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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL
STATISTICAL WORK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN,
JUNE 2001-JUNE 2003**

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BACKGROUND

1. The establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA-ECLAC) as a subsidiary body of ECLAC has been an especially significant milestone in the work to advance statistical policies and activities in the region.
2. All of the member countries of ECLAC are members of the Conference, and ECLAC acts as the Secretariat, providing support and follow-up on the decisions adopted at the meetings of the Conference and at meetings of its Executive Committee. The agreements of SCA-ECLAC are binding in nature. This means that they are commitments that the countries agree to implement on the terms and within the deadlines agreed upon.
3. In this context, and in accordance with the terms of reference contained in Resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, in which the United Nations Economic and Social Council approved the proposal for its establishment, the Conference, at its first meeting held from 9 to 11 May 2001, approved the programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, which is to be implemented from June 2001 to June 2003. It was also established that the programme would be subject to regular reviews which would allow any biases that might occur in the course of implementation to be corrected in a timely manner.
4. The programme of international statistical work thus represents the first formal commitment of the governments of the member states in their capacity as members of SCA-ECLAC. The programme is designed to strengthen the statistical capacity of the region, systematically and in accordance with previously agreed objectives. With a view to this, the Conference established working priorities and defined flexible institutional means in order to make optimal use of the governments' capacities in this regard.
5. The programme takes into account the particular features of the regional statistical development process within the current global context. It is thus consistent with the framework of actions and recommendations adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in relation to the latest progress in methodologies, preparation of manuals, meetings of expert groups and plans for new initiatives in international statistical work. It also refers to a set of initiatives geared towards strengthening the capacity for generating official statistical data, which includes the Programme for the Improvement of Surveys and the Measurement of Living Conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI), the cooperation agreements between the European Union and various countries in the region, Partnerships in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), and the programmes for data dissemination and quality of statistical information backed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

INTRODUCTION

6. Further to the provisions of the resolution establishing the Conference, and to the agreements adopted at its first meeting, the Secretariat of SCA-ECLAC puts to the consideration of its Executive Committee the present report on progress in implementing the programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003.

7. This report contains a follow-up to the commitments undertaken, which was prepared by means of a joint effort on the part of governments, regional and international agencies and the ECLAC secretariat. In this connection, the Conference requested the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to include in the report on the activities of the programme of work a summary of progress made with regard to the planned activities, in order to monitor the course of the work more closely.

8. The present report covers the period from June 2001 to June 2003. It has been prepared according to the structure used in the programme of work and each of its subprogrammes: adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA); environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation; indicators on social variables and well-being; and dissemination of information. In addition, this report covers a number of activities conducted in the region which, though they did not originally figure in the programme of work, are directly related to it.

9. Moreover, efforts have been made to identify those activities related to the Millennium Declaration in the region, further to the agreement reached at the first meeting of the Executive Committee to use that document as a framework to steer the programme of international statistical work.

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)

Element 1.1: Providing access to technical documentation for those responsible for 1993 SNA and for producers of basic statistics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

10. During the period under consideration, ECLAC has continued to distribute the available technical documentation, in both English and Spanish, to the countries of the region. In particular, it has responded to requests from national statistical offices and central banks, and distributed documents in both printed and electronic form. ECLAC is also continuing to disseminate the Spanish version of 1993 SNA, over the Internet and as a compact disc.

11. The translation into Spanish of the manual *Construire les comptes de la Nation* has been completed, using cooperation funding from the Government of France. The French document was prepared with technical support from the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of France (INSEE), and financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT). Initially, ECLAC will distribute the manual in electronic form, but will also arrange for reproduction of the printed version, for which a contract has been signed with the

Alfaomega publishing house of Colombia. Distribution is expected to take place in the second semester of 2003.

12. At the end of 2001, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the Spanish-language version of the manual on quarterly national accounts and began its distribution. ECLAC continued to distribute, in printed and electronic format, the available material on quarterly national accounts, together with the technical guidelines adopted by the countries of the region for their implementation.

13. ECLAC has included on its web site the meeting reports of the group of CPI experts from the MERCOSUR countries, Bolivia and Chile. Also published on the ECLAC web site is a document on the methodology used in the pilot test of the harmonized CPIs. This document was prepared by the group at the end of the first stage of the harmonization project which was concluded in August 2001.

14. Through its Internet web site, ECLAC is continuing to distribute the Spanish version of the publication SNA News and Notes, which is translated with the assistance of the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI) of Mexico. In addition, agreements were reached with the United Nations Statistics Division to provide access to the Spanish version of the newsletter on classifications (<http://www.eclac.cl/deype/publicaciones/>).

Element 1.2: Follow-up and support of the 1993 SNA implementation process and of efforts to improve the production of basic statistics

15. In relation to the process of implementing 1993 SNA, ECLAC, using the information collected in 2000, prepared the document "Progress in implementing the system of national accounts 1993 (1993 SNA) in Latin America and the Caribbean" for 2000-2001, which was sent to the national statistical offices and the central banks of the region. In 2002, on the occasion of the Latin American seminar on progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA System of National Accounts in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (more detailed information on the seminar is provided in paragraph 20), a questionnaire on progress in this area was distributed to the country representatives. The results of the questionnaire were included as an annex in the final report of the seminar.

