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**REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Quito, 2-4 July 2012

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of meeting

1. The eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Quito from 2 to 4 July 2012.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States which serve on the Executive Committee: Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Spain.

3. Also present at the meeting were representatives of the following member countries of the Conference: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

4. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat was a representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR).

5. In addition, the following United Nations funds and programmes were represented at the meeting: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

6. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were also represented at the meeting: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

7. Representatives of the following intergovernmental agencies were also present: Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Andean Community, Caribbean Community (CARICOM), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21).

8. Also attending were representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Association of Black Ecuadorians (ASONE), Federation of Afro-Ecuadorian Organizations and Groups in Pichincha (FOGNEP), Black Women's National Coordination Chapter in Esmeraldas (CONAMUNECE), Network of Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women and Network of Sex Workers in Ecuador.

Chair and Rapporteur

9. In the absence of the Director General of the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Ecuador, the meeting was chaired by the Director of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador, while the representative of the Dominican Republic was appointed to act as Rapporteur.

¹ See annex.

B. AGENDA

10. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Report on the status of implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2012-2013.
 - (a) Reports of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - (i) Report of the Working Group on Censuses
 - (ii) Report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals
 - (iii) Report of the Working Group on Gender Statistics
 - (iv) Report of the Working Group on National Accounts
 - (v) Report of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies
 - (vi) Report of the Working Group on Institution-building
 - (vii) Report of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics
 - (viii) Report of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers
 - (ix) Report of the Working Group on International Classifications
 - (x) Report of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics
 - (xi) Report of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators
 - (xii) Report of the Working Group on Household Surveys
 - (xiii) Report of the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence
 - (b) Reports on the status of regional projects
 - (xiv) Report on the Knowledge Transfer Network
 - (xv) Report on the strategy and regional plan of action for preparing, implementing and managing a Directory of Businesses and Establishments
 - (xvi) Report on the status of the International Comparison Programme
 3. Information on subregional coordination bodies and related activities.
 4. Substantive seminars.
 - (a) Panel on the importance of security statistics in national statistical systems
 - (b) Panel on the concepts to be discussed at the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians
 5. Joint meeting with the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development to discuss population, territory and sustainable development matters.
 6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of agreements.
8. Report of the Rapporteur and closure of the session.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

11. At the opening session, statements were made by Byron Villacis, Director of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador, Ana María Larrea, Secretary a.i. of the National Secretariat for Planning and Development of Ecuador (SENPLADES), and Luis Beccaria, Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC.

12. After welcoming participants, the Director of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador said that the new challenges facing the countries called for the design of new methodologies and for social, economic and environmental indicators that reflected the true situation. That task was part of a long term vision that would strengthen the capacity of the national statistical systems to produce quality statistics. The increase in investment and the institutionalization of public statistics could be achieved by strengthening the strategic management of national statistical offices, as established in the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. In Ecuador, the process had been started years earlier and statistical operations and the number of users had increased. Currently, 24 committees devoted to sectoral statistics were functioning. For the first time, national surveys were being conducted on living conditions, child development, older persons and gender-based discrimination. He affirmed that statistics needed to be democratized and disseminated, thereby generating channels that would facilitate information management by users.

13. The Secretary a.i. of the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES) presented her Government's good wishes to the participants and said that the issues of concern to the whole society were being measured and the results used as a basis for decision-making; thus, the information produced had to be accurate, truthful, objective and available electronically. In those times of change and transformation, the conceptual frameworks for statistical measurement needed to be defined and were in the process of reconfiguration. National statistical systems would have to be consolidated and exchanges maintained with the statistical systems of other countries and the world as a whole, but certain measurements had limitations and the methods used were questionable. All countries had biases in terms of national accounts and it was crucial to extend the measurements progressively to new areas, such as production externalities and their impact on the environment. Countries were reconfiguring their development processes to bring them in line with public planning. The concept of good living had been enshrined in the Constitution of Ecuador and the statistical system had been changed in 2007, following linkages established between INEC and SENPLADES. Thus, more than 70% of the national plan targets for good living had been met and the reliability of the national planning system had been strengthened. The national information system had been consolidated into a single, free-access public portal, which facilitated decision making. The role of statesmen and planners needed to be reviewed and information must be produced on a timely basis and early warnings generated in several areas. She welcomed the inclusion in the debate of statistics on security and new concepts in labour statistics, such as decent work. The meeting was an occasion for participants to share experiences and prepare a joint programme of work for continuing to build a more humane world with the focus of Government activity on people-centred development, and all indications pointed to a successful outcome.

14. In his opening address, the Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC thanked the Government of Ecuador for hosting the meeting and said that he was confident that the incoming Executive Committee would work as intensively as its predecessor. In the decade that had elapsed since its creation, the Statistical Conference of the Americas had witnessed significant advances in the statistical systems applied in the region. Improvements had been seen in the quality, coverage and sustainability of those systems over time and different conceptual approaches to traditional subject areas had contributed to a more accurate analysis of national realities, which was indispensable for the design of public policies. Other advances included broader dissemination and increased access for users to official statistics together with methodological refinements and the growing use of technology. The Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean was a valuable contribution to national efforts to consolidate statistical institutions. In some areas, however, progress was incipient or even lacking, and some countries lagged behind in terms of institutional consolidation. While many international agencies had actively facilitated and generously funded many of the Conference's activities, there was room for further strengthening and closer coordination. He reaffirmed the Commission's support for the Executive Committee, stating however, that the undeniable advances observed in the role of the Statistical Conference had been achieved thanks essentially to the importance that the countries themselves attached to that issue. He wished the participants success in their deliberations and declared open the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee.

Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

15. The representative of the secretariat read out a letter from the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in which she expressed deep regret at not being able to attend the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee owing to the events, known to all, that were taking place in her country. The secretariat and members of the Executive Committee then requested the Director of INEC of Ecuador to assume the role of Chair. The latter thanked the Committee for the trust placed in him and pledged to do his utmost to perform his functions.

16. The Chair submitted the provisional agenda and programme of activities for consideration by the Committee, which adopted them without amendment. At the proposal of the delegation of Cuba, the Dominican Republic was appointed to serve as Rapporteur of the meeting.

Report on the status of implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2012-2013 (agenda item 2)

(a) Report by the secretariat

17. A representative of the secretariat presented the Report on the status of implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2012-2013 and announced that the five new working groups established at the sixth meeting of the Conference had started their activities. He transmitted a message from the Chair of the Conference, stressing the need to establish realistic targets in order to improve the performance of the groups.

(b) Reports of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

18. The coordinating countries of the various working groups then gave presentations on the status of implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2012-2013.

