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

Pucón, Chile, 24-26 April 2013

## **REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUPS**

This document is a compilation of information on working-group activities provided by the respective coordinating countries, together with recommendations for improving their functioning, based on a questionnaire prepared by the Secretariat.

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1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on Institution-building**

2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Suriname.

3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

ECLAC and EUROSTAT.

4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

2011-2013

Disseminate and implement the Regional Code of Good Practices in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2013:

2009-2011

- Proposal of a Regional Code of Good Practices in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Strategic plan for implementing the Regional Code in the region.
- Report on the results of the self-assessment performed in relation to the proposed Code.

2011-2013

- Design and prepare tools for disseminating and implementing the Regional Code of Good Practices in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Design of the proposal for a bank of good practices for regional statistical activity.

6. WHICH OF THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT?

2009-2011

The following were achieved:

- (a) Regional Code of Good Practices in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean approved at the Sixth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA).
- (b) Strategic plan for implementing the Regional Code of Good Practices in the region.
- (c) Report on the results of the self-assessment performed in relation to the proposed Code.

2011-2013

The following was achieved in terms of activities to disseminate and implement the Regional Code of Good Practices:

- (d) Prioritization of the region's needs based on the weaknesses encountered in the 2011 form.
- (e) Consolidation and updating of the Regional Code self-assessment questionnaire.
- (f) Development of the web application for the Regional Code questionnaire.
- (g) Preparatory activities for the dissemination workshop:
  - List of activities to be undertaken by the Working Group on Institution-building.
  - Plan for dissemination of the Regional Code of Good Practices.
  - Programme of the Regional Code of Good Practices dissemination workshop.
  - Requests for funding from different organizations.
  - Obtaining of resources to hold the dissemination event and perform at least one pilot evaluation test.

To be achieved in 2013:

- (h) Hold the face-to-face workshop to disseminate the Regional Code of Good Practices.
- (i) Design the methodology for the global evaluations with support from EUROSTAT.
- (j) Perform global assessments of the fulfilment of the Code in a number of countries of the region.

The following was achieved in relation to the proposal for a Regional Bank of Good Practices:

- (k) Development of the methodological design of the Regional Bank of Good Practices.
- (l) Design of the consultation system for the Bank of Regional Good Practices for dissemination among the countries of the working group.

To be achieved in 2013:

- (m) Hold the virtual workshop to disseminate the consultation system of the Regional Bank of Good Practices among countries of the region.

#### 7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:

- Dissemination workshops and implementation of the Regional Code of Good Practices.
- Global evaluations of the implementation of the Regional Code of Good Practices.

Funding has also been sought for dissemination workshops and global evaluations from the following organizations:

- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- World Bank
- Colombian Presidential Agency for International Cooperation

And a positive reply has been received from the Agency for International Cooperation to finance various aspects of the workshops and global assessments of the Code.

8. WHAT FINANCING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR THE WORKING GROUP'S ACTIVITIES:

The activities have been financed using the internal resources of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), in its capacity as group coordinator.

9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEOCALL OR SIMILAR MEDIA DURING THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- Videoconference with the working group in May 2012.
- Videoconference with the working group in October 2012.
- Videoconference with the SCA-ECLAC Technical Secretariat in November 2012.
- Videoconference with the SCA-ECLAC Technical Secretariat in February 2013.

10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:

- None.

11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:

- Virtual workshop to discuss Regional Code proposal, August 2010.

12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- The group coordinator has arranged financing for the dissemination activities and global assessments of the Regional Code of Good Practices, with a view to fulfilling the goals and commitments within the established timeframes.
- The Technical Secretariat has been active in issuing general guidelines for carrying out the group's activities.

13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- There has been little or no participation from the new members of the group that joined for the period 2011-2013, in terms of reviewing and contributing documents and disseminating progress in video conferences. This has imposed a burden on the coordinator in fulfilling the goals.
- The group has also found it difficult to obtain technical and financial support from international organizations to undertake the proposed activities.

14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF ECLAC (NOVEMBER 2013):

- Regional Code self-assessment questionnaire updated with questions on the principles of the institutional environment component.
- Web application for handling the self-assessment questionnaire of the Regional Code of Good Practices.

- Reports with expert recommendations based on the global assessments of fulfilment of the Regional Code Of Good Practices (awaiting financing).
  - Application of the consultation system of the Regional Bank of Good Statistical Practices for Latin America and the Caribbean.
15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK THE WORKING GROUP'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:
- The objectives set for the group are in line with the region's needs. Nonetheless, achieving the objectives defined for the period depends on financing and continuous support.
16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING THE WORKING GROUP'S GOALS:
- If funding is obtained for the dissemination workshops and global evaluations, the goals can be met and the corresponding results presented at the Seventh Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, scheduled for November 2013.
17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP IN TERMS OF THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS:
- With a view to setting up work teams and preventing activities from becoming concentrated on the coordinator, mechanisms should be created to obtain commitments from the countries when they join the working groups, by assigning them roles and functions to be fulfilled during the period. This will allow more active participation by member countries in terms of making comments and suggestions to enrich discussions on the group's goals.
  - Active involvement is also needed from international organizations to support the groups' activities, both technically and financially.
  - Lastly, from the outset the groups need to have the objective of generating specific products that can be measured through mid-term and final evaluations.
18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE WORKING GROUPS' FUNCTIONING:
- When the working groups are created, the Executive Committee should make sure they have programmes that include specific measurable products.
  - Where possible, the Executive Committee should also support the working groups' efforts to obtain funding for the proposed activities.
  - In addition, at its meetings the Executive Committee should make mid-term assessments of the status of the group's activities, specifically in terms of the fulfilment of goals and generation of products; and it should issue recommendations and guidelines when implementation problems are detected.
  - Lastly, the Executive Committee needs to make an in-depth review of all working groups, to select a small number of groups according to the region's needs, on which the countries can focus their participation and efforts to maximize their impact.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUPS' TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- The international organizations that finance the working groups' projects should consider the time frames defined for the projects and provide a rapid and precise response to funding requests, with a view to executing the activities in the agreed- upon periods.
- The Technical Secretariats should also play a more active role in obtaining funding for the activities and in evaluating and promoting participation by all group members.

20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Before applying to join a working group, all countries should review their domestic and external commitments and the implications of being a member of a group, to guarantee active participation by all group members.
- At its next meeting, the Statistical Commission of the Americas should make an exhaustive review of the functioning of the working groups, and identify those that have already fulfilled their brief, or those that have failed to carry out any activity, and disband them.
- SCA–ECLAC should review the working model of the other regional and subregional commissions and propose different groups (“friends of the chair” groups, expert groups, task forces), depending on objectives, deadlines and financing.

## 1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies**

## 2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic (coordinating country), Mexico, Panama and Suriname.

## 3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), through the eLAC project with funds from the European Commission's @LIS programme. ECLAC does not have a permanent unit or division specialized in information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the information and knowledge society, or one in which these are viewed as crosscutting.

## 4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

## General objective:

- To contribute to, and support the development of statistical methodology capabilities to obtain timely information on the measurement of ICTs.

## Specific objectives:

- Ensure that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, irrespective of their condition, have relevant statistics on the use and availability of ICTs in the economy and in society at large, as well as a baseline for indicators that are common to the region.
- Help define quantifiable goals and indicators for the Plan of Action on the Information Society for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015).
- Foster discussion and the dissemination of indicators —proposed by the Association for the Measurement of ICTs for Development— on access to and use of ICTs by individuals, households, firms and governments, in key sectors such as education and health.
- Update and improve the compendium of practices for including questions on ICT statistics in household surveys, and arrange for similar practical compendiums to be prepared for ICT surveys of firms and governments, and in the education and health sectors.
- Take steps to strengthen the regional database of the website of the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC), and encourage countries to submit the results of the corresponding measurements.

## The group also proposes:

- To substantially increase the number of Latin American and Caribbean countries that include ICT measurements in their household and enterprise surveys.
- To maintain the commitment to systemize and disseminate statistics and indicators with a gender perspective.



- To particularly encourage the non-Spanish speaking countries of the Caribbean to become more involved in the group's activities, and thus promote their integration.

5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2012-2013:

2012:

- Completion of the work of preparing the eLAC2015 indicators that began in 2011.
- Holding of a training workshop with an updated ICT module on enterprise surveys, to benefit countries that have not made measurements in this sector. For that purpose, financial support will be requested from multilateral institutions, along with technical support from UNCTAD and ECLAC.
- Implementation of a survey to characterize the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs in national statistics institutes (INEs), 2012.
- Review of the compendium of practices to produce the 2012 updated version on the inclusion of ICT questions in household and enterprise services, with assistance from a specialist provided by ECLAC. Without the technical support of this expert, it will be impossible to fulfil this task.
- Preparation of a module on ICT access and use in the health sector. To implement this proposal, technical support will be requested from the World Health Organization (WHO) and a country in the region in which the workshop can be held; in addition to economic assistance from international cooperation and financing agencies, with support from ECLAC.

2013:

- Implementation of a survey to characterize the process of creating harmonized ICT statistics in the INEs, 2013.
- Proposal made to government institutions in Latin American and Caribbean countries involved in eLAC, to apply the survey to characterize the process of creating harmonized ICT statistics 2012, in coordination with its Secretariat, having previously reformulated the survey.

6. WHICH OF THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT:

2012:

The following was achieved in relation to work on the eLAC2015 indicators with the Indicators Commission:

- (a) Meeting to revise the ICT module for firms with the information technology working group (GT-TIC), UNCTAD and ECLAC.
- (b) A survey to characterize the process of creating harmonized ICT statistics on in the INEs, 2012.

2013:

- (c) Workshop on the ICT module for firms revised for all Latin American countries.
- (d) Revision of the compendium of practices with support from ECLAC.

Ongoing:

(e) Workshop to start preparation of the ICT module for the health sector.

To be done in 2013:

(f) Application of the survey to statistics organizations, 2013 version.

(g) Adaptation and application of the same survey to eLAC ministries and institutions.

7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:

- Meeting and workshop on the ICT module for firms.
- Workshop to prepare the ICT module for the health sector.

8. WHAT FUNDING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES:

- UNCTAD and ECLAC, through the eLAC project, supported by work contributions from the member countries, and the coordinating country.

9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEO CALLS, OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2012-2013:

- Two.

10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:

- None.

11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:

- None.

12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Persistence, coordination of the team; support from member countries, international cooperation and financing agencies.

13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Problems of coordination and lack of response from member countries at certain times.

14. WORKING GROUP PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SCA (NOVEMBER 2013):

- eLAC2015 indicators arising from the work of the Indicators Commission.
- Report on the survey of statistics agencies, 2012 version.

- ICT module for firms revised and delivered to all Latin American countries.
  - Manual of the compendium of practices updated to 2013.
  - Preliminary document of the ICT module for the health sector.
  - Final document of the survey adapted to eLAC institutions, and if possible, applied for 2013.
15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK WORKING GROUP'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:
- No. It was reviewed last year.
16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING THE WORKING GROUP'S GOALS:
- The objectives are permanent, the 2012-2013 programme of activities did not include all of the activities that had been considered in the previous year, to make planning as realistic as possible. The measurement of ICT use in the government sector remains pending, among other things, as well as support for English-speaking Caribbean countries and Haiti.
17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE WORKING GROUP'S FUNCTIONING, IN RELATION TO THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS:
- The coordinating countries should play their leadership role, stimulating team members and constantly monitoring the tasks and activities. This requires vision, constancy and persistence in execution.
  - Valuable time also needs to be spent on obtaining support from international organizations. On this point, the effective and continuous support provided by ECLAC is much needed and appreciated.
  - In the case of our group, we reiterate the need for a permanent ECLAC unit or division specialized in ICTs and the information and knowledge society, not tied to a project with an external budget.
  - The working groups should not forget that effort is needed to enable English-speaking Caribbean countries and Haiti to benefit from their work, either by organizing special activities for them that take account of the language barrier, or else translating the documents that are produced into English, to enable them to use them and thus facilitate Caribbean integration.
18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE WORKING GROUP'S FUNCTIONING:
- More closely monitor the activities of the working-group coordinators, to support them in their financial and technical needs, as well as in preparing their programmes of activities for different periods.
  - Promote interaction between the working-group coordinators, for the purpose of exchanging experiences and information on ongoing activities, which would also help avoid duplication of effort; this approach was programmed for this period by the Chair of the Executive Committee of the SCA, but unfortunately it could not be put in to practice for reasons that are well-known.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Although synergy between the groups and the international agencies has been increasing as a result of years of working together, there have been fluctuations. It would be useful if, in conjunction with ECLAC, the SCA Executive Committee could promote meetings between these participants, taking advantage of the conference, to obtain support for working groups that would make it easier to obtain the products proposed in their respective biennial programmes.