16. ECLAC also prepared the final version of the document "Los sistemas estadísticos como base para la implementación del SCN 1993", which evaluates the existing organization and production of basic statistics for the preparation of national accounts. The document was based on an extensive questionnaire and the replies received by the end of November 2000. Although a particular effort was made to field as many replies as possible, only 13 countries responded to the questionnaire.

17. The work on updating the Directory of National Accounts Experts for the Latin American and Caribbean countries has been continued. In addition, the Directory of Experts on External Trade Statistics is now being disseminated via the web page of the Division of Statistics and Economic Projections of ECLAC. Both directories may be consulted at the ECLAC web site (<http://www.eclac.cl/deype/enlaces/>).

Element 1.3: Sharing of experience and training of national accounts experts and producers of basic statistics related to 1993 SNA

18. At the request of the governments of Ecuador and Panama, ECLAC has provided assistance to those countries in selecting experts to work on the implementation of 1993 SNA. It also continues to administer the technical cooperation project entitled "Improving the national accounting system and the compilation of basic statistics in Panama" (PAN/93/002). In 2002, ECLAC continued a programme of

cooperation activities in Panama for improving the national accounting system by means of expert technical assistance and the participation of national experts in workshops and seminars on national accounts.

19. ECLAC, jointly with the Central Bank of Chile and with the collaboration and participation of the United Nations Statistics Division, organized a regional seminar on the uses of national accounts at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from 12 to 15 November 2001. Eighteen of the region's countries were represented at the event. The agenda of the seminar included items relating to analysis of the areas describing the goods and services accounts and institutional sector accounts, and to annual and quarterly accounts analysis.

20. At the regional seminar mentioned in the paragraph above, it was agreed that the main subject of the next seminar on national accounts would be progress in the implementation of 1993 SNA in the countries of Latin America. Further to this agreement, ECLAC, jointly with the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic and with the collaboration and participation of the United Nations Statistics Division, organized the "Latin American Seminar: Progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA System of National Accounts in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean", which was held at the facilities of the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic in Santo Domingo, from 26 to 29 November 2002. The seminar was attended by representatives of 18 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Mexico, the ECLAC Office in Buenos Aires, the Secretariat of the Andean Community, and by experts who advised countries in the region in the implementation of 1993 SNA. The final report of this seminar is available at the following web site: <http://www.ec.ac.cl/deype/>.

21. In relation to the regional seminar on incorporating the classifications and definitions recommended in the System of National Accounts 1993, ECLAC proposed to the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Bolivia that the scope of the seminar be limited to the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and the Central Product Classification (CPC), and that the seminar be held in June 2002. It was not possible to hold the seminar on the date envisaged, however, due to problems of agenda and availability of financial resources.

22. The National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru, jointly with ECLAC, organized a regional seminar on household surveys as a source of information for the preparation of the household consumption account, from 17 to 21 September 2002, at the facilities of INEI in Lima, Peru (more detailed information is provided in paragraph 82).

23. The Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA), with the support of a number of countries and international agencies, organized a training programme which includes four courses in the following areas: national accounts, external debt statistics, methodology of the fifth edition of the IMF balance of payments manual, and monetary and financial statistics. These activities were carried out in accordance with the published schedule.

24. The European Training Centre for Economic Statisticians of Developing Countries (CESD) of Madrid and the National Statistical Office (INE) of Spain carried out the training activities programmed for the year 2001 by the General Assembly of CESD held in Madrid. These included seminars and courses in Spain, as well as in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru. In order to complete the schedule of activities initially included in the current programme of international statistical work, the programme of activities for 2002 was also made available to the countries.

25. The seminar on methodologies for construction statistics, which is being organized by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, could not be held on either the originally scheduled date of August 2001 or the postponed date of August 2002, owing to scheduling and financial problems. At the seminar on national accounts scheduled for October 2003, which ECLAC will organize jointly with the Central Bank of Uruguay, part of the agenda will be devoted to the subject of methodologies for construction statistics. DANE has agreed to arrange a presentation on its experience in this area.

26. With respect to the offer made by ECLAC to assist requesting national agencies that have the requisite funding available to organize and run training courses and workshops on national accounts and basic statistics, thus far no specific requests have been received from the countries in this regard. ECLAC has taken the initiative of preparing certain seminars, however (which will be described in the course of this report).

Element 1.4: Improvement, extension and harmonization of the production of basic statistics, and macrostatistical prices and schemes

27. In 2003 ECLAC intends to conduct a new round of annual surveys on progress in implementing 1993 SNA.

28. As provided in the programme of work, when the Spanish-language version of the “Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services”, which is being prepared by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts, becomes available, the Division of Statistics and Economic Projections and the Division of International Trade and Integration of ECLAC will seek the support of a developed country statistical office experienced in this regard and of countries in the region that have acquired experience to organize a regional programme for the improvement of statistics on international trade in services.