Working Group on Censuses

19. In presenting the report of the Working Group on Censuses, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reviewed the group's background and general and specific objectives as well as the activities that had been carried out. Foremost among those were the workshop on the use of census data and a workshop on using census data for demographic evaluation and estimation. A number of other workshops and seminars were being planned and countries were being assisted in conducting their censuses of the 2010 round.

20. The representative of Brazil commented on two activities that were being planned with support from UNFPA: a seminar that the Fund was financing in Brazil for countries that would require support or training and the repetition of a seminar on results-based analysis that had been conducted during the previous year. The representative of Cuba suggested organizing a seminar to evaluate the results, especially in terms of methodologies and organization, of the 2010 round of censuses with a view to applying that experience to the 2020 round. The representative of Ecuador said that barriers to access to information must be eliminated and that it was important to adopt methodologies based on administrative records as they would reduce costs and avert risks in the census operations.

21. In his presentation on the census activities, the UNFPA representative reported that the Fund would continue to support the countries of the region and would strengthen South-South cooperation and technical assistance.

Report of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers

22. The report of the above-mentioned working group was presented by a representative of Uruguay, who gave an overview of the outcomes obtained and activities carried out. They included the Workshop on the harmonization of poverty statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, held from 22 to 24 May 2012 in Montevideo, at which the 25 participating countries discussed issues such as income from wage employment, self-employment and employers' income; capital income; agricultural income; remittances and transfers; non-monetary income and the issue of non-responses. In addition, member countries of the Conference had been surveyed to find out information on methodologies used for measuring poverty.

23. Several representatives commended the group for its work. In response to a question by some representatives on the methodological differences between the measurements conducted by countries, the representative of Uruguay said that a report was scheduled to be presented on the issue by the end of the year. The representative of the Bahamas requested that the report should be shared with the countries of the Caribbean.

Working Group on National Accounts

24. The representative of Peru, in his capacity as coordinator, presented the report of the Working Group on National Accounts for the biennium 2010-2011 and the programme for the biennium 2012-2013. He said that, in coordination with ECLAC, the Working Group had monitored and promoted

advances in the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008) in the countries of the region. Its overall objective for the current biennium 2012-2013 would be the same. A number of seminars and courses had been organized since the previous meeting of the Executive Committee and an electronic forum set up to facilitate coordination between the members of the Group. Peru functioned as a pilot country for advancing in that area. In 2012-2013, the other key actions would be to urge IDB to approve the regional public goods project, to promote a regional programme for horizontal cooperation and the use of the virtual library, to organize virtual forums and expert networks, to further use of the guide of best practices and methodological standards, to work towards regional harmonization of basic statistics and to encourage the development and dissemination of the advanced course on national accounts. The countries of the Working Group were committed to continuing their work in that area. The advances made in the different countries varied considerably. In 60% of cases, the central banks were the entities responsible for the national accounts and would therefore need to participate more fully in the exercise.

25. Participants drew attention to the complexity and comprehensiveness of national accounts, which relied on statistics drawn from many different sources, and to the fact that not all systems satisfied the minimum requirements for implementation of the SNA 2008 recommendations, especially in terms of the quality of basic economic statistics, which were inputs for the system of national accounts. ECLAC was urged to provide support in coordinating the Group's activities and it was stated that the central banks must be included in the Group. Since it would be impossible to encompass all subjects, it was also recommended that the annual meeting on national accounts should limit itself to specific issues.

Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies

26. In his capacity as coordinator, the representative of the Dominican Republic presented the report of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies. He recalled that the overall objective of the group was capacity-building and establishing a methodology, while one of its specific objectives was for the countries to have useful statistics on the availability and impact of information and communications technologies (ICTs), along with promoting implementation of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society of Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015). The Working Group was geared to measuring the use of ICTs as a cross-cutting issue for development, the dissemination of gender-sensitive ICT statistics and indicators, support for integration of the countries of the Caribbean and Central America into the Working Group and harmonization of measurements for enhancing comparability. The Working Group had carried out various activities for strengthening ICT development in the region, such as collecting information by means of a survey of national statistics agencies. He urged countries to fill out promptly the questionnaire for 2012 that would soon be sent out to them and noted that the findings from the 2011 survey revealed wide gaps between the subregions concerning ICT use, although a number of countries indicated that they were planning to use ICT modules in their research. In 2012, the group had forged stronger ties with other international agencies with a view to organizing a meeting and a workshop on the ICT module for businesses. Another objective was to update the compendium of practices on the use of ICT questions in household and business surveys, with support from ECLAC. The Working Group was to take charge of an electronic forum on ICTs that would be open to institutions and to society in general and would help attain the group's objectives. In 2013, a training workshop would be held on an ICT module on health, and an ICT survey would be conducted on national statistical agencies, 2013 version; steps would be taken to reformulate the ICT survey in order to tailor it to Government institutions that would be representing the countries of the region in matters relating to eLAC. In working towards those goals, the Working Group expected to count on support from national statistics agencies, Government institutions concerned with ICT issues and international cooperation and finance institutions.

27. In the ensuing discussion, participants referred to their country's situation regarding the use of ICT modules in household surveys; indicators of digital literacy; and the use of Internet and smart phones. Reference was made to the rapid technological changes that were taking place in the world and the speed of transmission of those changes. One country representative mentioned that a programme had been launched nationally to provide each child in the country with a netbook computer. One participant recommended seeking information directly from the mobile telephone, cable television, Internet and other companies, since surveys were not always able to capture changes as fast as they occurred. The whole issue of information and communications technology was recognized to be one of great complexity.

Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

28. The Report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals was presented by the representative of the coordinating country, Argentina. He stated that since the previous meeting a virtual interaction information platform had been established and the annual regional seminar on indicators for monitoring progress towards the Goals had been held in Mexico. In addition, an interregional seminar on sharing best practices in relation to the Goals had taken place in Santiago. The Group's ongoing activities included work on statistical reconciliation of indicators at the subregional level; the generation of metadata; strengthening of national coordination mechanisms, the establishment of an inventory of information flows between national agencies and international organizations; and the improvement of communication between member countries through the use of ICTs, in particular the establishment of a virtual collaborative website and a subsite, under the ECLAC Millennium Development Goal site devoted to the Working Group's main activities. Training activities were being organized for the second half of 2012 and would be coordinated and disseminated through the Knowledge Transfer Network.