20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The working groups have succeeded in promoting many tasks which otherwise would have been extremely complicated and slow. They have also helped to strengthen ties between the ECLAC Member States and between the subregions, in addition to South-South and North-South collaborations; and they have generated multiple synergies benefiting the SCA as a whole. When there is a turnover in the coordinating countries or in group members, the SCA should provide special support to facilitate the handover and integration.
- When a working group considers its mission to have been completed, it should acknowledge this and notify the SCA. Nonetheless, we consider that a working group that still has tasks to complete should not be disbanded because of problems of coordination or support from third-parties, whether team members, the technical secretariat or international agencies.

## 1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on Gender Statistics**

## 2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Bahamas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, (), Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Plurinational State of Bolivia .

## 3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) of Mexico and the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs (DGA).

## 4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

General objective:

- The aim of the Working Group on Gender Statistics is to promote the production, development, systemization and consolidation of the generation of gender statistics and indicators for the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies.

Specific objectives:

- Train national statistics offices to develop technical, methodological and analytical capacities in gender statistics.
- Strengthen partnerships between national statistics institutes (INEs) and mechanisms for the advancement of women.
- Promote cooperation, international technical assistance and regional collaboration to develop and disseminate gender statistics.

## 5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

1. Provide technical assistance on gender statistics to member countries.
2. Provide technical assistance to member countries on time use and unpaid work.
3. Organize the International Meeting on Gender Statistics.
4. Organize International Meeting of Experts on Surveys on Time Use.
5. Provide training for officials from countries that are members of the working group.

## 6. WHICH OF THE GOALS LISTED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT:

The following was achieved in relation to technical assistance:

- (a) In the period 2009-2012, technical assistance was provided to the group's member countries, either through the United Nations Entity for Gender Inequality and the Empowerment of

Women (UN-Women), or the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the National Institute of Geography and Statistics (INEGI) of Mexico, and the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs.

In terms of training:

- (b) Training courses have been given to officials from the statistics offices of the group's member countries.

In terms of international meetings:

- (c) International Meeting on Gender Statistics: the 10th International Meeting on Gender Statistics: Progress and Challenges, was held in October 2009. In 2010, UNIFEM (part of UN-Women), the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) of Mexico, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), also of Mexico, and the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs, jointly organized the 11th International Meeting on Gender Statistics and Public Policies Based on Empirical Evidence, which was held at INEGI headquarters in Aguascalientes (Mexico), in September. In 2011 the 12th meeting was held, focusing on empowerment, economic autonomy and public policies. This was also organized jointly by INEGI, INMUJERES, the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs and UN-Women, with support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The 13th International Meeting on Gender Statistics: Empirical Foundations for Public Policies Aimed at Women's Economic Empowerment was organized by the same agencies and held in the city of Aguascalientes (Mexico), as in the previous versions, on 8, 9 and 10 October 2012.
- (d) International Meeting of Experts on Time Use Surveys: in August 2009 and July 2010, the Seventh and Eighth Meetings of Experts on Time Use Surveys were held, organized by UNIFEM in conjunction with the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs, INMUJERES of Mexico and INEGI, also of Mexico. The Ninth International Meeting "Public Policies, Time Use and the Care Economy: the Importance of National Statistics" was held in 2011; and the 10th International Meeting of Experts on Time Use and Unpaid Work Surveys was held in October 2012.

The programmed goals have thus been fulfilled.

7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:

- The group has not prepared projects for international financing.

8. WHAT FUNDING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES:

- Implementation of the programmed activities has received financial support from UN-Women, the National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) of Mexico, ECLAC and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico. Additional funding has been received from the statistics offices of the countries that have undertaken specific activities involving resources.

9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEOCALL OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012:
  - No such meetings have been held.
10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:
  - Information on the international meetings held by the group.
  - Dissemination of the virtual courses being offered.
  - Information on the working group in ftp.
11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:
  - Training courses.
12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:
  - The group's main strength is its capacity to provide technical assistance to the region's countries to strengthen the production, analysis and use of gender statistics.
  - There is division of tasks in the coordinating group, which has enabled countries with backlogs in terms of generating data to implement time use surveys and create the unpaid-work satellite account, which has made it possible to raise the profile of women's participation in this area.
  - The working group holds two major meetings each year, in which all member countries participate. The objective of the International Meeting on Gender Statistics is to provide for an exchange of experience between countries and to discuss conceptual and methodological progress, and analyse the use of gender statistics in public policies. The International Meeting of Experts on Time Use and Unpaid Work Surveys aim to contribute to the exchange, reflection, and dissemination of public-policy experiences, and their link to time use and unpaid care work that most women undertake.
  - The fact that Mexico, as group coordinating country, leads the United Nations Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and has guest status at the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and with international agencies whose priorities include gender statistics is advantageous in terms of opening doors to the region on this subject.
13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:
  - Member countries need to participate more actively.
  - Greater training needs to be provided to countries with a backlog, and this can be done by generating mechanisms for making better use of the region's experts.
  - Interaction between women's mechanisms and statistics offices needs to be further encouraged. The Mexican experience has shown that if this is provided, greater improvements in the status women can be obtained.

14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS (NOVEMBER 2013):

The following activities are expected for 2013:

1. Eleventh International Meeting on Time Use, scheduled for Mexico City on 17 and 18 June 2013.
2. Fourteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics, on 4, 5 and 6 September 2013 in the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico.
3. Production of a knowledge-management document on basic indicators of violence against women, considering:
  - (a) The international framework (Friends of the Chair Group, United Nations Statistical Commission and the ECLAC Equality Observatory).
  - (b) Production of national statistics from administrative records of homicide, femicide, suicide, rape and other crimes committed against women recorded by the prosecution and justice provision systems.
4. Technical assistance and horizontal cooperation to Latin American countries. Technical assistance will continue to be provided throughout the year, basically through the virtual course given by ILPES and the Division for Gender Affairs-ECLAC, supported by UN-Women.
5. Work with the national statistics offices (NSOs) forming part of the Working Group on Gender Statistics. Virtual meetings of the Working Group on Gender Statistics will be held periodically to monitor progress in the 2013 work programme. Virtual information and feedback sessions will be held with the national statistics offices that form part of the Working Group on Gender Statistics in April, August and December.

15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK CURRENT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:

While the objectives remain current, they possibly need expanding to encompass other domains. The following goals and monitoring indicators are proposed for the activities in the period 2013-2015.

1. Put methodological tools in place for the economic valuation of unpaid work and calculation of the corresponding satellite account; and share those tools in specialized forums.

Monitoring indicators:

- 1.(a) Methodological guide prepared on the valuation of unpaid work.
- 1.(b) At least one reflection and discussion meeting held to present the methodological guide.
2. Dissemination of guidelines for the production of statistics on violence against women prepared by the Friends of the Chair Group and the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Monitoring indicator:

- 2.(a) Meeting held to disseminate the guidelines, in particular seeking participation by countries that are currently undertaking surveys of violence.



3. Technical-methodological discussion of a set of indicators with a gender perspective that form part of the process of discussing the sustainable development goals to be prepared in the United Nations framework.

Monitoring indicator:

- 3.(a) By 2015 a minimum proposal of indicators for the discussion of sustainable development from a gender perspective.

16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING WORKING GROUP GOALS:

- It is hoped that in five years technical assistance will have been given to all countries of the region, both in terms of gender statistics and on time use and unpaid work.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING WORKING GROUP FUNCTIONING, IN RELATION TO THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- The existence of the groups should be publicized more intensively among the boards of directors of the region's statistics offices.
- The coordinating country asks to be kept informed of changes in the focal points in each country's statistics offices.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- The technical secretariats of this group have worked in close coordination with other international organizations such as the World Bank, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and should continue to do so in the future.

20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Member countries need to participate actively, and "working subgroups", led by member countries, should therefore be set up within the group to publicize the progress made in each country.

1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on Household Surveys**

2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

ECLAC.

4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- To support the design of integrated household survey systems as a framework for implementing household surveys with a standardized structure.
- To document and exchange experiences and good practices in the statistical design of household surveys.
- To strengthen the use of methodologies to generate cross-section and longitudinal estimators from continuous surveys.
- To identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities to strengthen the capacities of member countries to implement quality household surveys.

5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

The working group was set up in 2011 and prepared a work plan for 2012-2013.

The initial goals included the following:

- Perform an initial diagnostic assessment of the degree of integration between household surveys produced by the countries and the criteria for constructing and using the sampling master frameworks.
- Draw up a regional strategy for developing an integrated household survey system.
- Compendium of standards and best practices produced in relation to the survey system.
- Creation of a virtual forum to exploit methodologies and other knowledge on the survey system.

6. WHICH OF THE GOALS LISTED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT:

Achieved:

- Creation of a virtual forum to exploit methodologies and other knowledge on the integrated household survey system.

Ongoing:

- Preparation of the form for the initial diagnostic study on the degree of integration between household surveys produced by the countries and criteria for constructing and using sampling master frameworks.

Not achieved:

- Compendium of standards and best practices produced in relation to the survey system.
- Draw up a regional strategy for developing an integrated household survey system.

7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:

- No projects have been planned in the Group.

8. WHAT FUNDING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES:

- National Institute of Statistics.

9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEO CALLS, OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

There have been no meetings of this kind but two face-to-face meetings were held:

- A face-to-face meeting held in Quito, taking advantage of the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC in July 2012.
- A face-to-face meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina by the Working Group on Household Surveys, Ecuador, October 2012.

10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:

- None.

11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED AND/OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:

- None.

12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Online forum allowing member countries to exchange documents and methodologies used.
- Direct relation with members of the working group.

13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Participation by members of the working group is conditioned by the time they spend on the tasks of the organization which they belong.

- Not all statistics offices have a conceptual or methodological framework for the integrated household survey system.
- Discontinuous progress of the activities defined.

14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS (NOVEMBER 2013):

- Present the result of the diagnostic assessment to be made on the status of the integrated household survey system across the region.
- Plan of action to start development of the integrated household survey system strategy.
- Define activities to be undertaken in 2014.

15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK THE WORKING GROUP'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:

- After the first formal meeting of the working group (October 2012) it was recommended that the objectives defined when the group was created should be considered long-term objectives; so specific objectives need to be defined in respect of the general activities to be undertaken based on the diagnostic study.

16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING WORKING GROUP GOALS:

2013-2014.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE WORKING GROUP'S FUNCTIONING, IN RELATION TO THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS:

On the role of the coordinating country:

- To project the working group's activities as part of the aim of the statistics office to set up a domestic timetable with fixed dates, thereby making it possible to move forward efficiently in fulfilling objectives.

On the member countries:

- In addition to spending time on improving the coordination of activities, the level of commitment also needs to be higher among each of the countries.

On the work programme:

- The work programme should be evaluated semiannually or annually, to identify bottlenecks and propose achievable and measurable objectives.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP :
  - Monitoring continuously the working groups and the activities undertaken by each one on a quarterly or semi-annual basis, in face-to-face meetings or video conferences, to give continuity to the planned activities.
  - Define priority work areas and specific criteria for creating a working group.
19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP'S TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:
  - Continuous monitoring of the working group's planned activities.
  - The Technical Secretariat should lead the planned activities in conjunction with the coordinating country of each working group.
  - The Technical Secretariat should update the activities of the working group periodically on the ECLAC website, and disseminate to the focal points of the other working groups.
  - Using inputs from each coordinating country, the technical secretariat should prepare a report on working-group activities, identifying activities that coincide or common themes that could be coordinated between working groups.
20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

## 1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on International Classifications**

## 2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.

## 3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

ECLAC Statistics Division, Technical Secretariat, United Nations Statistical Division, Andean Community (CAN).

## 4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

The general objective of the Working Group on International Classifications is to support the countries of the region in adopting or adapting the new versions of international classifiers, to contribute to the development of official statistics in the different statistical programmes.

## 5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

No goals were established as such; but specific objectives were defined, and activities to achieve those objectives were programmed and included in the 2012-2013 work schedule.

## Specific objectives

1. Identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities to strengthen the capacities of member countries in the process of adopting international classifiers.
2. Exchange and document experiences, knowledge and good practices in relation to implementing international classifications.
3. Permanently report developments in terms of new revisions of international classifiers, basically relating to the holding of economic and population censuses and operations to change the national accounts base year, which are implemented in the countries; and ensure adequate management of the directories of enterprises and establishments.
4. Promote the creation of interagency platforms for collaboration, coordination and integration of regional initiatives on international classifications at the country-bloc level.
5. Prioritize translation into Spanish of the texts of international classifications, to allow for their early adoption in the region's countries.
6. Provide the resources needed for meetings of this working group, to promote the use and dissemination of economic and social classifiers.
7. Promote the formation of a network of experts in international classifications, to provide the countries with communication and updating tools in relation to classifications and nomenclatures.

