group dynamic and group exercises, together with the active participation of the 18 persons who attended, made this a highly productive training activity. Organized by UNIFEM and INEGI, this event was conducted by eminent experts from those agencies and from the ECLAC.

## **2. Short-term activities**

1. The ECLAC Women and Development Unit, with support from the Government of France, will be organizing a meeting of experts during the first semester 2008 with a view to setting up a gender parity observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. UNIFEM, INMUJERES and INEGI will hold the fifth Meeting of Experts on Time-use Surveys on 22 and 23 November 2007.
3. A draft time-use questionnaire for Latin America and the Caribbean will be prepared; the idea is to develop the conceptual and methodological framework and classify time-use activities for agreement and implementation by countries of the region.
4. The Working Group on Gender Statistics 2007-2009 will organize the activities to be implemented under its programme of work.

## **B. DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2007-2009 OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF ECLAC**

The programme of work on gender statistics set out below has been prepared within the framework of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 and the Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009.

The relevant goals are goals 2, 3 and 4 of the Strategic Plan and, especially, specific goals 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.5, 4.1 and 4.4.

## 1. Overall objective of the programme

To promote the production, development and systematization of gender statistics and indicators, as well as their dissemination and use in public policies in all countries of the region..

### Specific goals:

1. To help to build the statistical capacity of national statistical offices and national information systems through the production and dissemination of gender statistics.
2. To help to promote the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to produce high-quality gender statistics.
3. To strengthen the relationship between producers and users of gender statistics, especially between national statistical offices, women's offices and organizations within the United Nations system that promote this relationship.
4. To promote international cooperation for the development and dissemination of gender statistics.

### Lines of action:

1. To contribute to the development of the statistical capacity of national statistical offices and national information systems through the production and dissemination of gender statistics
  - To promote gender mainstreaming in the production of statistics and preparation of indicators.
  - To promote different surveys, including the time-use survey and surveys on violence against women in countries of the region, and the sharing of experiences, good practices and lessons learned among national statistical offices.
  - ECLAC will propose basic indicators as guidelines for the inclusion of a set of questions on time-use surveys on issues designed mainly to highlight the burden of productive and reproductive work and care activities.
  - ECLAC will conduct an interregional capacity-building project in countries with a view to eradicating violence against women, with special attention paid to the measurement and collection of statistics on this phenomenon.
  - Within the framework of the project on the use of gender indicators for public policy-making, ECLAC will continue to provide technical assistance to countries in the region to enable them to generate gender statistics and implement gender indicator systems in the area of social information systems.
  - To influence and support the other working groups of the Conference in gender mainstreaming, especially in the case of the Working Group on Human Resource Education and Training; the Working Group on Institution-Building; the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; and the Working Group on National Accounts.

- To prepare an assessment of the state of gender statistics and indicators in the countries of the region.
2. To promote the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to produce high-quality gender statistics
- To develop a conceptual and methodological framework for the time-use survey which can be used as a proposal for moving forward towards a regional consensus on the design of surveys and the classification of time-use activities. This activity will be carried out with the collaboration of the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC, UNIFEM, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and some countries of the region. This project will be designed in an integrated manner in order to secure the necessary financing, although UNIFEM has pledged to provide resources.
  - To develop and agree on the content of the modules that may be incorporated into other household surveys for measuring unpaid contribution by women and men to the economy and promote their application in the countries of the region. This project will be designed in an integrated manner in order to secure the necessary financial resources.
  - To develop and agree the conceptual and methodological framework of the satellite account of household production and consumption.
  - ECLAC and PAHO will continue to work on the project on the satellite household account: gender and health.
3. To strengthen the relationship between producers and users of gender statistics, especially between national statistical offices, women's offices and organizations within the United Nations system that promote this relationship
- To continue to hold International Meetings on Gender Statistics for Public Policies in 2008 and 2009. In each case, the event will take place in Aguascalientes, with the assistance of producers and users of information in order to forge closer ties between national statistical offices and national women's offices in the countries in the region and help thereby to produce high-quality gender-specific information. The eight meetings that have been held so far were a significant opportunity to reflect and exchange experiences on the issue and to promote the production and use of gender statistics and indicators. They were instrumental in the creation of the Working Group on Gender Statistics and will continue to be the forum where countries can continue to study the issue of gender statistics. These meetings will be organized jointly with INEGI, the National Women's Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES), UNIFEM and the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC, and UNFPA is expected to continue to provide support. The scope and characteristics of the meetings will depend on the financial resources available.
  - To hold international meetings of experts on time-use surveys in 2007, 2008 and 2009. These annual meetings are an important opportunity for reflection and sharing experiences; for promoting the production and application of time-use statistics and the conceptual and methodological development of this type of survey. These events have been sponsored in the past by INEGI, INMUJERES and UNIFEM but arrangements will have to be made to secure more funding.

- To hold international workshops on gender statistics and indicators in 2008 and 2009 in Aguascalientes; a training course on time use and the contribution of unpaid work to the economy is also scheduled for 2008, but arrangements will be made to secure the necessary financial resources.
4. Promote international cooperation for the development and dissemination of gender statistics
- ECLAC proposes to continue mainstreaming the gender perspective in the Millennium Development Goals through the proposal of complementary indicators to the official indicators, which are not gender-sensitive. The Unit will also promote the systematic, regular dispatch of information between the member countries for monitoring purposes.
  - ECLAC proposes to continue to participate, together with the Social Development Division, in the project for interregional cooperation to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in relation to the Millennium Development Goals; substantive links will be established between the Goals and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women with a view to constructing indicators for the strategic follow-up of both mandates.
  - The Women and Development Unit of ECLAC proposes to continue to update the web page of the system of gender statistics and indicators with new information provided by United Nations agencies and data from recent household surveys. The system of statistics and indicators will migrate to the new database platform – CEPALSTAT - which ECLAC is currently developing.
  - The Women and Development Unit of ECLAC proposes to continue with activities for furthering the establishment of the regional gender parity observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean, in response to the mandate handed down by member countries at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in the form of the Quito Consensus. The purpose of this observatory is to make available to the Governments and social and community organizations the tools for a timely assessment of the situation with regard to issues such as employment and the political participation of women, gender violence and ethnicity. This project is subject to the availability of funding.
  - ECLAC will continue to collaborate on the on-going review and update of the United Nations and ECLAC web pages on the system of gender statistics and indicators, and to prepare and disseminate periodically publications on gender statistics and indicators.