29. In the discussion that followed the presentation, some participants stated that national statistics should take precedence over those prepared by international agencies. The representative of Cuba had noted discrepancies between his country's statistics on maternal mortality and those published by some international organizations, which did not reflect the effort made by the Government in that regard. It was suggested that the Group should take into consideration the measurement of the Goals at the subnational level. The representative of the Working Group explained that the inventory referred to official agencies. The Group had agreed that the official statistics of each country would be considered and the discrepancies examined jointly with the international agencies. Several participants pointed out that the metadata were documented using a standardized format and that bringing them in line with national sources would pose significant challenges.

30. The representative of the Pan American Health Organization recalled that the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Strengthening Health Information Systems (REDLACSIS) had been launched; unlike earlier models used for preparing overall estimates, it sought to take fully into account the realities in the region. A report on the countries' progress towards the targets for coverage of births and deaths and indicating the quality of those statistics would be presented to the Executive Committee of PAHO. The Organization was working jointly with the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC on population denominators and would be carrying out further studies with the countries in relation to numerators taken from routine surveys. The results were expected to be available around March 2013.

31. A representative of ECLAC reported that the Commission participated in the Working Group on Maternal Mortality and that the document referred to by the PAHO representative had been presented at several seminars and identified differences in methodology. A second part was being prepared to analyse the metadata provided by the countries. He said that Cuba was one of the pilot countries being evaluated.

Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators

32. The representative of Chile presented the report of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators and reviewed its objectives and activities including the preparation of a plan of action, the dispatch and receipt of the first methodological questionnaire for member countries of the Group, the organization of the first face-to-face meeting of the Working Group and the preparation of the report on the regional consensus document.

33. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela confirmed his request to become part of the Working Group and described the progress made by his country in that area and in using mobile capture devices for conducting employment surveys and conceptual redesign. The delegation of Ecuador reported that the approach to employment in his country had changed, which meant rethinking how it should be measured; the free education policy had an impact on the size of the working population as well as on the policies geared to work and decent wages.

Working Group on Institution-building

34. The report on the above-mentioned working group was presented by a representative of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia. He listed the objectives and the activities that had been carried out, including a report on the strengths, weaknesses and suggestions for improvement submitted to ECLAC, proposals for workshops for dissemination of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and the request for funding for that purpose from IDB. The principal activities for 2012-2013 included the implementation of the regional code of good practice in statistics and the preparation of a proposal for a bank of good statistical practices.

35. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela placed its experience in institution-building at the disposal of the Working Group. The representative of Italy commended the Working Group on its work relating to the regional Code and considered it advisable to share experiences and conduct discussions with other regional commissions. In her view, the monitoring system for implementation of the code was the central issue. The representative of Spain congratulated the Working Group and stated that there was broad scope for collaboration with the countries of the European Union. He invited the Working Group to share its experience at a seminar on good practices in statistics being organized in the Plurinational State of Bolivia by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

36. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank suggested that a results-based methodology should be adopted to manage the work of the groups and the statistical activity of the competent institutions. The representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) then stated that CARICOM had its own code of good practices and offered to send a copy to Colombia.

37. In response to the statement by the delegation of Italy, the representative of Colombia said that monitoring happened to be one of the themes that would be addressed at the scheduled workshop; he thanked the CARICOM representative for her offer and urged the Caribbean countries to participate more actively in the working group.

Working Group on Environmental Statistics

38. The report of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics was presented by the representative of Mexico, who indicated that the Group's activities had been carried out as part of the IDB-funded regional public goods project "Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean", of which the specific objectives were: (i) to determine the current status of environmental statistics in the region with a view to improving generation techniques; (ii) to promote coordination at the national level between producers of environmental statistics, indicators and accounts; and (iii) to strengthen regional cooperation in order to promote standardization and comparability of environmental statistics. He drew attention to the results obtained since the last meeting of the Conference in November 2011, in particular the establishment of a department for environmental statistics in Chile. He listed the activities proposed for the biennium 2012-2013, including the preparation of a self-diagnosis tool, the preparation of regional assessment report and the design of tools for promoting coordination at the national level between institutional actors in environmental statistics, indicators and accounts.

39. Following the presentation, the representative of Ecuador said that it was crucial to stress deepening the dimensions between environment, society and development and to obtain more comprehensive information. In order to enrich the debate, he urged the group to disseminate its work to all countries, even those that were not members. The representative of INEC of Ecuador expressed a wish to join the Working Group in order to share experiences. The representative of Mexico thanked him for his interest and said that the Group's electronic forum could be used to promote dissemination.

Working Group on International Classifications

40. The report of the above-mentioned working group was delivered by a member of the delegation of Mexico, who said that the diagnostic questionnaire on the adoption or adaptation of international classifications in Latin America had been prepared and analysed. The Group had also created a directory of representatives appointed by national statistical offices; identified other international organizations that could cooperate in the adoption or adaptation of international classifications; set up an online forum to facilitate communication among member countries and prepared a draft agenda for the first meeting of the Working Group, which would take place in Santiago from 10 to 14 September 2012.

Working Group on Agricultural Statistics

41. The representative of Brazil presented the report of the Working Group, which had been set up in order to refine and harmonize agricultural statistics and to define the plan of implementation of the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. He said that the specific objectives included institution-building, assessment of the statistical capacity of the countries, training for institutions, technical assistance and development of methodologies. The members of the Working Group had met in Lima within the framework of the Fourth National Agricultural Census (CENAGRO) and had agreed as follows: to set up a wiki platform to facilitate communication among group members; to prepare draft terms of reference for the meeting planned for August 2012; to send the Spanish version of the global strategy document and the summary to all members; and to seek funds to finance its activities.

42. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) added that the Global Strategy was at its most advanced stage in Asia and Africa, but lagged far behind in Latin America and the Caribbean, hence the need to organize the regional meeting as soon as possible. One of the objectives was to incorporate agricultural statistics into national statistical systems.

43. The representative of Uruguay suggested that coordination between the national statistical offices and those responsible for basic statistics would be enhanced once those offices were no longer the main producers of those types of statistics. The representative of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) reported that the Partnership was participating in the Global Strategy and underscored the importance of incorporating agricultural statistics more effectively into national systems. Three joint missions with FAO had been conducted in Peru and others in coordination with IDB, the entity that provided support for the agricultural sectoral strategy in that country. The representative of Brazil invited the countries of the Working Group to hold discussions on coordination between producers of agricultural statistics.