6. WHICH OF THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT:

The following activities took place:

- (a) Preparation of a diagnostic questionnaire on the adoption or adaptation of international classifications in the countries of the region and a summary and analysis of the conclusions drawn from the results of the questionnaire.
- (b) Identification of the statistical offices of each country in the region and of other organizations that are responsible for developing, maintaining, adopting or adapting the different classifications and for determining the opportunities for horizontal cooperation.
- (c) Identification of and consultation with international organizations that would be able to provide technical cooperation.
- (d) Determination of an order of priorities among the countries that require assistance for the adoption or adaptation of classifications.
- (e) Organization of an electronic forum with the assistance of ECLAC to facilitate communication between the members of the Working Group on International Classifications in order to share experiences in the area of classifications, promote their use and provide training in the use of the electronic forum.
- (f) Organization of the first face-to-face meeting of the Working Group on International Classifications from 13 to 14 September 2012.

7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:

Profile of a Project on Socioeconomic Classifiers to be submitted for consideration by the Regional Public Goods project (IDB).

8. WHAT FUNDING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR THE WORKING GROUP'S ACTIVITIES:

United Nations budget for holding the first face-to-face meeting of the Working Group on International Classifications, held in September 2012 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago.

9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEO CALLS, OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

The first videoconference was held in April 2013.

10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:

None.

11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED AND/OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:

None, although the Working Group on International Classifications has an online forum through which countries can share questions and answers on classification topics.

## 12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- It is the first working group formally created to support Latin American and Caribbean countries in adopting or adapting the new versions of the international classifiers.
- It has direct participation from the United Nations, the custody entity of international classifiers such as the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC); and it is possible that it will have participation from the International Labour Organization (ILO) the custodian of the International Standard Classification of Occupations.
- The Working Group on International Classifications maintains direct relations with the United Nations Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications.
- The coordinating country of the Working Group on International Classifications has experience in international negotiations on economic classifiers.
- The Working Group will prepare materials and programmes to help countries apply the classifications. These materials and programmes will firstly be applied and tested by member countries of the Group as part of their work programme; but afterwards they will be made available to other ECLAC member States.
- The Working Group will lay methodological foundations and define the best way to promote the implementation and use of the international classifications in the country; it will also allow for better management and more efficient use of data obtained from the different public institutions in the production of official statistics. The application of the latest international classifications will strengthen national statistical systems to respond more efficiently to users' increasingly demanding for information requirements, for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of public policies in each country.
- The enthusiasm and willingness of the countries to share their experience in adopting or adapting the classifiers.

## 13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Difficulty in obtaining financing for the national statistical offices belonging to the Working Group on International Classifications to participate in the meetings or respond to requests for horizontal co-operation.
- The need to create specific units responsible for the classifications to be promoted in the NSOs.
- The need to raise awareness in the NSOs on the importance of ensuring that the people originally appointed as members of the group participate in GTCI meetings, to secure the transmission of knowledge and commitments, and to follow up on the tasks and agreements achieved.

## 14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SCA (NOVEMBER 2013):

- The second meeting of the GTCI is scheduled for 17 - 21 June 2013 in Aguascalientes, Mexico, but this will depend on obtaining a budget. It is important this meeting is held because it will follow up the work agreed upon in the first meeting; so if no budget is forthcoming several of the activities will be halted.



15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK CURRENT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:
- No, the objectives listed in point 5 of this questionnaire were reviewed by the GTCI management committee at the group's first meeting, held in Santiago, Chile, on 10-14 September 2012.
16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING WORKING GROUP GOALS:
- As the existing work schedule covers the period 2012-2013, the activities were programmed for that period, but the group should function continuously.
17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE WORKING GROUP'S FUNCTIONING, IN RELATION TO THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS:
- As the activities undertaken by the working-group coordinators are in addition to the tasks programmed in the institution that employs them, the coordinators should be assisted by forming subcommittees to undertake specific tasks.
18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON WORKING GROUP FUNCTIONING:
- Provide support in financial-management activities for the working groups, especially when face-to-face meetings need to be held or when horizontal collaboration is required that involves an NSO specialist travelling to the country requesting support.
19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:
- Provide support in financial-management activities for the working groups, especially when face-to-face meetings need to be held or when horizontal collaboration is required that involves a specialist from a national statistical office travelling to the country requesting support.
20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

## 1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators**

## 2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Saint Lucia.

## 3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Technical Secretariat: International Labour Organization (ILO) (David Glejberman).
- Institution participating as a group member: World Bank.

## 4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

Main objective of the working group.

- To enhance the international comparability of labour-market indicators, bearing in mind the specifics of the region's countries, while contributing towards methodological harmonization and the development of new indicators, through an exchange of national experiences aimed at strengthening the countries' labour statistics.

Specific objectives:

- Make a review of the official instruments used by the different Latin American and Caribbean countries to measure employment, unemployment, underemployment and decent work, with a view to obtaining a diagnostic of the region and an updated inventory of the practices of countries of the region in relation to the proposed topics.
- Establish a regional position in relation to the definitions of employment, unemployment and underemployment that currently exist, for review at the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians (*nineteenth ICLS session, 2013*).
- Promote a strategic plan for developing a system of basic indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress toward decent work.
- Move forward in incorporating indicators of decent work in the national statistics systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Agree upon the questions to be included in surveys of the labour force in the countries, to obtain the minimum information needed for the harmonization and comparability of traditional labour-market indicators, as well as new indicators proposed by the working group to measure the underuse of labour, unemployment, decent work and informality.

## 5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

Biennial activities planning 2012-2013.

According to the work plan defined with the group's member countries, the goals for this operating period are:

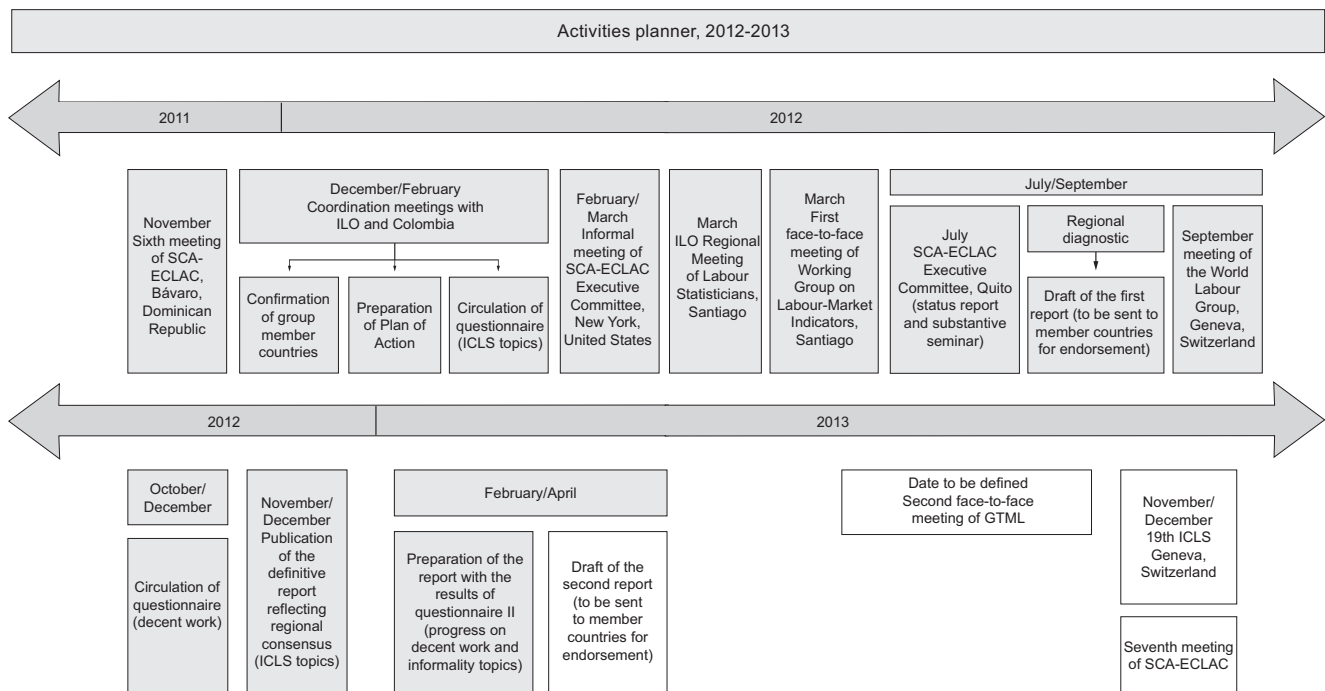
1. Prepare a diagnostic assessment of the region's countries in terms of the measurement of employment, unemployment, underemployment and decent work (inventory of practices).
  2. Prepare a technical document on consensual definitions of employment, unemployment and underemployment.
  3. Prepare a proposal for new labour-market indicators (under-employment, indicators of the under-use of labour, decent work and informality).
  4. Participate in regional workshops or seminars related to labour-market statistics, to share experiences and progress on the subject (discussions, consensuses and disagreements).
6. WHICH OF THE GOALS LISTED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT:

The following goals have been fulfilled to date:

- ✓ Goal 1 (partially achieved). The following activities have been undertaken to achieve this goal:
  - Sending of questionnaires to the region's countries: Two questionnaires have been sent thus far. The first concerned the topics to be discussed at the next ICLS on the measurement of employment, unemployment and underemployment (sent in February/March 2012); and the second related to the measurement of decent work in the informal sector (November/December 2012).
  - The information from the first questionnaire has already been processed and systemized for the purpose of making a presentation of the main results. This diagnostic was presented at the first face-to-face meeting of the working group (March 2012).
  - In relation to the second questionnaire, member countries are currently in the process of approving a diagnostic paper with the main results of the questionnaire.
- ✓ Goal 2 (achieved).
  - Preparation of a paper on the regional position in relation to the proposal for updating the ILO for the next ICLS: The information compiled in the first questionnaire was used as an input, along with background data and discussions arising in the first face-to-face meeting (final report produced in October/November 2012).
- ✓ Goal 3.
  - Achieving this goal depends on the holding of a second face-to-face meeting in 2013, in which member countries are expected to reach consensus on the harmonized measurement of a set of basic indicators on decent work and informality.
- ✓ Goal 4 (achieved). The working group has participated in the following activities thus far:
  - *Holding of a substantive seminar during a meeting of the Executive Committee of the 11th SCA-ECLAC (Quito, July 2012). This seminar was held in conjunction with the ILO with a view to sharing progress made in discussions to review and update international standards on statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment.* [http://www.ECLAC.org/deype/ceaECLAC/2012\\_CE\\_XIreunion\\_semConfEstTrab.htm](http://www.ECLAC.org/deype/ceaECLAC/2012_CE_XIreunion_semConfEstTrab.htm).

- *Participation in the ILO regional meeting on labour statistics* (March 2012 in Santiago, Chile), in addition to the meetings of the ILO Global Expert Group (September 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland).

The 2012-2013 activities programme is shown below (grey-shaded activities have already been completed):



7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:

- None.

8. WHAT FUNDING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES:

- Member countries' own resources and economic assistance from the International Labour Office (ILO) and the World Bank.

9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEO CALLS OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- Videoconferencing has been used for exchanges between the two institutions responsible for group coordination, the INE of Chile and the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, and the ILO Technical Secretariat. The mailing list of group members has been used to send and receive questionnaires and to send publications and manuals (*Decent Work Indicators*, report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics, *Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work*).

10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:
  - None.
11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED AND/OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:
  - None.
12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:
  - The group has become a regional reference point on the issues to be discussed in the 19th ICLS.
  - The interest shown by the countries on the issues that form the group's objectives.
  - The group has representatives from all subregions (member countries together account for 83.3% of the economically active population of Latin America and the Caribbean).
  - High rates of participation by group members in responding expeditiously to requests for information needed to prepare reports.
  - Practical progress towards achieving the goals within the estimated timeframes.
  - Constant support from the ILO Technical Secretariat in developing group activities and in terms of information flow relating to publications, manuals and progress made in the revisions to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (19th ICLS, 2013).
  - Allocation of human resources and specific time for group coordination, by the teams responsible in the institutions committed to this coordination.
13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:
  - Lack of financing to hold face-to-face meetings.
14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SCA (NOVEMBER 2013):
  - Consensual analysis and diagnostic on the measurement of employment, unemployment, underemployment and decent work.
15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK CURRENT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:
  - The group's current objectives are considered relevant.
16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING WORKING GROUP GOALS:
  - The deadline for the goals set in the 2012-2013 Biennial Plan which respond to the first two specific objectives, is December 2013. The 2014-2015 goals should be defined through group consensus, taking account of the achievement of its other specific objectives.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING WORKING GROUP FUNCTIONING, IN RELATION TO THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS:
  - Put financing alternatives in place that allow for face-to-face meetings and horizontal cooperation actions between the countries, to facilitate progress towards the objectives of harmonization and comparability of labour-market indicators.
18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON WORKING GROUP FUNCTIONING:
  - Play an active role in obtaining funds to finance the face-to-face activities of the working group.
  - Promote discussion forums that make it possible to identify and develop thematic synergies between the groups, and crosscutting participations by their members.
19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:
  - None.
20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

## 1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on Environmental Statistics**

## 2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Bahamas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Suriname.

