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

Santo Domingo, 22-24 October 2008

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.

The eighth meeting of the Executive Committee will be concerned with the follow-up to the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009, resolution 5 (IV) approved by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its fourth meeting and the agreements adopted at the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee. At its eighth 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. The working groups have become highly significant, given their efficiency in coordinating cooperation in the framework of the objectives of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference.

In addition, at its eighth meeting, the Executive Committee will decide on the provisional agenda, the place and date of the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the substantive issues to be discussed. The Executive Committee will have before it for discussion the proposed areas of work for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2009-2011. The Executive Committee also intends to hold a meeting with international bodies that carry out statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to discussing and adopting measures to optimize coordination of their activities and increase their contribution to achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015.

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 LC/L.2923(CE.8/1).

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Review of progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009
 - (a) Report by the secretariat
 - (b) Report of the Knowledge Transfer Network
 - (c) Report of the Working Group on Gender Statistics
 - (d) Report of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances
 - (e) Report of the Working Group on Censuses and the project on dissemination and assessment of harmonized census statistics for social programmes for sustainable development in MERCOSUR, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico
 - (f) Report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals
 - (g) Report of the Working Group on National Accounts
 - (h) Report of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies
 - (i) Report of the Working Group on Institution-building and report on the project on integration and harmonization of instruments for social statistics (INAES)
 - (j) Report on technological and methodological cooperation for the conduct of the 2010 round of censuses
 - (k) Report on the project for updating of the poverty measurement methodology used in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (l) Report of the initiative group of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics
 - (m) Report on the dissemination of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Latin America and the Caribbean
3. Meeting of the Executive Committee with international bodies on statistical coordination in the region
4. Preparation of the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - (a) Consideration of substantive issues for discussion at the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - (b) Analysis of proposed areas of work for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2009-2011
 - (c) Consideration of the provisional agenda for the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - (d) Selection of the place and date of the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
5. Other matters
6. Agreements

2. Review of progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009

Regarding progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009, the Executive Committee will have before it a report by the secretariat and reports by the Working Groups and initiative groups, and may adopt the measures deemed necessary for the most effective implementation of the biennial programme.

(a) Report by the secretariat

Delegates will have before them for review a report produced by the secretariat on the follow-up to the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009.

Working document:

- Progress report on the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2933(CE.8/3))

Reference documents:

- Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2795)
- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
- Report of the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2870)

(b) Report of the Knowledge Transfer Network

Under this agenda item, the Executive Committee will have the opportunity to review the development of the various initiatives to strengthen the human resources of national statistical offices. For this purpose, the Executive Committee will have before it the report of the Council of the Knowledge Transfer Network concerning the implementation of the Network's training programme activities, efforts to obtain funding for the Network and the activities scheduled for the period 2008-2009.

Working document:

- Report on activities related to the Knowledge Transfer Network. Working Group on Human Resource Education and Training of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.2934(CE.8/4))

Reference documents:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
- Draft programme of work of the Knowledge Transfer Network for statistical training in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2008-2009 (LC/L.2815)

(c) Report of the Working Group on Gender Statistics

At its fourth meeting, the Conference adopted an agreement to set up a Working Group on Gender Statistics, whose programme of work was approved by the Executive Committee at its seventh meeting. At the present meeting, the Working Group will present a report on its activities, especially with regard to the final draft of its programme of work and progress in the project to develop surveys on time use and unpaid work in the region. The secretariat will present a report on the development of the project for a gender observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Working documents:

- Report of activities of the Working Group on Gender Statistics (LC/L.2935(CE.8/5))
- Report of the secretariat on the proposed gender observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2936(CE.8/6))

Reference documents:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
- 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) Report of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances

The Executive Committee will have before it a report of the Working Group on Regional Public Goods on the subject of migration and trends in remittances, prepared at the initiative of the Central American countries, in the framework of the Regional Public Goods Program of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and on the comparative results at the regional level from countries that have completed surveys to quantify flows of remittances and migration.

Working document:

- Activities report of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances (LC/L.2937(CE.8/7))

Reference documents:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
 - Report on programmed activities and expected outputs of the project on migration and trends in remittances in the Central American Countries (DDR/7), 26 November 2007
- (e) Report of the Working Group on Censuses and the project on dissemination and assessment of harmonized census statistics for social programmes for sustainable development in MERCOSUR, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico**

This Working Group will present a progress report on the IDB Regional Public Goods Program which will result in the production of three documents, entitled “New demands for data applicable to the 2010 round of censuses”, “Outcomes and applicability of alternative methods for population censuses in Latin America” and “Outcomes of the joint pilot test on disability”. In addition, in response to a request made at the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC will present a report containing an integrating vision of all national capacity-building initiatives for the 2010 round of censuses planned in the region, with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts and ensuring that the activities reflect the priorities of the Working Group on Censuses.

Working document:

- Report on the activities of the Working Group on Censuses (LC/L.2938(CE.8/8))

Reference documents:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
 - Report on the activities of the Working Group on Censuses (DDR/3), 26 November 2007
 - Report on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses (DDR/5), 27 November 2007
- (f) Report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals**

This Working Group will present a report on its activities, indicating what progress has been made in efforts to develop a regional statistical reconciliation strategy to monitor the Millennium Development Goals in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, in order to resolve the statistical discrepancies in the values of Millennium Development Goals Indicators from national and from international sources, and to fill the statistical gaps that exist in this context.