Working Group on Gender Statistics

44. The delegation of Mexico was responsible for presenting the report on the above-mentioned Working Group. The Group's objectives and future activities were described and attention drawn to the thirteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics and the ninth International meeting on time use, which were due to be held in October 2012. The representative of Mexico said that the Working Group had focused its activities on three issues: (i) time use and the measurement and valuation of unpaid work in the System of National Accounts; (ii) statistics on violence against women; and (iii) the measurement of poverty from a gender perspective. In 2012-2013, emphasis would be placed on producing economic statistics in order to show advances on the empowerment and economic autonomy of women; in addition, the Working Group intended to carry out a conceptual review of the regular sources of socioeconomic information for harmonizing theoretical and methodological frameworks. Lastly, special attention would be paid to human resource training and new distance learning courses would be organized on gender statistics.

45. The representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) said that a preliminary agenda had already been prepared and reiterated the invitation for the statistical offices to attend the meetings. She added that her office had started to study the issue of time poverty measurement, thanks to the availability of data. The representative of Ecuador remarked that the issue of violence against women was difficult to measure owing to cultural assimilation and that a mechanism should be sought for measuring the reality of groups that suffered gender-based discrimination. The representative of Belize reported that a programme on gender statistics was being conducted in the CARICOM region and said that the Community would be willing to share information on the progress achieved.

46. The representative of Brazil reaffirmed its country's intention of joining the Working Group and announced that a meeting on time use was scheduled to be held in Río de Janeiro in 2013. She urged participants to incorporate the gender perspective in agricultural statistics, given the need for reports on the status of rural women and their contribution to the production of the agricultural sector. An ECLAC representative recalled that on 6 June 2012, as part of a global survey, the Commission had sent out to its member countries a questionnaire on the production of gender statistics. She requested participants to ensure that it was completed jointly by the national statistical offices and the machineries for the advancement of women.

Working Group on Household Surveys

47. In its presentation of the report of the Working Group on Household Surveys, a member of the delegation of Ecuador listed the Group's objectives and programme of work, along with the tasks relating to international coordination and statistical reconciliation based on the online forum created by ECLAC, as well as the results expected for the seventh meeting of the Conference. They included: (i) preparing an assessment of the degree of integration between the household surveys produced by the member countries and the criteria for constructing the framework for the integrated household survey system and the use of the master sampling frames; (ii) preparing a technical report on the current situation with regard to methodologies for estimating indicators based on continuous surveys; (iii) updating the regional situation concerning practices and challenges associated with the statistical design of surveys; (iv) generating methodological and empirical inputs to make better use of continuous and longitudinal surveys; and (v) establishing a regional strategy for the implementation of an integrated household survey system in the countries of the region. It was also noted that the expected outcome for the employment agendas was the same as for the integrated household survey system agendas and that the latter allowed for the incorporation of new issues.

48. An ECLAC representative stated that the work of the group should be coordinated with the tasks of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators and of the Working Group on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics (in terms of the issue of non-response) as well as with that of gender (with respect to time-use surveys). He also pointed out that it should be borne in mind that not all household surveys were produced by the national statistical offices. Lastly, the delegations of Brazil, Chile and Mexico confirmed their interest in participating in the Working Group.

Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence

49. The representative of Panama presented the report of the above-mentioned Working Group. He drew attention to the activities planned for 2012-2013, in particular the draft of the working group's annual plan; the evaluation of indicators produced by countries in follow-up to the issue of the rights of the child; the determination of minimum priority indicators for monitoring fulfilment of commitments relating to the rights of the child, and the creation of the DevInfo platform for storage, analysis and publication of the relevant information.

50. The IDB representative said that the focus of all the working groups was statistical production but that the ultimate objective was not production but rather the use to which the information would be put. He therefore proposed that a working group should be set up to promote the use of statistics.

(c) Report on the progress of regional projects

Report on the Regional strategy and plan of action for the preparation, implementation and management of directories of businesses and establishments

51. The delegations of Colombia and Peru were responsible for the presentation of the report. First, they listed the activities planned for component 3 of the project, relating to the regional technical recommendations for directories of businesses and establishments. Those recommendations contemplated setting up three working groups in order to establish a set of best practices and common technical recommendations; organizing workshops; appointing an international consultant, national consultants and a consultant on recommendations and best practices from other regions, and defining specific tasks for each one. Lastly, they reviewed the activities under way for the same component of the project, including:

the update of the change of component; scheduling a workshop for 5 and 6 July in Quito, and adapting the terms of reference of the international consultant and national consultants to the revised project activities.

52. In their comments, participants stressed the importance of strengthening administrative records.

Report on the activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network

53. The representative of Mexico, who was responsible for the presentation of the report, said that the Knowledge Transfer Network had a bilingual portal, but that it required stronger participation by all its members as well as information on the 13 working groups of the Conference and identification of the activities necessary for dealing with training requirements in the region. Furthermore, he advocated promoting the Network as a basic tool for sharing knowledge, facilitating communication and disseminating knowledge (by adding more focal points and updating their information in the Network's interactive directory); efforts were also needed to exercise governance, expand the network of experts, strengthen the specialized information bank, foster the use of the virtual statistical system through the Knowledge Transfer Network and support the training activities of the working groups that dealt with training requirements. Lastly, the speaker stressed the need to boost resources and achieve a more active participation.

54. Several participants then expressed concern at the lack of support received by the Knowledge Training Network and underscored the need for all the member countries of the Conference to be cognizant of and make use of the Network's studies and expand their collaboration. The reasons for underutilization of the Network should be examined and the working groups urged to use it to share experiences. One participant added that the virtual forums of the working groups should come under the Network and that the latter should act as a repository of data. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that WHO had created a Global Network of Collaborating Centres and suggested forging stronger ties between networks.

Report on the International Comparison Programme

55. An ECLAC representative presented the report on the International Comparison Programme. The task of collecting information on final household consumer goods was almost completed for the 17 countries of Latin America that participated in the International Comparison Programme (ICP). Several meetings had been held for the analysis and validation of the final household consumer prices. The countries were working on the preparation of the vector of national account weightings as well as on finalizing special surveys. A calendar was available on data transmission to the ICP Global Office at the World Bank for all components of the ICP. The coordination of the ICP 2011 round in the Caribbean was a joint effort by ECLAC and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC). He reported also that data collection on final consumer prices in all countries of the Caribbean (with the exception of Guyana) was well advanced. Further fund-raising would be necessary to enable the remaining Latin American and Caribbean countries to successfully complete the 2011 round of the Programme. He urged the statistical institutes represented to continue to support their technical teams in order to bring the ICP-related work to fruition.

56. The representative of Brazil reported that data collection was almost complete and asked whether details relating to publication of the data had been discussed. An ECLAC representative replied that the website of the ICP Global Office had a vast amount of information on the methodology and the progress

achieved. The findings would be published towards the end of 2013, but the early publications might not include all countries, since data collection had been delayed in some countries.