## 3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- ECLAC, Advisory Agency: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

## 4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

## General goal

- To promote the development of relevant statistics on natural resources and the environment, and their integration into the national statistical systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Specific goal

- To identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities to strengthen member countries' capacities to produce official national and subnational (or local) environmental statistics of high quality.
- To document and exchange experiences and good practices on the development of national and subnational (or local) environment statistical systems.
- To develop a minimum set of environmental statistics common to the region, which respond to the countries' information needs and to international initiatives, including previous regional initiatives.
- To promote the creation of interagency platforms for collaboration, coordination and integration in relation to regional initiatives on statistics, indicators and environmental accounts.
- To promote the use of the environmental and economic accounts system as a theoretical-methodological framework for developing statistics and related indicators in the region.

## 5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- Set up an online platform to facilitate communication within the Working Group on Environmental Statistics.
- Prepare a project and seek financing.
- Start project implementation.
- At the request of the SCA, a regional study was planned on the coordination of international statistical activities in relation to the environment.

6. WHICH OF THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT:
- An online platform was set up at: [www.teamrooms.ECLAC.org/gtea](http://www.teamrooms.ECLAC.org/gtea).
  - Aware that it is very difficult to progress the group's objectives without financing, the group decided to organize all of its work under a project submitted for IDB financing (see point 7). The working group prepared the project and obtained financing through the IDB Regional Public Goods program.
  - Given the time it took to fulfil the IDB's conditions, it was impossible to start the project in 2012. It is currently in its initial stages, and the first meeting is being organized for May 2013.
  - The regional study undertaken by the group was presented at the 10th Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Havana, Cuba on 6-8 April 2011. The report is available online at: <http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/3/42463/LCL3288e.pdf>.
7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:
- Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. WHAT FUNDING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES:
- Regional Public Goods (BPR) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
  - Knowledge Transfer Network.
9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEOCALLS, OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012:
- Two teleconferences were held in 2009; a face-to-face meeting was held in 2010 in Santiago, Chile, during the conference of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) and the Working Group organized a seminar in 2011 entitled "New methodological developments and operational challenges in the field of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean", which was organized by INEGI of Mexico and financed by the Knowledge Transfer Network and ECLAC.
10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:
- In collaboration with, and with financial support from the Knowledge Transfer Network, a seminar was organized entitled "New methodological developments and operational challenges in the field of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean" in the Dominican Republic on 14 and 15 November 2011. The materials can be found at the online forum of the group and at this link: [http://ceaECLAC-rtc.org/rtc/es/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=51&year=2011](http://ceaECLAC-rtc.org/rtc/es/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=51&year=2011).
11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED AND/OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:
- None.



## 12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- It has financing, committed members, and participation from advisory agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

## 13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Like other civil servants, the members of the Working Group have heavy workloads that often prevent them from participating more actively in the work of the group.

## 14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SCA (NOVEMBER 2013):

- Present the results of the BPR project-launch workshop and progress made in implementing the regional diagnostic on environmental statistics (the first component of the project).

## 15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK CURRENT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:

- They remain current.

## 16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING WORKING GROUP GOALS:

- The goals of the Working Group have been incorporated into the Regional Public Goods Project, and the time frame for this process is four to five years; the objectives of the Working Group are for the longer term, however.

## 17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING WORKING GROUP FUNCTIONING, IN RELATION TO THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS:

- Ask members of the Working Group to devote a certain percentage of their time to the group's tasks and have this recognized in their institutional work plan. For example, they could officially devote 10% of their time to group activities.
- Create a type of award for the work of the groups that have made significant contributions to statistical development in the region.

## 18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON WORKING GROUP FUNCTIONING:

- The Executive Committee should start a line of work that aims to improve the functioning of the WORKING GROUPS, implementing suggestions included in point 17, and also seeking to generate inter-group synergies.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- More technical and financial support.

20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence**

2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay.

3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and ECLAC.

4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- (a) To improve regional coordination for the production of statistics and indicators on childhood and adolescence in Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- (b) Enhance the comparability of statistics across the region.
- (c) Make administrative records more trustworthy.
- (d) Achieve coordination between sectors and with international agencies to contribute to the development of indicators that promote and protect the rights of the child.
- (e) Generate information for the design and evaluation of public policies.

5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- (a) Prepare the group's annual plan.
- (b) Evaluate the indicators produced by different participating countries on children and adolescents, with a view to reaching consensus on which indicators should be adopted to monitor the subject of the rights of the child.

6. WHICH OF THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT:

- Both were achieved.

7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:

- The group was created only recently (2012) and has not yet put projects forward for financing. A forthcoming review of the work plan will include activities for financing.

8. WHAT FUNDING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES:

- Until now, only the institutional resources of the group's member countries have been used, such as human capital for preparing, reviewing and assessing the documentation.

9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEO CALLS, OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012:
- None.
10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:
- None.
11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED AND/OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:
- None.
12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:
- Its members include countries with great experience relating to statistics on children and adolescence and institutional links available to undertake activities.
  - It receives support from the DefInfoLac office for disseminating and publicizing indicators on children in Latin America.
13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:
- Little support received from UNICEF in its role as Technical Secretariat, because it has not expressed an opinion or provided inputs for the group. Moreover, the designated focal point stopped working in that Organization in June 2012, and no replacement has yet been appointed.
  - Panama has little experience as a group coordinating country for the Statistical Conference; this is its first participation as a coordinator in this mechanism.
  - We do not know if there is a general guide that could be used by the coordinating country, to identify actions that could be undertaken to strengthen the group.
  - Lack of knowledge of the steps needed to gain access to sources of financing to carry out activities.
14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS (NOVEMBER 2013):
- Identify the minimum priority indicators needed to monitor and evaluate the achievement of the commitments assumed by the countries in respect of the rights of the child.
  - Create an information technology platform in DevInfo for the storage, analysis and publication of information, by country, on the agreed-upon indicators.
15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK CURRENT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:
- No.

16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING WORKING GROUP GOALS:

- The work plan was proposed for the short term and thus it will be necessary to revise and redefine the goals . A comprehensive review of the work plan, together with the fact that the coordinating country will now have gained more experience, would make it possible to substantially improve activities aimed at achieving the proposed goals.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE WORKING GROUP'S FUNCTIONING, IN RELATION TO THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS:

- Have a general guide available for use by the coordinating country to define the actions needed to strengthen the group.
- Publicize, if available, the regulations defined to gain access to sources of financing to undertake activities.
- Receive feedback on the documents delivered to the Executive Committee, to improve or steer the activities contained in the work plans.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE WORKING GROUP'S FUNCTIONING:

- Receive feedback on the documents (reports) delivered to the Executive Committee, to improve or guide the activities contained in the work plans.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP'S TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Cooperate more effectively under the guidance of the coordinating country, with a view to undertaking the actions described in the work plans.

20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Greater collaboration by countries that join the working groups and which commit themselves to provide the information needed to comply with the timeframes specified in the work plan. For example: designate focal points, suggest recommendations, and avoid delays.

## 1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on Censuses**

## 2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), which has been group leader since November 2011.

The Working Group on Censuses of the Statistical Conference of ECLAC is organized in four working subgroups in different areas, through which it receives support from the countries of the region: Methodology (led by Paraguay); Processing and technological issues (Brazil); Cartography (Mexico); and Dissemination (Colombia). In late November 2011, the National Institute of Statistics of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela assumed leadership of the Working Group on Censuses.

## 3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

## Technical Secretariat:

Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), which provides technical, organizational and substantive support.

## International organizations:

Regional Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which provides support in complementing and coordinating actions.

## 4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

The central objective of this working group is to promote and develop initiatives to support countries in planning and implementing population and housing censuses in the 2010 round, by exchanging experiences in workshops, meetings and seminars, among other possibilities.

Within that general objective, the following specific objectives are proposed, focused on topics aimed at:

- Census management, operation and conceptual design of the contents.
- Census data-capture and processing technology.
- Analysis and dissemination of information.

These objectives have been fulfilled by implementing a work plan that has included activities implemented with support from the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC, as Technical Secretariat of the group, and from UNFPA.

## 5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- Training activities and exchange of experiences on different methodological, technical, technological, and operational topics related to population censuses.

- Seminars and exchange of experiences on census cartography of the 2010 census round in Latin America, October 2010.
- Regional workshops on demographic evaluation and estimations based on census data.
- Seminars on the dissemination and spatial analysis of census data.

6. WHICH OF THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT?

Goals achieved:

- Seminar-workshop on the 2010 round of censuses and health, held in Santiago in November 2009.
- Workshop on procedures for publishing census data. May 2010, Asunción.
- Seminar-workshop on the 2010 censuses and standards of living, held in Santiago in June 2010.
- Workshop on the capture and publishing of census data with the (CSPRO) surveys and censuses processing system, held in Asunción in September 2010.
- Technical assistance for the General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC) of Paraguay, on assisted codification of economic activity and occupational classifications.
- Workshop to exchange experiences on census cartography on the 2010 census round in Latin America, held in San Cristóbal, Ecuador, in October 2010.
- Regional seminar for the exchange of experiences on classifiers and nomenclatures, held in Santiago in December 2010.
- Regional seminar on experiences in training supervisors and questionnaires for population censuses, May 2011, Santiago.
- Regional workshop on demographic evaluation and estimations based on census data: analysis of consistency, quality and coverage,. August 2011, Santiago.
- Regional workshop on the potentials and applications of census data, October 2011, Santiago.
- Regional seminar on dissemination and spatial analysis of census data. June 2011, in Santiago.
- Workshop on the use of census data to analyse migration, stressing the experiences of the 2010 decade censuses, held in April 2012 in Mexico City.
- Second regional meeting on the potentials and applications of census data: held in the city of Santiago, in July 2012. The meeting explored the analytical potential of population and housing censuses undertaken in Latin America on various census data issues.
- Second regional meeting on demographic evaluation and estimations based on census data, held in Santiago in June 2012.

Goals not achieved:

- Workshop entitled “Use of technologies in censuses and statistical operations”: This event was subject to restructuring with the aim of expanding the suggested topic and gaining greater participation from countries in the region that are not members of the working group. It is scheduled to be held in May 2013 in the city of Caracas and has been renamed “Workshop on the use of technologies in censuses and statistical operation,” and is being organized by IDB, CELADE and the national statistical institute of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in its capacity as leader of the Working Group on Censuses.

## 7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:

- Regional Public Goods program financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

## 8. WHAT FUNDING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR THE WORKING GROUP'S ACTIVITIES?

- Multilateral agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank.
- United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in conjunction with other cooperating organizations that have provided technical and financial support for some of the programmed activities.

## 9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEO CALLS, OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- None.

## 10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:

The Knowledge Transfer Network , is the mechanism through which activities are disseminated and coordinated through training centres in the framework of the different working groups. The following activities of the Working Group on Censuses are coordinated through the network:

- Intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications in INDEC Panama, 2011.
- Course: Household survey, National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) Ecuador, 2012.
- 2010 Census Training Programme - Administrative training chain - Administrative coordinator, Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) Brazil, 2010.
- Course: Sharing Experiences on Agricultural Censuses, National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) Colombia, 2011.
- Seminar on the Agricultural Census, National Institute of Statistics (INE) Spain, 2011.
- Conference on needs assessment in census analysis (CENAC), National Statistics Office, Dominican Republic, 2010.
- Diploma in demographic analysis for the use of census data, National Statistics Office, Dominican Republic, 2011.

## 11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED AND/OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:

- None.

## 12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Knowledge of experiences and progress in censuses and other statistical operations as well as their dissemination beyond traditional information media.



- Permanent communication with reference countries of the working subgroups, as well as with member countries, consultations on the implementation of actions and the respective evaluations to make corrections where necessary, and with the Technical Secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - ECLAC Population Division, for technical and organizational support for the activities that have been implemented.
- Effective organization and coordination with reference countries for each subgroup to undertake the proposed activities, with technical, logistical and organizational support.
- A high sense of commitment and cooperation between the region's national statistics institutes and close links with their technical staff.
- Ad hoc work teams were set up, closely linked to each other through ICTs, which collaborated in the design, development and implementation of the planned activities.
- The holding of workshops and seminars, together with the exchange of experiences and technical assistance in the framework of the 2010 census round, have enhanced the technical and operational potential of the region's national statistics institutes, making it possible to evaluate, validate and enhance the conceptual, logistical and operational framework of the implementation of the censuses.

13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Lack of direct financing to undertake the working group's activities.