Working document:

- Report on the activities of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (LC/L.2940(CE.8/10))

Reference documents:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
- Programme of work of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (LC/L.2818)

(g) Report of the Working Group on National Accounts

The Working Group on National Accounts will present to the Executive Committee for its review a document analysing the development of the system of national accounts in the region, relevant technical and institutional linkages with the production of economic statistics, and areas of work for boosting the development of national accounts in the region. ECLAC will present a document on a project whose main objective is to coordinate the initiatives of international agencies, countries and donors to promote the application in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean of the Luxembourg Recommendations on Global Implementation and Outreach for the System of National Accounts (SNA).

Working documents:

- Report on the activities of the Working Group on National Accounts (LC/L.2941(CE.8/11))
- Proposed regional plan for the implementation of the Luxembourg Recommendations (LC/L.2942(CE.8/12))

Reference documents:

- Contribution to the interpretation of the survey conducted in Rio de Janeiro on June 2007 by the Working Group on National Accounts of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (DDR/1)
- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
- Report on the activities of the Working Group on National Accounts (DDR/6), 26 November 2007

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

The Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies will present a progress report on its activities, particularly with regard to the creation of the regional database and the compendium of practices for statistical offices collecting statistics on information and communication technologies from companies and government.

Working document:

- Report on the activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) (LC/L.2943(CE.8/13))

Reference documents:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
- Report on the activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies (DDR/1), 6 November 2007
- (i) Report of the Working Group on Institution-building and the project on integration and harmonization of instruments for social statistics (INAES)**

The Working Group will present a report on the implementation of the INAES project, in the framework of the IDB Regional Public Goods Program, with particular reference to progress in establishing regional or subregional standards and organizing subregional training workshops.

Working documents:

- Activities report of the Working Group on Institution-building (LC/L.2944(CE.8/14))
- Report on the implementation of the Project on Integration and Harmonization of Instruments for Social Statistics (INAES) (LC/L.2945(CE.8/15))

Reference documents:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
- Report on the planned activities and expected outputs, 2007-2008, of the project for the integration and harmonization of social statistics (INAES) (DDR/2), 21 November 2007
- (j) Report on technological and methodological cooperation for the conduct of the 2010 round of censuses**

The countries of the initiative group (Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and the United States) set up to explore and develop instruments and means of technological and methodological cooperation for the conduct of the 2010 round of censuses will present a progress report on its activities.

Working document:

- Report on technological and methodological cooperation for the free use of electronic devices and data capture software (LC/L.2946(CE.8/16))

Reference document:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)

(k) Reports on the project for updating the poverty measurement methodology used in Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC, which is responsible for conducting this project, will present a progress report for consideration by the Executive Committee.

Working document:

- Report on activities related to the Project to Update the Poverty Measurement Methodology in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2947(CE.8/17))

Reference documents:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
- Report on the activities of the project for updating the poverty measurement methodology used in Latin America and the Caribbean (DDR/4), 26 November 2007

(l) Report of the initiative group of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics

The Executive Committee will have before it the report of the initiative group of the new Working Group on Environmental Statistics, comprising representatives from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, the ECLAC secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), for consideration of the terms of reference and programme of work of the proposed new Working Group of the Conference.

Working document:

- Activities report of the initiative group of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics (LC/L.2948(CE.8/18))

(m) Report on the dissemination of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Latin America and the Caribbean

The secretariat and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) will present a progress report on the initiative to promote knowledge and debate in the region, so as to adapt the European Statistics Code of Practice to the reality of the region's countries. The report will report on the activities undertaken by the initiative group (Colombia, Mexico, Panama Paraguay, the secretariat and EUROSTAT) regarding the adaptation of the European questionnaire to the realities of the region and its pilot implementation in certain countries.

Working document:

- Report on the activities relating to the programme of work on the dissemination of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2949(CE.8/19))

Reference document:

- Draft programme of work on the dissemination of the European Statistics Code of Practice in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2817)

3. Meeting of the Executive Committee with international bodies on statistical coordination in the region

This agenda item is in response to the agreement made at the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee to support the initiative for an integrated presentation of regional statistical work. The initiative seeks to contribute to coordination and to the timely information of countries on the different statistical activities being carried out in the region, encourage their participation in such activities, avoid duplication of efforts and foster regional and international cooperation. The secretariat will present a document for discussion, containing a proposal for an integrated presentation and the results of a pilot plan conducted with selected international bodies. The meeting will be attended by a representative of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), which acts as secretariat for the Conference of European Statisticians and is responsible for the yearly preparation of the Database on International Statistical Activities (Integrated Presentation). This will enable the Committee to benefit from the experience of UNECE in constructing and maintaining the Integrated Presentation and consider its possible applicability in the region.

Working document:

- Preliminary proposal for an integrated presentation of international statistical work in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2939(CE.8/9))

Reference document:

- *Compendium of statistical work programmes of international organizations active in Europe, North America and Central Asia (DISA)* [online] <http://unece.unog.ch/disa/disa.default.asp?Year=2008>

4. Preparation of the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC**(a) Consideration of substantive issues for discussion at the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC**

The Executive Committee will have before it a report of the secretariat on the outcome of consultations with countries on the choice of issues for the substantive seminars to be held as part of the fifth meeting of the Conference.

(b) Analysis of proposed areas of work for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2009-2011

The Presiding Officers and the secretariat will present to the Executive Committee a report on the proposed areas of work for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2009-2011. The proposed areas are closely linked to the objectives and targets of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Conference.

(c) Consideration of the provisional agenda for the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

The secretariat will present a report for the Executive Committee on the provisional agenda of the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

(d) Selection of the place and date of the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

The Executive Committee will consider options for the place and date of the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference and will adopt the decisions in this regard.

5. Other matters

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

6. Agreements

The Executive Committee will adopt decisions as appropriate and will determine the place and date of its ninth meeting.