57. The representative of Belize pointed out that the issue had been discussed by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians and that there were a few concerns, including the question of financial assistance to countries for data collection. He enquired about access to such assistance and wished to know the exact date of the workshop. The representative of the Bahamas pointed to some constraints that had already been brought to the attention of ECLAC. She said that her country would make every effort to make progress in collecting data, but was unsure whether data on construction would be forthcoming or what kind of financial assistance might be available. The ECLAC representative replied that the Commission did not provide funding but that it had the option of channelling World Bank resources in that direction. Countries were advised to submit a formal request, provide an estimate of the additional cost of participating in the programme and sign a memorandum of understanding. The contribution was not expected to be very significant, however. Moreover, funds were only provided to countries that belonged to the World Bank, although, the fund could be used for technical assistance from ECLAC. He also indicated that the meeting planned for the end of June had been postponed to August because of delays in the receipt of funding from the donor and in the dispatch of inputs from the countries. As regards data on construction, a specific workshop was planned on the issue for countries that needed it.

Information on subregional coordination bodies and related activities (agenda item 3)

58. The representative of the Andean Community reviewed the activities relating to migration statistics, statistical records, transport statistics, statistical training, environmental statistics, the directory of businesses and statistics on public security. Reference was made to the projects for the period 2012-2013 in the different areas of its sphere of competence, which included the production of statistics and indicators and training activities.

59. The representative of the CARICOM secretariat presented the report of that body. She said that the programme of regional statistical work had been updated—with technical assistance from the ninth European Development Fund and the Common Census Framework project for statistical production, financed by IDB—and would be presented to the CARICOM Council of Ministers; other activities included: the review of the terms of reference of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians; preparation of a model statistics bill; creation of a framework for data storage, management and filing, and the design of a Common Regional Framework for a Literacy Survey in the Caribbean. Capacity-building was under way with funding from the European Union and other training and technical support activities had been undertaken. The programme of the advisory group on statistics also included the establishment of a professional association of CARICOM statisticians; the creation of a database of experts in statistics; drafting of a code of ethics for statisticians; analysis of high frequency global indicators in the minimum set of data for the subregion for monitoring the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME); supervision and evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations handed down by the High-level Advocacy Forum on Statistics; monitoring of the 2011 Round of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) in CARICOM; modernization of the national statistical offices and monitoring of gender, environmental, economic and ICT statistics in the 2010 round of censuses.

60. The report of the Central American Statistical Commission (CENTROESTAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) was then presented. The representative of CENTROESTAD outlined the overall objectives, which were as follows: to contribute to the development of a regional statistical system in response to the information needs of the regional integration process; to generate timely, up-to-date statistical information, and to standardize methodologies and definitions to allow

comparability and aggregation of data for Central America and the Dominican Republic. He added that a regional statistical development strategy was being prepared together with a plan of action for its implementation. The regional strategy would be the basis for appropriate decision-making on the management, organization and conduct of regional statistical work. In addition, a joint study was being carried out with the Regional Programme for Food and Nutrition Security for Central America (PRESANCA) and the Regional Programme of Information Systems on Food Security and Nutrition in Central America (PRESISAN), as part of the joint Plan of action 2011-2012; the Executive Technical Committee set up by CENTROESTAD had started to exercise technical leadership in the design of the regional statistical development strategy, and was coordinating the task of defining common methodological guidelines with reference to the basic food basket and the food balance sheet.

61. Lastly, a representative of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) presented the report on the group's activities. In particular, reference was made to the establishment and functioning of the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Statistics, which was created in April 2010 and operates under the Common Market Group (CMG) with the primary objective of preparing a statistical strategic plan for MERCOSUR leading to the adoption of a harmonized statistical system for the trading bloc. In order to disseminate the information harmonized by the Meeting, a page on the MERCOSUR Secretariat website had been set up and working documents posted there to report on progress towards regional harmonization (statistics on employment and income distribution, statistical measurement of poverty, classifications, nomenclatures and quality). Sustained output of harmonized indicators for MERCOSUR was highlighted as an achievement, as were the regular updates of tables of employment, education, income and other sociodemographic statistics and the updating of harmonized tables of national accounts statistics with annual series from 2000 to 2010 and quarterly series from 2001 through the fourth quarter of 2011. The representative also reported on the creation of a working group on international road freight transport under the Specialized Meeting on Statistics, progress on the inventory of statistical operations and the launch of an assessment of what each State party needs in order to reach the common goal of a system of national accounts (SNA) comprising an annual supply and use table and institutional sector accounts as a document base for submitting recommendations to the Meeting. In closing, the representative announced the start-up of work on preparing a harmonized classification of occupations in line with the International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008.

62. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that, separate and apart from its formal inclusion in the group, his country had been working jointly with MERCOSUR.

Substantive seminars (agenda item 4)

(a) Panel on the importance of security statistics in national statistical systems

63. In the panel, which was moderated by a representative of Ecuador, presentations were made by the Director of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador, a representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and a representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico. The panellists mentioned that the statistical agenda should respond to issues, such as security, that were of concern to the public. They agreed on the importance of having reliable information on public security, since the data, criteria and procedures applied were not homogeneous; hence the importance of approaching the issue from an inter-agency perspective, encompassing governmental as well as non-government agencies. The representative of Ecuador introduced the Statistical System on Citizen Security, which contained information on the minutes and meetings of the competent commission. The UNODC representative reported on the UNODC-INEGI Center of Excellence on Statistics on Governance, Public Safety, Victimization and Justice, which had

been created to deal more effectively with those issues in the region. Lastly, the representative of Mexico described the relevant measures that were being taken in his country and mentioned that an international classification of crimes was in progress.

64. It was stated that the Latin American agenda should include the following items: participation in the International classification of crimes for statistical purposes, institution-building for surveys on victimization; and knowledge transfer for compiling statistics on the subject. Moreover, it was suggested that a working group should be set up to deal with the matter within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

(b) Panel on the concepts to be discussed at the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians

65. The panel was made up of representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the National Statistical Institute of Chile and the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia. The panellists underscored the need to review current recommendations, given that the existing recommendations left a few loose ends that detracted from the comparability of the statistics, for example, with respect to the incorporation of new job-search methods and the duplication of criteria for determining whether a person should be counted as part of, or outside of, the labour force, the review of terminology for the components of the active population, rules of priority and the definition of different working methods.

66. There were some areas of conflict between the ILO proposal and the outcome of regional position meetings; it was therefore agreed that further discussions would be necessary.