14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SCA (NOVEMBER 2013):

The intention is to implement a 2013-2015 work plan, including the following goals:

- Conduct studies on teenage fertility.
- Hold workshops and promote different forms of cooperation for the exchange of experiences on the evaluation of the census round.
- Hold workshops to exploit and analyse census data, focused on the potentials for using that information, particularly in formulating public policy on issues such as: analysis of the 2010 census data; use of census data for analysis of migration; and demographic analysis.
- Prepare a comparative document of the results of the 2010 censuses.
- Achieve greater progress in developing the REDATAM programme for processing population and housing census data.

15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK CURRENT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:

- The topics of the Working Group on Censuses should be expanded, with other sources of information useful for demographic analysis (vital statistics).

16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING WORKING GROUP GOALS:

2013-2015.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP , IN RELATION TO THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS:

- Expand communication channels to improve participation by group members, because the regularity of this and the degree of commitment towards the working group's activities have increased significantly since the group was created in 2005. Nonetheless, there is broad consensus that the countries' commitment and participation is still insufficient and very unequal. In reality, the initial enthusiasm of the countries to become members of a working group resulted in several groups having a large number of participants.
- Implement actions that make it possible to incorporate English-speaking Caribbean countries into the activities of the working group. This relates to the difficulties in having documents in English available on a timely basis, or providing simultaneous interpretation at seminars and workshops.
- Greater use of communication tools (conference calls and video conferences, wiki information platforms, virtual conversation), and virtual work, thereby making it possible to increase contact between the countries of the working group.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP :

The Executive Committee should:

- Revise the operating conditions of the working groups, which should be based on a proper evaluation of the experience accumulated by the groups themselves.
- Improve dissemination of the working groups' activities and achievements in the countries, and in national statistics offices and other relevant national agencies.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Maintain coordinated work and joint technical and financial support between the secretariat and international agencies to establish a work plan that makes it possible to define the commitment in terms of financial and technical resource availability.
- The working group's technical secretariat should re-examine the content and objectives of its programmes of activities, to focus them as precisely as possible in terms of scope and timeframe.
- Increase coordination with the Knowledge Transfer Network to offer more training activities to meet the demand arising from the needs of member countries.

20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Most of the 2010-round censuses were held in 2010 and 2011, so substantive seminars could be organized on the evaluation of the census round, emphasizing the exchange of lessons learned.
- Moreover, bearing in mind the immense flow of information that will be available, workshops should be held to exploit and analyse the census data, targeting potential ways of using that information, particularly for public-policy purposes.
- Include workshops on the preparation of population estimates and projections based on data obtained from the 2010-round censuses.

## 1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP

**Working Group on National Accounts**

## 2. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NATIONAL ACCOUNTS:

Brazil (National Geography and Statistical Institute - IBGE), which withdrew from the Working Group in 2012; *Colombia* (National Administrative Department of Statistics- DANE), which withdrew from the Working Group in 2012; Cuba (National Office of Statistics- NSO); Chile (National Institute of Statistics- INE); United States (Census Bureau); France (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies- INSEE); Guyana (Guyana Bureau of Statistics); Mexico (National Institute of Statistics and Geography- INEGI); Jamaica (Statistical Institute of Jamaica); Peru (coordinating country in the periods 2010-2011 and 2011-2012) (National Institute of Statistics and Information - INEI).

## 3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- ECLAC.

## 4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

The general objective of the working group is to help implement the system of national accounts (SNA) in the countries of the region, promoting greater integration between the production of basic economic statistics, national accounts and users.

The specific objectives are as follows:

- international coordination.
- the development of methodologies and standards for basic statistics and national accounts.
- regional harmonization and the development of human resources, with the aim of contributing to the implementation of the SNA and incorporating the new methodological recommendations of SNA 2008.

## 5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- Work programme, 2010 – 2011
  - Presented and adopted by the member countries of the Working Group on National Accounts.
- Regional coordination
  - Questionnaire on progress in implementing the SNA.
  - Updating and expansion of regional diagnostic studies.
  - National accounts seminars for Latin America and the Caribbean.
  - Regional horizontal co-operation programme: requirements and supply.
  - Mapping of activities of the region.

- Development of methodology and standards for basic statistics and national accounts
  - Virtual library.
  - Virtual forums.
  - Compendium of standards and best practices.
- Regional harmonization
  - Report on the harmonization of basic statistics at the regional level.
  - Development of an information technology platform (WIKI).
- Human resource development
  - Report on the supply of courses by organizations.
  - KANGARE course (Mexico).
  - Quarterly national accounts course (ECLAC - IMF).
  - Advanced coordination course on national accounts.
  - Organization of workshops/meetings.
- Work programme, 2012-2013
  - Specific objectives were presented and redefined in the Seminar on National Accounts for Latin America and the Caribbean held in 2012.
  - Background
    - Objectives presented at the eleventh Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC held in Quito in July 2012:
      1. General objective: Contribute to the implementation of the SNA 2008 in the countries of the region, to promote greater integration between the production of basic economic statistics, national accounts and users.
      2. Specific objectives: international coordination, development of methodologies and standards for basic statistics and national accounts, regional harmonization and human resource development.
  - Redefinition of Specific Objectives
 

Pursuant to the mandate of the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC of July 2012, the “Seminar on National Accounts of Latin America 2012, regional implementation of the system of national accounts, basic statistics and users”, included analysis and redefinition of the specific objectives and activities of the working group. In this process, the proposal made by Uruguay was accepted; this proposal consists of the following broad areas: promotion of basic statistics needed to compile the national accounts; and the pursuit of advocacy at two levels: stakeholder organizations and national accounts users.
  - Specific objective 1: Promotion of basic statistics (awareness-raising within the Statistical Conference).
  - Specific objective 2: Search for support.

6. WHICH OF THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT:

Goals achieved, 2010-2011 Work programme.

Regional coordination

- An electronic survey was held of the implementation status of the SNA, in coordination with ECLAC.
- A survey on horizontal co-operation was conducted.
- The seminar “National accounts for Latin America and the Caribbean 2010” was held in Lima, Peru in November 2010 with support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), ECLAC, and the United Nations Statistics Division.
- The seminar “National accounts for Latin America and the Caribbean 2011” was held in Santiago in October 2011.

Development of methodology and standards for basic statistics and national accounts

- INEGI developed and shared an inventory of international statistical standards (IEEI) and the Knowledge Transfer Network.

Regional harmonization

- The wiki platform is being used by the technical work groups.
- The following documents were completed by the technical groups: Financial intermediation services - SIFMI; Manufactured goods; and Informal sector.
- The Working Group on National Accounts supported the 2011 round of the International Price Comparison Programme.

Human resource development

- An inventory of courses and seminars was prepared and sent to the Knowledge Transfer Network under the coordination of the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) of Mexico.
- An intermediate level course on quarterly national accounts (organized by IMF and ECLAC) was conducted in Brazil in 2010.
- Kangaré course (held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in 2010).

Goals not achieved, work programme, 2010-2011

- Mapping of activities in the region.
- Virtual library.
- Compendium of standards and best practices.
- Report on the harmonization of basic statistics at the regional level.

Goals of the 2012-2013 programme of work

Goals achieved, work programme, 2012-2013

- In 2012, in cooperation with the Andean Community (CAN), the coordinating country of the Working Group on National Accounts developed the first phase of an “Advanced course on national accounts”. The course was held in Bogota in June 2012. The participating countries were Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia. A second course is planned for the first half of 2013, which will then be extended to other countries of the region that can finance their participation.

- A workshop on “The systemization of national accounts (ERETES)”, was held in Lima in June 2012, sponsored by EUROSTAT. Representatives from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil and Peru participated.
- A regional seminar workshop on “The time use survey as an input for calculating the satellite account on unpaid household work” was held in Lima in October 2012; sponsored by ECLAC, the Pan-American Health Organization, and the Ministry for Women, the workshop was attended by representatives from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru, Spain, the United States and Uruguay.
- “Workshop on the “Institutionalization of water statistics and accounts in Latin America”, sponsored by United Nations Headquarters and ECLAC was held in Lima in November 2012, Representatives from Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru participated.
- In the context of redefining the working group’s specific objectives and activities, actions to promote the proposal are being coordinated with ECLAC (as technical secretariat) and with the representative of the Central Bank of Uruguay.

7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:

- The project “Strengthening of the system for producing national accounts statistics” was prepared and presented to IDB for financing. It did not meet with the Bank’s approval.
- Pedagogic and information technology tool on advanced level national accounts presented to IDB for financing. It did not meet with the Bank’s approval.
- Latin America: Strategy to improve the quality and scope of national accounts and strengthen the related economic statistics needed to formulate public policies. It was presented to IDB but did not meet with its approval.

8. WHAT FUNDING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES?

- ECLAC.
- CECAB - Joint Regional Training Centre for Latin America in Brazil.
- World Bank.
- CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC.
- Statistics Canada.
- ANDESTAD project.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- International Comparison Programme.

9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEOCALL OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- Eight face-to-face meetings were held with members of the working group. Meetings were also arranged with members individually, according to the activities they wished to undertake.

10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:

- None.

11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED AND/OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:
  - None.
12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:
  - Wide experience in the development of national accounts.
  - National accounts that have systemized processes.
  - Skilled human resources.
  - Desire for integration and exchange of experiences.
13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:
  - Coordination with countries where national accounts are not produced by the statistics institutes.
  - Lack of funding to carry out its activities.
  - Need for greater coordination between the coordinating country, the technical secretariat, member countries and other countries.
  - Greater willingness needed among the authorities to implement the SNA in the different countries.
14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SCA (NOVEMBER 2013):
  - Prepare a substantive seminar on the System of National Accounts and basic statistics for presentation at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in 2013.
15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK CURRENT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:
  - They were reviewed in December 2012 in Santiago at the Seminar on National Accounts for Latin America and the Caribbean.
16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING WORKING GROUP GOALS:
  - A proposal has been made to prepare a substantive seminar on the system of national accounts and basic statistics for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, and for updating the diagnostic of the status of basic statistics and the System of National Accounts in the region; in addition to the coordination of support actions by cooperating agencies and users themselves, for implementation of SNA 2008.
  - The development horizon of the advanced course on national accounts will depend on self-financed participation by the countries of the region, so it is expected to extend beyond 2013.
17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP IN RELATION TO THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS:
  - Member countries should participate actively in the tasks needed to fulfil the activities of the work programme.

- Find mechanisms for participation by central banks that prepare national accounts.
- Ensure that the Latin American National Accounts Seminar remains a source of information on the progress made by the working group and its activities.
- Bearing in mind that face-to-face meetings are increasingly unfeasible, either owing to a lack of budgetary resources and/or unavailability of time among experts, greater use will be made of videoconferencing to ensure more fluid and permanent coordination.
- Minimize turnover in the staff appointed in the groups, to achieve greater continuity in the coordination and implementation of actions planned to achieve the expected results.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- The Executive Committee needs to be better integrated with the technical work groups.
- Guidelines should be issued so that the coordinating country, technical secretariat and member countries of the working group have clearly defined functions and fulfil the activities specified in its programme.
- They should function as an interface in coordination with the cooperating agencies to obtain financing.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS of the WORKING GROUPS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Define a regulation on good practices to be adhered to by technical work groups.
- Provide technical assistance for developing the lines of action of the working group.
- Find cooperating countries to provide technical assistance on national accounts.

20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- It is important to specify the functions of the working group and other mechanisms, such as the annual national accounts seminar, as well as complementary issues.



## 1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on Agricultural Statistics**

## 2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Panama, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

## 3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Technical Secretariat: FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Advisory organizations: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

## 4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

Harmonized improvement of agricultural statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, and definition of a plan to implement a global strategy for improvement of agricultural and rural statistics in the region, taking account of the current status of those statistics, training of the teams and design of a feasible work programme for improvement, driven by the global strategy.

- Promotion of the global strategy in the region.
- Institution-building.
- Diagnostic assessment of the country's statistical capacities.
- Capacity-building in institutions.
- Technical assistance.
- Methodology development.

## 5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- (a) Hold the first meeting of the working Group on Agricultural Statistics.
- (b) Consolidate the regional management committee set up by the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
- (c) Seek funds for implementing the global strategy in the region.
- (d) Produce and disseminate Spanish-language versions of the global-strategy documents.
- (e) Promote mobilization activities based on the global strategy.
- (f) Promote integration between national statistics institutes and ministries of agriculture.

## 6. WHICH OF THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN POINT 5 WERE ACHIEVED AND WHICH WERE NOT:

- All goals were met and an evaluation was made of the pilot test on the processing, indicators and country profiles, based on the questionnaires of Colombia, Mexico and Peru. The results have not yet been discussed in the group.