Joint meeting with the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development to discuss population, territory and sustainable development (agenda item 5)

67. A representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC presented the document “Population, Territory and Sustainable Development” (LC/L.3474(CEP.2/3)), in which the links between location and population mobility, and sustainable development were assessed on the basis of different operating definitions of territory. The authors also examined the advantages and difficulties arising from urban sprawl and made recommendations accordingly.

Statement by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC and dialogue with delegations

68. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC then took the floor. After thanking the Government of Ecuador for organizing the meeting, she said that capacities for designing early warning indicators should be further strengthened and a more diverse economic and social panorama should be envisaged, in order to formulate comprehensive policies based on reliable data on income distribution, access to basic health services, the labour market, gender issues, public safety, agricultural and rural, and environmental statistics and other issues. The traditional aggregate measurements used in economic and social analysis needed to be complemented with measures such as environmental costs or the multidimensional perspective of poverty. She advocated autonomy for statistical institutes and stressed that national statistical systems should be strengthened given their strategic public-policy importance. She reiterated her desire and willingness to have a stronger presence by the Caribbean countries in forums such as the Statistical Conference of the Americas. In addition, ECLAC was committed to cooperating on statistical matters with other organizations such as ILO, UNICEF, UNEP and UN-Women.

69. The representative of Colombia, while agreeing with the Executive Secretary on the need to work with complementary indicators, expressed doubts concerning the most appropriate procedures for generating information relating to the environment and recommended harmonizing basic statistics before moving on to issues of measurements, which were much more complex. The representative of Brazil stressed the need to guarantee the autonomy, albeit incipient, of statistical institutes, and stressed the evident need for greater scope in providing statistics in numerous spheres. She thanked ECLAC for giving visibility to statistical work and its value as a tool for continuous learning for institutions and society as a whole.

70. The representatives of the Bahamas and Belize thanked the Executive Secretary for expressing support for the active participation of the Caribbean countries in forums such as the Statistical Conference of the Americas and expressed their willingness to increase their presence in such meetings.

71. In terms of the production and dissemination of data, the representative of Ecuador welcomed the decision by the Executive Secretary to uphold statistical information as a public good. He mentioned however, that it would be necessary to strengthen national planning systems, obtain specific data on given sectors such as small and medium-sized enterprises and achieve coordination in areas that cut across national borders, such as security and trade.

72. The representative of the Dominican Republic maintained that allocations to national statistical institutes were procyclical so that when measurements for policy guidance were at their most crucial, the budgetary allocations were at their lowest, and the very territories with the most serious economic and social problems were those that were the least able to generate statistics. He requested support from ECLAC in making statistical data, disaggregated by territory, more readily available. Again in relation to the availability of resources, the representative of Mexico called for a more systematic and explicit treatment of the administrative records and said that alternatives to surveys and censuses should be sought before budgetary pressure mounted. The representative of Cuba offered to share his country's experience in the use of administrative records of statistics on ageing and as a tool for planning at the national and local levels.

73. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC reiterated that the Commission was willing to continue providing support and assistance to member States with respect to indicators and methodology. She then thanked the participants of the meeting and congratulated the members of the Committee and the secretariat on their work.

Other matters (agenda item 6)

74. The representative of Chile took the floor and formally invited the Executive Committee to hold its next meeting in that country in the second quarter of 2013.

75. The representative of Mexico presented a book on administrative records, which was received with interest by the participants.

76. The Committee then turned its attention to the question of creating a new working group on statistics on public safety and justice. The delegations agreed to form an initiative committee to consider the matter.

77. The representative of Spain proposed that a comprehensive report should be prepared to examine the functioning of the working groups and the proposal for creation of new groups, since the level of

active participation in some of the existing groups was limited and not all groups fulfilled the proposed objectives. He suggested also that termination dates should be set for the groups as appropriate.

78. The participants supported the proposal and requested ECLAC to assist with the follow-up. It was suggested that consideration should be given to the mechanisms used by the working group coordinators to boost participation by the members. Chile recalled that the working groups had been evaluated in 2011 and suggested applying the recommendations presented in the report produced at that time. The representative of Uruguay urged the group to review their objectives so as to avoid duplication of efforts. The representative of Cuba said that the Executive Committee should design a strategy based on the recommendations presented at the tenth meeting of the Executive Committee.

79. The ECLAC representative said that the Chair of the Executive Committee had expressed concern about the issue and that an assessment appeared in the report presented at Havana. Originally, the working groups had a specific mandate, but several had become a general reference for statistical work. The secretariat would undertake to prepare a proposal for evaluating the work of the groups and analysing the modalities with which the Conference could address each issue. The first report could be presented at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

80. The representative of Spain agreed that the earlier report should be the starting point, but said that the evaluation should be detailed and comprehensive. Rather than just preparing a self-assessment, it was advisable to engage an external evaluator. The IDB representative offered to provide guidance for the statistical work of the groups and the statistical offices within the framework of the results-based management and to include in the project with Colombia a training component for the leaders of each working group on that type of management.

Agreements (agenda item 7)

81. At its eleventh meeting, held in Quito from 2 to 4 July 2012, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, in which the Council approved the proposal on the establishment, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind also that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee shall carry out the following functions: draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; 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 decide on the documentation required for its meetings,

Bearing in mind further resolution 7 (VI) of the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Having reviewed the progress reports of the working groups of the Conference and other activities contained in the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, 2012-2013,

Taking into consideration the agreements reached by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-third session,

Taking fully into consideration also the opinions expressed and the contributions put forward by the Governments of the member States of the Conference and by the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations represented at the meeting,

Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012-2013

Institution-building

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the report on strengths, weaknesses and improvement actions found in the self-assessment questionnaire measured against the principles of the regional code of practice in statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean,² which was based on information provided by 14 national statistical offices in the region;

2. *Urges* the States members of the Conference, funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations to support activities that contribute to the achievement of the four objectives of the Working Group on Institution-building to be met by the seventh meeting of the Conference: prepare a self-assessment questionnaire on the regional code of practice in statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean; develop a web application for administering the self-assessment questionnaire; prepare reports containing expert recommendations on the basis of overall assessments of compliance with the regional code of practice in statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean; and propose a bank of good statistical practices;

Promoting the training of competent human resources

3. *Takes note with satisfaction of* the programme activities carried out as part of the Knowledge Transfer Network in order to strengthen and disseminate official statistics by fostering the transfer of the most accurate information possible, help coordinate training programmes in official statistics offered by national and international agencies in the region; and prioritize activities for the transfer of knowledge conducted via online learning platforms;

4. *Requests* the authorities of national statistical offices to endorse the targets of the Knowledge Transfer Network, which functions as a source of information and as a mechanism for cooperation among the countries and distance training;

5. *Reiterates* that the management of the Knowledge Transfer Network should be based on collaboration among all the national statistical offices, each of which should contribute resources, whether human, material or financial, in support of the Network;

6. *Requests* the secretariat of the Knowledge Transfer Network to prepare, with the support of the countries, a diagnostic review to determine the needs of the national statistical offices and the reasons for their limited participation and a proposal to strengthen the role of the Network within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, which contemplates the design and execution of a plan for promoting the services that the Network provides to countries;

² Document DDR/2.