- The search for funding continues, and progress has been made in conversations with IDB and the possibility of support from Canada and Spain.
7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:
- The process of preparing the plan of action for the region began in 2012, and the first draft will be available in April 2013. The plan needs to be specific for a two- year period and should include: the diagnostic assessment (standard questionnaire), classification of the countries according to the diagnostic, technical support and training actions, monitoring, follow-up and reporting scheme.
8. WHAT FUNDING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES:
- The FAO headquarters in Rome provided US\$ 90,000 to hold the first meeting of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics and to hire a consultant to write the regional plan of action.
9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCING, VIDEOCALLS, OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012:
- The Executive Committee held five meetings through video calls in 2012.
10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:
- The group's activities were to have been disseminated through the Knowledge Transfer Network of the Statistical Conference. The group intends to include all documentation produced.
11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED AND/OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:
- FAO headquarters in Rome posted information about the group's first meeting in the news and events section of its English-language website of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.
12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:
- The presence of countries represented by national statistics institutes and agriculture ministries.
13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:
- Need to improve participation by international organizations that support Latin America.
  - The Executive Committee has not met since the first meeting in Mexico to evaluate the activities planned.

14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SCA (NOVEMBER 2013):
  - Standard regional questionnaires distributed and completed by several countries.
  - The region's plan of action approved.
  - Funding obtained for implementing the global strategy in the region.
  - Establishment of the governance structure, adding a number of international partners and ministries to the Working Group.
  - Report on the group meeting to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in June, taking advantage of the FAO/IICA workshop.
  - Status of the global strategy based on information reported at the Sixth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS, 2013) to be held in October in Brazil.
  
15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK CURRENT WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE REVISED:
  - No. The objectives are well defined.
  
16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING WORKING GROUP GOALS:
  - 15 years.
  
17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP IN RELATION TO THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME, AMONG OTHER FACTORS:
  - Improve communication and monitoring of the work programme with detailed timetables.
  - Ensure greater distribution of tasks between group members.
  - Use teleconferencing resources.
  
18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON WORKING GROUP'S FUNCTIONING:
  - Adopt a timetable for ordinary meetings.
  
19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS OF THE WORKING GROUPS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:
  - Involve the ECLAC secretariat and the other international organizations more closely in the dynamic of the work of the Statistical Conference.
  
20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:
  - Intensify dissemination of the group's objectives to secure the funds needed to implement the project.

1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

**Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers**

2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay.

3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

ECLAC.

4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Obtain an updated map of the status of national experiences relating to income poverty.
- Promote horizontal cooperation and training activities.
- Encourage broad discussion of topics not covered to date

5. KEY GOALS OF THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- Obtain an updated map of the status of national experiences relating to income poverty.
- Promote horizontal cooperation and training activities.
- Encourage more in-depth discussion of topics not covered to date.

6. WHICH OF THE TARGETS SPECIFIED IN POINT 5 WERE MET AND WHICH WERE NOT?

- None.

7. PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED FOR INTERNATIONAL FINANCING:

- None.

8. WHAT FINANCING SOURCES HAVE BEEN USED FOR THE WORKING GROUP'S ACTIVITIES?

- World Bank.

9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE, VIDEO CALL OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

- None.

10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:
- None.
11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:
- None.
12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:
- It succeeded in obtaining funding for its activities from the World Bank.
  - Even though there is little likelihood in the short term of countries changing their income aggregates or updating their poverty lines with a view to moving towards regional convergence, the general consensus is that it is useful to have common criteria that can help to guide future efforts in this direction.
13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:
- The information on the focal points of the member countries is incomplete. Moreover, a single focal point may not be sufficient. Poverty measurement involves constructing the income aggregate and basic baskets, and rarely does a single person (or even a single institution) have the necessary experience in both areas.
  - This issue is so broad that translating the group's objectives into concrete outputs has been a lengthy process.
  - The time constraints faced by staff of the coordinating country and other member countries have made it difficult to move forward more rapidly. The group has not received very active participation from the member countries.
14. WORKING GROUP GOALS AND PRODUCTS FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF ECLAC (NOVEMBER 2013):
- Organization of a workshop to document the methodology for constructing the poverty line in each member country of the Working Group with a view to obtaining a comparative map and conducting a joint exercise in order to complete in greater detail the World Bank Accelerated Data Program (ADP), which deals with income variables. The objective is to make this documentation available for use by all the member countries of the Conference.
  - Systematization of the Workshop on the harmonization of poverty statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in May 2012.
  - Organization of a workshop on alternative, multidimensional poverty measurements.
  - Conduct of a survey to find out which countries are using the ADP to systematize the metadata from household surveys. It is expected to be completed by November 2012.
  - Provision of metadata files by working group countries to determine whether the information they contain on the definition and treatment of income is sufficient for comparisons between countries.

15. INDICATE WHETHER YOU THINK THE WORKING GROUP'S CURRENT OBJECTIVES SHOULD BE REVIEWED:
- The initial objective was to draw up a set of basic agreements for use in the harmonization of criteria and definitions, but this was replaced in the June 2012 report by the objective of obtaining an updated map of the status of national experiences relating to income poverty.
16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR ACHIEVING THE WORKING GROUP'S GOALS:
- 2014.
17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP IN TERMS OF THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATING COUNTRY, MEMBER COUNTRIES AND THE WORK PROGRAMME , AMONG OTHER FACTORS:
- Not all the member countries of the working group have designated focal points and it would be advisable for them to do so.
18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE WORKING GROUPS' FUNCTIONING:
- None.
19. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUPS' TECHNICAL SECRETARIATS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES:
- None.
20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:
- None.

## 1. NAME OF WORKING GROUP:

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

## 2. MEMBER COUNTRIES:

Argentina (coordinator), Bahamas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

## 3. TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT AND OTHER PARTICIPATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

## 4. CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

The following specific objectives for the period 2012-2013 were adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC at its sixth meeting in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, in November 2011:

- 4.1. Continue promoting the development of official statistics for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals at the regional, national and subnational levels.
- 4.2. Continue developing actions relating to statistical reconciliation by identifying and analysing discrepancies between national data and the data available at the international level, as well as by building up national coordination mechanisms for the production of statistics for the Millennium Development Goals and for proper reporting on the Goals in national reports.
- 4.3. Improve communication between the member countries of the working group by incorporating the use of information and communications technologies into its operations, recognizing that holding online meetings and workshops will help the group to meet its objectives.
- 4.4. Promote and facilitate training activities on the production and use of statistics relating to the Millennium Development Goals among producers and users of statistics in the different countries of the region, making use of the Knowledge Transfer Network.
- 4.5. Evaluate the activities carried out during the current biennium, adjust the activities and timeline for outstanding tasks and propose initial action lines for the biennium 2014-2015. Identify and channel financial resources to contribute to the further building and improvement of countries' statistical capacities to produce indicators showing progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and to promote their use in the corresponding reports and by other users.

These objectives can be found in the report on the activities of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (LC/L.3387(CEA.6/14)).

## 5. MAIN OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2012:

The specific objectives under the plan of work are in line with the general aims of the working group and focus on the following areas:

- Strengthening the statistical capacities of national statistical offices.
- Statistical development.

- Statistical reconciliation.
- Monitoring Millennium Development Goal indicators in the region.
- Information and communications technologies (ICTs).
- Training.

This report covers the aims under the plans of work for 2009-2011 and 2012-2013.

#### 5.1. Aims under the plan of work for 2009-2011:

##### 5.1.1. Management of the working group:

- Convene regular meetings of the working group, holding at least one face-to-face meeting a year to take stock of the activities carried out during the present biennium and to adjust the activities and timeline proposed for outstanding tasks.
- Complement face-to-face meetings with other forms of communication to coordinate the activities planned for the biennium.
- Raise awareness of the topics involved.

##### 5.1.2. Strengthening the statistical capacities of national statistical offices and promoting their active participation in the preparation and dissemination of national reports on the Millennium Development Goals through the following activities:

- Organize technical meetings between national statistical offices and the producers of national reports on the Millennium Development Goals.
- Promote the formation and operation of national inter-agency coordination groups or committees on the Millennium Development Goals, involving producers (national statistical offices and sectoral ministries) and users of statistics on the Millennium Development Goals (rapporteurs responsible for preparing national reports).
- Organize specific inter-agency working groups on the Millennium Development Goals by subject (poverty, gender, health, education, environment, and so forth) in the countries.
  - Select the priority issues of the Millennium Development Goals.
  - Set up thematic coordination bodies.
  - Prepare the programme of work for these bodies.
- Request the regional agencies to provide technical cooperation and training (subject to availability of funds) on general and specific statistical matters relating to the Millennium Development Goals, in order to build up the technical capacities of the countries of the region.

##### 5.1.3. Discussion on the regional agenda of statistical reconciliation, holding at least one annual seminar on the Millennium Development Goals, bringing together the directors of the national statistical offices in the region, the national rapporteurs responsible for reporting on the Goals and the representatives of international bodies, in order to create a forum in which all the actors involved in preparing statistics relating to the Goals can exchange ideas.



- 5.1.4. Remote coordination by the countries to formulate fundraising strategies and to prepare projects to finance activities relating to statistical aspects of the Millennium Development Goals.
- 5.1.5. Identify possible sources of resources and donors. Manage projects with donors.
- 5.1.6. Promote actions to identify discrepancies between national and international sources, including:
  - Request international and regional agencies to provide information on the measures that have been adopted to improve the coverage and transparency of information on indicators for the Millennium Development Goals and the imputation methods used.
  - Formally request the information from international and regional agencies.
  - Present the information to the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for information and analysis.

5.2. Aims under the plan of work for 2012-2013:

- 5.2.1. Promote the development of official statistics for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.
  - 5.2.1.1. Manage and coordinate participation in thematic meetings organized by other regional agencies, in order to:
    - Address the specific details of the indicators with the national experts and international agencies responsible for the production of the indicators in some of the fields covered by the Millennium Development Goals.
    - Create synergies between the institutional authorities in the region in order to make efficient use of available resources.
    - Provide follow-up to the meetings held during the previous biennium.
  - 5.2.1.2. Organize a regional workshop on strengthening statistical capacities.
    - Address technical issues from specific fields covered by the Millennium Development Goals.
    - Ensure full transparency in the adjustments and calculation methods used by the international agencies for producing indicators for monitoring progress on the Millennium Development Goals at the international level.
  - 5.2.1.3. Conduct technical assistance missions in order to:
    - Strengthen the capacities of the national technical teams responsible for producing and monitoring Millennium Development Goal indicators.
    - Organize horizontal cooperation missions in response to specific requests, to enable countries in the region to benefit from other countries' high standards of statistical development.
  - 5.2.1.4. Broaden the range of complementary Millennium Development Goal indicators that reflect the regional situation in selected areas, such as hunger, employment and health.

5.2.1.5. Promote the production of indicators at the subnational level. To that end a data sheet could be prepared for each country, listing the statistical operations in use, in order to catalogue all the sources available for the production of Millennium Development Goal indicators at the subnational level.

5.2.2. Statistical reconciliation and strengthening national coordination mechanisms.

5.2.2.1. Hold the next regional seminar on the Millennium Development Goals, bringing together the directors of the national statistical offices in the region, the national rapporteurs responsible for reporting on the Millennium Development Goals and the international agencies, with the following aims:

- Exchange ideas among the producers and users of statistics for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.
- Create forums for discussion on the production and regional harmonization of Millennium Development Goal indicators.
- Define strategies to continue with the regional statistical reconciliation processes.
- Promote the active and sustained participation of national statistical offices in monitoring and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals.
- Promote the use of complementary indicators to analyse the situation of the countries within the regional context.

5.2.2.2. Move towards addressing statistical discrepancies at conferences, meetings and workshops, by taking the following steps:

- Discuss statistical reconciliation measures with national authorities and international or regional agencies specializing in poverty, health, environment, education, gender or other issues in order to move towards the harmonization of statistics on the Millennium Development Goals at the national, regional and international levels.
- Raise awareness of the measures that international and regional agencies have been adopting to make the information they use on the Millennium Development Goals and their imputation methods more transparent.
- Foster the strengthening of inter-agency coordination mechanisms through the active participation of all actors involved in the statistical processes related to the indicators and national reports on the Millennium Development Goals.
- Generate a better understanding of the origin of the statistics used at the international level by compiling a data sheet for each country, which would subsequently be sent to the coordinator of the working group for analysis and to be used as the basis for a report.

5.2.3. Improve communication between member countries by incorporating the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs).

- Set up a collaborative website for the working group to coordinate remotely the activities defined for the next biennium.

- Exchange documents and organize technical debates to improve collaboration and joint efforts among the focal points of the national statistical offices of the working group's member countries.

5.2.4. Promote, facilitate and carry out training activities, in close coordination with the Knowledge Transfer Network, on general and specific statistical themes relating to the Millennium Development Goals, with a view to strengthening the technical capacities of national statistical offices and the respective national sectoral bodies in relation to preparing national reports.