7. *Requests* the World Bank to continue providing support to the Knowledge Transfer Network in order to help finance its activities and services and thanks it for its assistance to date;

Technical capacity-building

Millennium Development Goals

8. *Welcomes* the report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, containing a description of the activities conducted and the results achieved in relation to the reduction in statistical discrepancies between the data provided by countries and those used by international bodies in monitoring progress towards the Goals, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6, the improvement in the quality of statistical data on the Goals in the countries and the promotion of inter-agency coordination both within countries and between countries and international agencies;

9. *Thanks* the technical secretariat of the Conference for its support and collaboration in building national statistical capacities for the production of indicators of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, statistical reconciliation and analytical studies to facilitate the design of regional cooperation activities; and expresses the need for continued financial support to carry out the activities planned for the current biennium. This collaboration has benefited from the implementation of the Development Account project “Strengthening statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing”;

10. *Reiterates* the need for national statistical offices to participate in the production of national and subnational reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in order to ensure that the correct statistical information is used for monitoring advances; and urges countries to redouble their efforts to produce the information needed to generate indicators for the Millennium Development Goals using international standards and regional and national points of reference; and to participate more intensively in discussion forums and in preparing the work agenda and defining the monitoring framework for the new development goals to be pursued post-2015;

Gender statistics

11. *Urges* the member countries of the Working Group on National Accounts and the Working Group on Gender Statistics to work together, with technical support from ECLAC, in order to establish a standardized methodology for calculating the satellite account on households’ unpaid work for the countries of the region;

12. *Proposes* that a seminar be held, jointly with the Working Group on National Accounts, on concepts and methodologies relating to satellite accounts for households’ unpaid work with a view to incorporating information relating to the countries that have such accounts into the databases of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean;

13. *Expresses* the need to pursue and intensify work on the production of statistics on issues relating to violence against women and discrimination against groups with diverse gender identities; insists also on the need to mainstream the gender perspective and the work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics into the activities of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics, with special attention to statistics that reflect the status of rural women;

14. *Urges* the countries that have not yet completed the Questionnaire on the Global Review on Gender Statistics circulated by ECLAC to do so and return it as soon as possible so as to enable the region to meet the global deadline for gathering the information;

Harmonization of statistics on income poverty and public transfers

15. *Welcomes* the report of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers detailing the issues discussed at the workshop on the harmonization of poverty statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Montevideo from 22 to 24 May 2012 under the auspices of the National Institute of Statistics of Uruguay and the Centre for Distributive, Labour and Social Studies (CEDLAS) of Argentina, with support from the World Bank and ECLAC;

16. *Values* especially the efforts made to ensure that the above-mentioned workshop was attended by participants from a broad range of countries in the region, including those of the English-speaking Caribbean and requests the Working Group to promote support activities especially for the latter geared to capacity-building in the area of income poverty measurement;

17. *Urges* the participating countries to move gradually towards greater regional harmonization in defining and processing income data taken from household surveys and used to measure poverty and inequality, as well as to generate inputs that allow for more complete systematization of comparable household survey metadata, and reaffirms the need for the proposal of complementary measures based on a multidimensional approach to poverty measurement;

18. *Requests* the Working Group on Harmonization of statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers, in conjunction with the Working Group on Household Surveys, to seek cooperation modalities and synergies in order to optimize the use of resources and achieve common goals;

Censuses

19. *Commends* the 27 countries and territories that have conducted their population and housing census for the decade commencing in 2010 and encourages them to facilitate access to their census data and promote their use, analysis and dissemination as is fitting;

20. *Reiterates* that it is important for countries that have not yet conducted their census to consult and, to the extent possible, incorporate into their upcoming census exercise the recommendations emerging from the discussion process and the consensus reached in the framework of the activities of the Conference;

21. *Urges* the countries to begin, as early as possible, with support from international funds, programmes and agencies, to evaluate, and draw lessons from, the census exercise of the 2010 round and to undertake the methodological tasks in preparation for the next round of censuses;

22. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the workshops held on issues relating to population assessments and estimates on the basis of census information and the analysis of data on internal and international migration and welcomes the organization of the second regional meeting on the capabilities and applications of census data, as well as the workshop on evaluation of the technologies used in recent censuses in the region;

23. *Commends* the United Nations Population Fund and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC on their initiative in holding an intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications, and calls on them to arrange for other similar courses, subject to availability of resources;

24. *Expresses its appreciation to* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC for assisting countries that are engaged in evaluating their respective population censuses of the 2010 round and requests the Division to continue providing support for the preparation of population projections, and technical assistance in the dissemination and use of new census data;

National accounts

25. *Welcomes* the report of the Working Group on National Accounts and the plan of action submitted for consideration by the Executive Committee;

26. *Reiterates* the need for the Working Group on National Accounts to focus its future activities on designing a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008) and strengthening the production of basic economic statistics for purposes of compilation;

27. *Urges* those countries where the central bank is the entity that compiles the national accounts to ensure that the latter participates directly in the activities of the Working Group on National Accounts and requests the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to undertake, at its next annual seminar, an analysis and possible redefinition of the specific objectives and activities of the Working Group in conjunction with all the national agencies responsible for national accounts and for the production of basic economic statistics;

International classifications

28. *Commends* the members of the Working Group on International Classifications, expresses appreciation for their efforts to implement their programme of work and reiterates its support for a technical meeting on international classifications to be organized by ECLAC and the United Nations Statistics Division in September 2012, on which occasion the Working Group will also meet;

Statistics on information and communications technologies

29. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the programme of work of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and the outputs it intends to present at the seventh meeting of the Conference, and urges the members of the Conference to support actively the application of the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on information and communications technologies in national statistical offices;

30. *Urges* the Government institutions in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean that participate in the activities of Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) to assist in amending the questionnaire of the survey mentioned in paragraph 29 above so that it may be applied to these agencies, in coordination with the secretariat of the Plan of Action (eLAC15);

31. *Urges* national statistical offices to promote the review of the compendium of practices on measuring the use of information and communications technologies in household and business surveys and the preparation of a module on access to, and use of, these technologies in the health sector;

32. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Working Group's efforts to prepare the indicators of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) and the need for the countries' support in order to bring this activity to a successful conclusion in 2012;

33. *Reiterates* the need to ensure continuity in this successful experience, the fruit of a joint effort within the framework of the collaboration agreement between the national statistical offices and the Government entities responsible for the digital agenda in their respective countries through the Working Group on Information and Communications Methodologies and the eLAC secretariat of the Commission;

Environmental statistics

34. *Notes with satisfaction* the initial activities of the regional project "Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean", financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, and invites all institutions involved to participate actively in the project;

35. *Reminds* national statistical institutes and Government entities responsible for the environment of the importance of allocating the necessary funding in order to dispose of the specialized professionals required to carry out environmental statistics programmes, and to establish or strengthen inter-agency agreements and mechanisms for coordination within the national statistical system;

Agricultural statistics

36. *Welcomes* the launch of the activities of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics and urges the States members of the Conference, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to support their activities, to be carried out within the framework of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and for which the working group will act as the regional steering committee for Latin America and the Caribbean. Those activities are aimed at drafting a regional plan of action for the Global Strategy, preparing an overview of the situation in relation to national agricultural statistics and disseminating the Global Strategy in the region;

Labour-market indicators

37. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the launch of activities by the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators and urges the States members of the Conference, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other international organizations to support activities to help realize the objectives of the Working Group for the period 2012-2013; prepare an overview of the countries in the region on the measurement of employment, unemployment, underemployment and decent work (inventory of best practices); draft a technical, regional consensus document on the definitions of employment, unemployment and underemployment which are currently under discussion; propose new labour-market indicators (underemployment, indicators of underutilization of labour, decent work and informality), and participate in regional workshops or seminars relating to labour-market statistics in order to share experiences and progress in the field (discussions, consensuses and proposals);

38. *Recommends* that the Working Group on Labour-market Indicators coordinate with the Working Group on Household Surveys to identify synergies and areas of cooperation;

Household surveys

39. *Welcomes* the launch of activities by the Working Group on Household Surveys and takes note of the Working Group's report on the progress made in relation to integrated household survey systems, which details the steps taken to compile documentation produced by the participating countries on integrated household survey systems, the initial activities carried out to organize a regional workshop on building frameworks and master samples and other aspects of sample design as well as conceptual aspects of integrated household survey systems;

40. *Reaffirms* the importance of studying the extent to which household surveys produced by the countries in the region are integrated and moving towards the establishment of a regional strategy for the implementation of an integrated system of household surveys in the countries of the region; values, moreover, the efforts of the working group to gather information on practices relating to the statistical design of surveys in the region and generate inputs to make better use of the surveys;

Statistics on childhood and adolescence

41. *Welcomes* the launch of activities by the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence and urges the States members of the Conference, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to support activities to help realize the objectives of the working group for the period 2012-2013; to conduct an evaluation of the indicators on childhood and adolescence produced by the various participating countries; to evaluate and agree on a minimum set of priority indicators needed to monitor the achievement of the commitments made by countries on the rights of the child; to create an online platform on DevInfo for storing, analysing and publishing information, by country, on the agreed indicators, and analyse, for each country, the indicators contemplated for the future in order to monitor in a comprehensive manner progress in fulfilling commitments relating to the rights of the child;

Statistics on public security and justice

42. *Approves* the creation of an initiative committee, composed of Mexico, the Chair of the Executive Committee and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to set up a working group on public security and justice statistics with a view to coordinating efforts to generate and develop statistical information on public security and justice in the countries of the region, and endorse and carry out the international projects and mandates that have recently arisen in this connection;

43. *Urges* the initiative committee to prepare a programme of work, identifying possible sources of funding for its planned activities, to be submitted for the Executive Committee's approval at its next meeting;

Functioning of the working groups

44. *Agrees* to request the secretariat of the Conference to prepare a detailed report evaluating the performance of each working group and identifying in each case the relevant strengths and weaknesses. This report, which will be submitted at the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee, will take into account the Report on the review of the operating modalities of the working groups of the Statistical

Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was presented at the tenth meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Havana from 6 to 8 April 2011; the document will contain detailed information in particular on the work carried out by the coordinating country and members of each group, the objectives attained, possible synergies or duplications with respect to other groups, the outputs delivered, the timeframe and the work still pending as set forth in the programme of activities of the respective groups; the report should also contain the necessary recommendations for improving the functioning of the working groups;

Promotion of coordination and cooperation between States members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and international agencies

International Comparison Programme

45. *Takes note* of the progress of the International Comparison Programme with regard to surveying, validating and comparing prices of products from the regional list of goods and services for household final consumption, as well as compiling the prices of other components of GDP;

46. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the broad coverage of countries in Central America and the Caribbean, subregions that had not participated in the 2005 round;

47. *Reiterates* the need for national statistical offices and central banks in the region to continue supporting the activities under the Programme, particularly with regard to the weightings derived from national accounts, as well as the surveying of prices of some components of GDP by type of expenditure (for example, machinery and equipment, construction and rent);

48. *Expresses its thanks* to the World Bank and other international and regional organizations, whose financial support was essential to the viability of this important global project, in which 170 countries participated, with ECLAC, supported by the Caribbean Community, acting as regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean;

49. *Emphasizes* the need for ECLAC, together with other international and regional organizations to continue making efforts to obtain the funds needed to bring to fruition the planned activities associated with the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme;

Regional statistical framework for directories of businesses and establishments

50. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the implementation of the first two components of the project on the regional statistical framework for directories of businesses and establishments and thanks the Commission for the technical support extended to the project and the Inter-American Development Bank for its financial support;

Subregional coordination

51. *Expresses its thanks* to the subregional agencies, the Caribbean Community, the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System (, the Andean Community and the Southern Common Market's Specialized Meeting on Statistics for the informative and interesting presentations made on their objectives and activities;

Host country of the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas

52. *Welcomes* the offer by Chile to host the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2013;

53. *Thanks* the Government of Ecuador and to the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses for the excellent organization of the meeting and for the cordial and generous hospitality extended to the participants.

Report of the Rapporteur and closure of the session (agenda item 8)

82. The representative of the Dominican Republic, who acted as Rapporteur, reviewed briefly the main points discussed at the meeting.

83. The Chair of the Executive Committee then thanked participants and declared closed the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee.

Anexo

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
Member States of the Commission**

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BELICE/BELIZE

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**B. Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations Secretariat**

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Géneros y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

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**C. Organismos especializados
Specialized agencies**

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

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Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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Comunidad Andina (CAN)/Andean Community

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Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM)/Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

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