5.2.5. Planning, management and identification of financial resources.

5.2.5.1. The management and planning activities include:

- Prepare a work plan for the group, led by the coordinator and in conjunction with the technical secretariat.
- Hold at least one face-to-face meeting to evaluate the activities carried out during the current biennium (2012-2013) and to adjust the activities and timeline proposed for outstanding tasks, as well as to propose initial action lines for the biennium 2014-2015.
- Administer and maintain the content on the collaborative website, with a view to ensuring fluid communication between the different members of the group; organize online meetings and technical debates.

5.2.5.2. Identifying and channelling financial resources through the following steps:

- Consult with countries, through the forum, to formulate fundraising strategies.
- Identify possible sources of resources and donors.
- Manage projects with donors.

## 6. PROGRESS MADE TO DATE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE AIMS OUTLINED IN SECTION 5:

The Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, created at the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC held in Santiago in June 2005, has made solid progress towards achieving several of its aims and has completed most of its planned activities for the period. Nevertheless, the working group recognizes that further progress is needed in some areas and has identified some challenges that should be reflected in its objectives and activities for the next biennium.

The positive outcomes have been bolstered thanks to the work of Argentina in its role as coordinator of the working group, improved coordination between Argentina and the technical secretariat, and the high level of commitment that countries have demonstrated by participating in and financing attendance at the meetings of the working group. The first objective for the period on improving coordination between ECLAC and Argentina as the coordinator of the working group has thus been met fully.

Another factor that has enabled the working group to make steady progress on its objectives is the ECLAC statistical programme on the Millennium Development Goals, which has been working for several years on action lines that intersect with the objectives of the working group. As a result, a regional

knowledge base has been built up and the additional financial resources available, though limited, have facilitated studies and meetings in the region.

#### 6.1. Aims under the plan of work for 2009-2011:

- General aims

Three of the four meetings held by the working group were in Buenos Aires, organized by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, with the support of ECLAC. The fourth meeting was held in San José, organized by the United Nations Statistics Division, with the support of ECLAC, the National Statistics and Census Institute and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica.

These meetings aimed to address fully the working group's agenda; to evaluate the activities carried out during the present biennium, adjust the group's approach and define new objectives; to reach an agreement on the content of the report on activities of the current biennium; and to review the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas on improving the operating modalities of the working groups.

The meetings were as follows:

- Second meeting of countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC on monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, held in Buenos Aires on 14 and 15 July 2011.
  - Organizer: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, with the support of ECLAC.
  - Aims: Compile proposals for activities for the biennium 2012-2013 to be submitted for consideration at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, in November 2011. The participants discussed the working group's agenda, in particular the challenges and priorities in relation to the Millennium Development Goals, both at the national and regional levels.
- Workshop on monitoring the progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals, held in San José from 31 January to 3 February 2011.
  - Organizer: United Nations Statistics Division, with the support of ECLAC, the National Statistics and Census Institute of Costa Rica and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy of Costa Rica.
  - Aims: This event had a predominantly Central American focus. It successfully brought together producers of information from the countries involved and specialists from the international agencies responsible for developing the Millennium Development Goal indicators at the global level to discuss the discrepancies between national and international data on MDG indicators.
- Regional seminar on the advances and challenges in relation to statistical reconciliation for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires on 5 and 6 November 2009.
  - Organizer: Statistics Division of ECLAC, in conjunction with the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, and with financial support from the regional public goods programme of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
  - Aims: Continue discussing the statistical aspects of monitoring progress on the Millennium Development Goals addressed at the four previous regional workshops

(Santo Domingo, 2005 and 2008; Santiago, 2006; and Bogotá, 2007); and pursue the topics raised at the first meeting of countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC on monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, organized by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, and held from 28 to 30 September 2009 in Buenos Aires.

- First meeting of countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC on monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, held in Buenos Aires from 28 to 30 September 2009.
  - Organizer: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, with financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
  - Aims: Evaluate the activities carried out during the biennium, adjust the group's approach, define new objectives and reach an agreement on the content of the activities report for the current biennium.

The next section details the progress made on the aims outlined in section 5 at the above meetings.

- The following presentations correspond to the fulfilment of aim 5.1.2 on strengthening the statistical capacities of the national statistical offices:
  - Establishing a national Millennium Development Goal monitoring system: current situation and planning the next country report. Presentations by: Luis Di Pietro, National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies, Argentina; Ricardo Rodríguez, Department for the Development of Better International Practices, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico; Luis Gerónimo Reyes Verde, National Institute of Statistics, Office of the President, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and Octavio Herrera, Director, Provincial Department of Statistics of the Province of Jujuy, Argentina.
- The following presentations correspond to the fulfilment of aim 5.1.3 on statistical reconciliation:
  - Typologies of discrepancies and reconciliation measures for Millennium Development Goal statistics, Rayén Quiroga, ECLAC.
  - Situation in the Caribbean countries: progress in the project on strengthening statistical capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals in the Caribbean countries, Karoline Schmid, ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean.
  - Defining good practices on statistical reconciliation in relation to the Millennium Development Goals, Pauline Stockins, ECLAC.
  - Typologies of discrepancies and statistical reconciliation measures in relation to the Millennium Development Goal indicators in the field of education, Daniel Taccari, ECLAC.
  - Activities undertaken by the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation and the harmonization of methodologies in Latin America and the Caribbean, Guiomar Bay, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC.
  - Millennium Development Goal 7: discrepancies and paths towards statistical reconciliation in Latin America and the Caribbean”, Rayén Quiroga, ECLAC.
  - Strengthening national capacities in relation to employment indicators: the International Labour Organization and its actions to promote regional harmonization, Jacobo Velasco, International Labour Organization.
  - Strengthening national capacities in relation to health indicators: the World Health Organization and its actions to promote towards regional harmonization, Alejandro Giusti, World Health Organization.

- “Activities undertaken by FAO in connection with the Global Forest Resources Assessment with a view to boosting capacities and generating statistics on forests”, Mr. Jorge Meza (Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)).
- As part of these activities, the following working documents were used as the basis for discussions:
  - Good practices in statistical reconciliation in relation to the Millennium Development Goals. Progress in monitoring and reporting on indicators for the Millennium Development Goals by the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
  - Statistical reconciliation measures in selected thematic areas: general framework.
  - Typologies of discrepancies and statistical reconciliation measures for the poverty indicators of the Millennium Development Goals.
  - Typologies of discrepancies and statistical reconciliation measures for the education indicators of the Millennium Development Goals.
  - Some considerations regarding the typologies of discrepancies and statistical reconciliation measures for the child mortality indicators of the Millennium Development Goals.
  - Statistical reconciliation between national, regional and global sources for the environmental indicators of the Millennium Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- With a view to using the scarce financial resources available more efficiently, another action line aiming to foster statistical reconciliation was the organization of special sessions during regional meetings on specific thematic areas to discuss Millennium Development Goal indicators. This thematic approach to the different dimensions of the Millennium Development Goals benefited from the attendance of producers and users of statistics relevant to each issue. The following meetings were held in this connection:
  - Meeting of Directors of Statistics. Practices for improving the quality of mortality data and harmonization of the indicators for Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5: two discussion forums, held in Lima on 28 and 29 April 2010.
    - Organizers: Pan American Health Organization and ECLAC.
    - Aim: To discuss two recurring issues that are already being addressed or that are being included in the design of strategic plans in all countries: (a) the definition of practices to improve the coverage and quality of mortality statistics at the local level (the basis on which the Millennium Development Goal indicators are monitored); and (b) the discrepancies and gaps between the levels for the indicators produced by countries and those obtained by international agencies.
    - This event served as a forum for discussion on monitoring the indicators for Goals 4 and 5 and the following presentations were given:
      - ✓ Statistical programme on the Millennium Development Goals of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. Action lines. Daniel Taccari, ECLAC.
      - ✓ Discrepancies in the production of indicators for Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. Pauline Stockins, ECLAC, and Magda Ruiz, CELADE – Population Division of ECLAC.
  - Sixth Workshop on Measuring the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 21 to 23 September 2010.
    - Organizers: Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC) and ECLAC.

- Aims:
  - ✓ (1) Assess the progress made and identify synergies and innovative projects in relation to the measurement of information and communications technology (ICT).
  - ✓ (2) Discuss the challenges facing the region in relation to developing and implementing ICT indicators.
  - ✓ (3) Discuss a proposal for collaborative work to improve statistical processes with a view to supporting the design and monitoring of public policies.
  - ✓ (4) Present examples from countries with experience in the use of ICT indicators for implementing digital agendas and/or national observatories.
  - ✓ (5) Compile suggestions for the formulation of indicators for the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015).
  - ✓ (6) Discuss and share experiences on preparing ICT indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals.
  - ✓ (7) Plan the future activities of the working group, including activities to monitor progress on the information society in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The following presentations were given at a special session during the event:
  - ✓ Monitoring and reporting on the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean: action lines of the statistical programme on the Millennium Development Goals of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, Daniel Taccari, ECLAC.
  - ✓ Inter-agency coordination on monitoring ICT indicators for the Millennium Development Goals, Pauline Stockins, ECLAC.
  - ✓ Towards a proposal for complementary ICT indicators for monitoring progress in relation to Millennium Development Goal target 8F in the region, Mariana Balboni, ECLAC.
- Eleventh international meeting on gender statistics and public policies based on empirical evidence, held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 28 to 30 September 2010.
  - Organizers: National Women's Institute (INMUJERES), National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).
  - Aim: To provide a forum in which to exchange experiences and discuss progress in methodological and conceptual matters, as well as the analysis and use of gender statistics in public policies.
  - Although the working group was not able to organize a special session on the Millennium Development Goals during the event, valuable conclusions were drawn at the meeting, which are contained in the final report.
  - At a round table held during the meeting, participants discussed the challenges facing national statistical offices in implementing the work programme of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. At this event, statements were made by Jorge Leitón from the National Statistical Institute of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Patricia Delvó from the National Statistics and Census Institute of Costa Rica, Norma Saavedra from National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico and Daniel Petetta from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina.

- Regarding the fulfilment of aims 5.1.4 and 5.1.5 on the formulation and identification of fundraising strategies, the following topics were discussed in the plenary sessions of the working group:
  - Sources of financing for the planned activities.
  - The strategy for following up and monitoring implementation of the plan with a view to reporting to the Statistical Conference of the Americas.
- The fulfilment of aim 5.1.6 on identifying discrepancies between national and international sources has led to the preparation of several documents that are intended to further the development of strategies and mechanisms for statistical reconciliation in Millennium Development Goal indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean. These documents highlight three issues to consider in order to understand the differences in data availability and the discrepancies between the values reported by national and international sources:
  - The gaps in information in national reports are attributable in large part to the incipient development of statistical systems in some countries in the region. The situation varies in relation to the different topics and is most worrying in connection with emerging issues, such as the environment or information technology, on which the least progress has been observed, with official statistical series yet to be published for several indicators and countries (see Irene Azócar, Rayén Quiroga and Pauline Stockins, “Vacíos y discrepancias estadísticas en los indicadores ODM: hacia una estrategia regional de conciliación estadística para América Latina y el Caribe”, *Estudios Estadísticos y Prospectivos series*, No. 70 (LC/L.3176-P), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC, 2010).
  - The second issue to consider relates to the structure of national reports. Countries are required to report data for a base year (1990) and the year of the report to assess the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal targets. They are not required to submit data series for the entire period and, therefore, many countries do not report more detailed data, even when they are available. One of the recommendations made in this connection is to include a statistical annex to the national reports on the Millennium Development Goals with a view to shedding light on the situation with regard to the Millennium Development Goal indicators and the statistical work being carried out in countries.
  - A third situation that explains the difference in the availability of data from national and international sources is that, given the paucity of information provided by countries, international agencies estimate or model the data and the observations in the database on the Millennium Development Goal indicators are therefore often approximate values that have not been obtained directly using data collection instruments (such as surveys or monitoring stations) in the respective countries (see Simone Cecchini and Irene Azócar “Indicadores de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en América Latina y el Caribe: una comparación entre datos nacionales e internacionales”, *Estudios Estadísticos y Prospectivos series*, No. 53 (LC/L.2767-P), Santiago, Chile, ECLAC, 2007).

## 6.2. Aims under the plan of work for 2012-2013:

The working group reviewed its objectives and planned activities and presented its new aims and plan of work for the biennium 2012-2013 at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (Bávaro, Dominican Republic). That new plan is currently being implemented.

To date (April 2013), two of the four meetings initially envisaged under the programme of activities have been held. These meetings aimed to address fully the working group’s agenda, to evaluate



the activities carried out during the present biennium, adjust the group's approach, define new objectives, reach an agreement on the content of the report on activities of the current biennium and review the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas on improving the operating modalities of the working groups. The findings in this respect are included in 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 (LC/L.3285(CE.10/4)).

The following meetings that were included in the plan of work have been held:

- Inter-regional Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Indicators Meeting: Sharing knowledge to improve MDG monitoring and reporting, held in Santiago on 15 and 16 May 2012.
  - Organizers: ECLAC, together with the other four United Nations regional commissions: the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).
  - Aim: To exchange best practices in the production, monitoring and reporting of Millennium Development Goal indicators, in addition to addressing different statistical issues in relation to the Goals.
- Indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City on 1 and 2 December 2011.
  - Organizers: ECLAC and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, with the participation of the working group's coordinator (Argentina) and several international agencies (International Labour Organization, Pan American Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund and United Nations Children's Fund).
  - Aim: Continue discussing the statistical aspects of monitoring progress on the Millennium Development Goals addressed at the five previous regional workshops (Santo Domingo, 2005 and 2008; Santiago, 2006; Bogotá, 2007; and Buenos Aires, 2009), analysing the Millennium Development Goal monitoring processes in terms of the production of information, the use of international reference standards and regional efforts to pursue statistical reconciliation.
- The following presentations were given in relation to the fulfilment of aim 5.2.1 on promoting the development of official statistics for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and aim 5.2.2 on strengthening national coordination mechanisms:
  - Presentations on the implementation of national coordination mechanisms aimed at improving the monitoring and reporting of Millennium Development Goal indicators were given by Waleed Baqer, Ministry of Human Rights and Social Development of the Kingdom of Bahrain; Simil Johnson, Vanuatu National Statistics Office; and Laura Rodríguez, INDEC, Argentina.
  - Representatives from many countries spoke on different topics associated with the Millennium Development Goals; a list of these presentations can be found online at: [http://www.eclac.cl/MDG/noticias/seminarios/7/46637/Agenda\\_MAY\\_MDG\\_Meeting.pdf](http://www.eclac.cl/MDG/noticias/seminarios/7/46637/Agenda_MAY_MDG_Meeting.pdf).
  - The presentations on the following website may also be consulted in connection with improving inter-agency coordination on the production and dissemination of statistics on the Millennium Development Goals: <http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/MDG/noticias/seminarios/5/45185/P45185.xml&xsl=/MDG/tpl/p36f.xsl&base=/MDG/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>.

- In fulfilment of aim 5.2.3 on improving communication between the member countries of the working group by incorporating the use of information and communications technologies into its operations, the working group decided that setting up an online forum for virtual interaction was key to increasing countries' involvement and harmonizing their participation, while at the same time making that participation more efficient. This action was intended to help meet one of the objectives for this biennium (2012-2013) of promoting and facilitating contact between the member of the working group, thus putting into practice one of the recommendations of the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas on improving the operating modalities of the working groups by increasingly incorporating information and communications technologies (ICTs) into their operations.
- This platform, designed by the coordinator as a virtual forum for interacting with the focal points of the working group's member countries, was deployed in the second quarter of 2012. Although the development of this tool marked a significant step forward in terms of incorporating ICTs, in practice member countries continue to exhibit a preference for other means of communication, such as e-mail. For this reason, it was agreed that ECLAC, as technical secretariat, would foster exchange through this medium during the current year by uploading all documentation and material on activities related to goal 5.2.2.2 (move towards addressing statistical discrepancies) and goal 5.2.1.5 (production of indicators at the subnational level).

#### Outstanding activities planned for 2013

- The technical secretariat of the working group suggested postponing until 2013 two activities that were planned for the last quarter of 2012. This reprogramming was necessary in the light of staff changes in the Statistics Division of ECLAC. The first of these activities will now take place during the second quarter of 2013, organized by ECLAC with the support of the working group's coordinator. It will consist of a seminar with selected countries in order to create opportunities for discussion on regional production and harmonization of Millennium Development Goal indicators (aim 5.2.1.1). The second activity will be a meeting held regularly by ECLAC convening the directors of the national statistical offices in the region aiming to promote the strengthening of statistical capacities of national statistical offices (aim 5.2.1.2) in relation to monitoring and reporting on the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This meeting will take place during the second half of 2013.
- With specific regard to the goal associated with the promotion of subnational indicators (aim 5.2.1.5), the coordinator of the working group has been developing, within the framework of the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Statistics (REES) and in conjunction with the other members of the regional bloc, the instruments needed to prepare an inventory of statistical operations with a view to creating a catalogue of the information sources available in each country. The tools to compile this inventory (data collection forms, platform for uploading and storing data, classification of statistical operations, module for the submission of queries and the presentation of data) are intended for use in all MERCOSUR countries. In line with the aim of creating synergies with existing institutional actors in the region in order to make efficient use of resources, the coordinator has suggested that the members of the working group take these tools into consideration as they offer an excellent opportunity to accelerate progress towards the preparation of an inventory of statistical operations and a catalogue of the sources of information available for the production of Millennium Development Goal indicators at the subnational level. In order to enable member

countries to review these tools and transmit their comments, the coordinator will provide them with access through the collaborative website (<http://www.indec.gov.ar/foro/odm>) to the documentation prepared for the meeting of the MERCOSUR working group on the statistical operations inventory, held in Buenos Aires in March 2013.

- In relation to the aim of promoting and facilitating training activities on the production and use of statistics relating to the Millennium Development Goals (aim 5.2.4), the working group will prepare an online course and a subsequent follow-up course which participants will attend in person. For the online course, actions are being coordinated with the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS), which is responsible for preparing the country report for Argentina. The course and the virtual platform for its delivery will be designed by INDEC. The follow-up on-site course will be arranged if the necessary financial resources are obtained. The technical secretariat of the working group will take steps to identify resources and donors. If the initiative comes to fruition, it will be implemented through the Knowledge Transfer Network.

7. APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL FUNDING FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS:

- To date, the working group has not applied for international funding to carry out its projects, as such funding has not been necessary to fulfil its aims for the period under consideration. Nevertheless, the working group will soon submit to ECLAC an application for funding for the training activities on statistics on the Millennium Development Goals associated with the on-site meeting in 2013.

8. SOURCES OF FINANCING FOR THE WORKING GROUP'S ACTIVITIES:

- The working group's activities, in particular the face-to-face meetings have been funded from three sources: self-financing by the member countries, INDEC, in its capacity as the country coordinator of the working group, and ECLAC.

9. NUMBER OF WORKING GROUP MEETINGS CONDUCTED BY VIDEOCONFERENCE OR SIMILAR MEDIA IN 2009-2012:

- No meetings were conducted by videoconference or similar media during the period. The online forum which was set up for exchanging experiences has seen minimal activity so far, but is expected to be used increasingly this year.

10. WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES COORDINATED OR DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK:

- Since the training platform has not yet been developed, no activities were disseminated through the Knowledge Transfer Network during the period under consideration. However, a training course that is currently in the design stage will be disseminated through the Knowledge Transfer Network in due course.

11. ONLINE TRAINING ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED OR COORDINATED BY THE WORKING GROUP:

- Various online activities are currently being planned for implementation during the period under way.

12. MAIN STRENGTHS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Transfer of technical and methodological capacities to all countries of the region.
- High level of involvement in developing the proposed objectives.
- Completion of most of the planned activities in accordance with the proposed schedule.
- Preparation of high-quality reports that are reviewed by the members of the working group and sent to the countries of the region.
- Ability to generate synergies and raise awareness within and between national statistical offices and guide their progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Exchange of experiences (methodologies, approaches, knowledge) among the members of the working group.
- Incorporation and use of ICTs in the development and dissemination of activities: collaborative online forum and website.

13. MAIN WEAKNESSES OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Overambitious targets were set on which relevant action could not be taken, specifically with regard to aim 5.2.1.3 on technical assistance missions and aim 5.2.1.4. on proposals to develop complementary indicators.
- The uneven allocation of resources by member countries to the working group has led, at times, to difficulties and delays in interactions with designated focal points.
- The need to improve and strengthen digital communication between the statistical institutes of the member countries, promoting better communication via the Internet by leveraging and optimizing the use of information and communications technology (ICT).
- At the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference, held in Bogotá in November 2007, a decision was taken to exclude the statistical measurement of poverty from the working group's strategic action lines, even though that topic had earlier been included. This weakens the adoption of a uniform and effective systemic approach by the working group precisely because tackling poverty is the first Millennium Development Goal and represents a cross-cutting issue that affects all of the other Millennium Development Goals.
- Differences in the resources available to each national statistical office and the decisions regarding their allocation limit the pace at which the proposed improvements to the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals can be made.

14. GOALS AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS:

1. Prepare a catalogue of the information sources available in each country for the production of Millennium Development Goal indicators at the subnational level.
2. Publish international metadata on the ECLAC Millennium Development Goal website.
3. Report on the typologies of discrepancies and statistical reconciliation measures for selected thematic areas, goals, targets and indicators.
4. Prepare an inventory of information flows between different national and international organizations on the Millennium Development Goal indicators. The coordinator of the working group, with the support of the other members and the technical secretariat, will be responsible for analysing the data and compiling the inventory.

5. Web page on the main activities of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals as part of the ECLAC Millennium Development Goals website.
6. Plan of work for the working group (final draft submitted to the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC at its sixth meeting in November 2011).
7. Report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals for the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.
8. Progress report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals for the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.
9. Report on the findings of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in respect of the activities for the current biennium and proposed actions lines for the biennium 2014-2015.

15. INDICATE WHETHER THE CURRENT OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE REVISED:

The aim on preparing a catalogue of the information sources available in each country for the production of Millennium Development Goals indicators at the subnational level should be revised in view of the activities being carried out by the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Statistics. In that connection, rather than compiling a new inventory of statistical operations, it would be more synergetic to revise the stated objective and to leverage the experience of MERCOSUR by encouraging the members of the working group to examine the documents, tools and outcomes of the working group of the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Statistics, with a view to promoting their use by other interested countries in the region.

16. ESTIMATED TIME FRAME FOR FULFILLING THE AIMS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

Within the planned time frame.

17. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUP IN TERMS OF THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATOR, MEMBER COUNTRIES, WORK PROGRAMME AND OTHER ASPECTS:

- Encourage the member countries to pursue active, synergetic and coordinated collaboration with other groups in the region in order to strengthen efforts and maximize resources.
- Promote the identification of sources of financing in order to sustain the working group's activities over time.

18. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON IMPROVING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORKING GROUPS:

- None.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO THE WORK OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIES OF THE OTHER WORKING GROUPS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES:

- None.

## 20. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

General remarks on the post-2015 agenda:

- Since 20 March 2013, INDEC, as a member of the Inter-agency Commission on Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (CIS-ODM), has been participating in establishing a foundation for the post-2015 agenda based on a proposal prepared by the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS) for the consideration of the members of the Inter-agency Commission.

The general introduction to the document containing the proposal for the design of the post-2015 agenda highlights the following:

“As the year 2015 draws near, it is important to assess not only whether the Millennium Development Goals have already been met, but whether countries are on track to meet them in the near future and to identify the new challenges that are arising. Only on the basis of this evaluation will it be possible to define a post-2015 development agenda that will consolidate achievements, rectify some of the shortcomings identified and reflect the lessons learned.

In this regard, preparing a post-2015 agenda calls for a prior consensus-building process involving actors from all levels, the identification of outstanding issues and short- and medium-term challenges, and how to address them.

The agenda will require the adoption of a rights-based perspective, reflecting the need for equitable and inclusive development combined with sustainable, social progress. A comprehensive approach must be taken, taking account of the level of complexity of the institutional framework in place, in order for the proposed strategy to be implemented.”

In line with the discussions taking place in Argentina and other countries in the region on the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goal indicators in the last biennium before 2015 and on the post-2015 agenda, the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals has set itself the following objectives to be met by the end of the current period: "Hold at least one face-to-face meeting to evaluate the activities carried out during the current biennium (2012-2013) and to adjust the activities and timeline proposed for outstanding tasks, as well as to propose initial action lines for work to be carried out during the 2014-2015 biennium”.

- Furthermore, at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010, governments urged not only that progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals should be accelerated, but also that measures should be devised to promote the United Nations development agenda after 2015, giving rise to the current discussions on the United Nations post-2015 development agenda. Consistent with this approach, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) initiated an intergovernmental process to define a set of Sustainable Development Goals. It urged that an open working group should be established to formulate global sustainable development goals which would be submitted for consideration by the United Nations General Assembly. Above all, those goals should: address and incorporate in a balanced way the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) and the relationships between them.
- The discussions within the working group on the post-2015 development agenda are reflected in the presentations that were prepared for session 7 (First steps towards defining a post-2015 monitoring framework) of the sixth Regional Seminar on Indicators for the Millennium Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico, 2011) (see [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/MDG/noticias/seminarios/5/45185/P45185.xml&xsl=/MDG/tpl/p36f.xsl&base=/MDG/tpl/top-bottom.xsl>).