29. Bearing in mind the importance of tourism as an economic activity in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and with the aim of providing more extensive support to the countries of the region in the development of tourism statistics, ECLAC signed an inter-agency collaboration agreement with WTO for the implementation of joint activities relating to tourism satellite accounts and the construction of measuring indicators for tourist activity in Latin America and the Caribbean. This agreement was signed in the first quarter of 2003.

30. ECLAC, with the cooperation of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the State Secretariat of Commerce and Tourism and the National Statistical Office of Spain, held the first Latin American workshop on key issues in tourism satellite accounts at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 4 October 2001. Nineteen countries of the region were represented at this workshop. One of its main conclusions was the need for greater coordination between the official agencies involved in the preparation of the tourism satellite account. The report, together with the conclusions and recommendations from the workshop, are available on the ECLAC web site. In addition, ECLAC, with the cooperation of the WTO, the Institute of Tourism Studies of Spain, the National Statistical Office of Spain and the Spanish Technical Cooperation Agency’s Training Centre in Cartagena de Indias, organized the fourth Ibero-American Tourism Satellite Account Meeting, from 25 to 28 June 2002, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. The agenda and further information about this meeting are available on the ECLAC web site. The report of this seminar was distributed by ECLAC to the participants in the event and to the authorities of national statistical offices and of central banks in the region.

31. The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, the World Tourism Organization, and the Canadian Tourism Commission organized the workshop "Tourism statistics and the preparation of the tourism satellite account", which took place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 24 to 26 March 2003. This seminar was attended by representatives from the statistical offices and national tourism organizations of seven countries in the region, the statistics department of CARICOM, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and the Caribbean Tourism Commission. This was the first meeting organized by the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC for the English-speaking Caribbean and was also the first meeting in this subregion on the specific topic of tourism statistics. The participants recognized, inter alia, the need for greater coordination among the institutions responsible for producing data relating to the tourism sector, the need to encourage the development of basic statistics and surveys as information sources for the preparation of tourism statistics, and the need for a greater awareness of the mechanisms through which the tourism sector operates in order to facilitate the measurement of activity.

32. In the second quarter of 2003, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean organized a special expert meeting for the purpose of analysing the production of statistics by the national statistical offices of the Caribbean. The discussion was based on the document "*The Production of Statistical Data and Information in the Caribbean... Proposals for increasing efficiency in this sphere*" (LC/CAR/G.701), prepared by the Subregional Headquarters.

33. ECLAC and INEGI of Mexico had agreed to organize a maximum of two regional meetings during the biennium in order to exchange experiences with agricultural censuses. As INEGI did not carry out the scheduled census, however, it was decided to postpone that activity.

34. The National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala began preparatory consultations to promote coordination and statistical cooperation with the Central American countries and Panama, within the framework of PARIS21. In this regard, PARIS21, in collaboration with the Salvadoran authorities, and with co-sponsorship from ECLAC, IDB and SICA, organized a subregional workshop for the Central American countries, with a view to strengthening their statistical capacity. This workshop was held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 7 to 9 May 2003.

35. In the framework of the statistical cooperation project between the European Union, MERCOSUR and Chile, the activities scheduled for the ten working groups on methodological harmonization were carried out, including the training modules. The final activity for this project was completed in November 2002 at a meeting held at the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) of Brazil, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

36. In late 2001, a memorandum of understanding was signed between EUROSTAT and ECLAC with a view to increasing the coordination of statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, by establishing channels for cooperation between the two parties and facilitating mutual participation between the working groups, conferences and seminars carried out by each. Each institution was to undertake the costs of its own participation in those activities. In this regard, ECLAC participated in the project on harmonization of CPIs in the MERCOSUR countries and Chile.

37. The first phase of the project on harmonization of consumer price indices in the countries of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile was concluded in August 2001. The reports of the meetings held and the methodological document that describes the results of the pilot test of the harmonized CPIs are available on the ECLAC web site. The next stages of the harmonization project will take place in the framework of the statistical cooperation agreements between the European Union, MERCOSUR and Chile. The harmonized CPIs were calculated on the basis of the 1999 average and monthly series were produced for

the period 1997-2001, at the class level of the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). This project also included the preparation of a glossary of CPI terms, a list of items for a common basket and a comparison of the countries' original baskets. In the framework of the methodological study on harmonized CPIs in MERCOSUR and Chile, ECLAC agreed to participate as a technical advisor at meetings and in the monitoring of the study. In addition, at the request of the countries, ECLAC undertook to set up a closed discussion forum on the subject.

38. In connection with the activities referred to, and in the framework of the agreements for statistical cooperation between the European Union, MERCOSUR and Chile, the participating countries, ECLAC and EUROSTAT have agreed on a work programme that will be concluded in the second half of 2003 which includes the production of a harmonized CPI for the participating countries, discussion of this issue by the working group and the drafting of a methodological document.

39. ECLAC, as a participant in the working group on statistical harmonization, was present at the first meeting for the process of consumer price index harmonization among the member countries of the Andean Community.

40. The Statistical Office of the General Secretariat of the Andean Community reports that the member countries, in the framework of the Community Statistics Programme for 2000-2004, which has its legislative base in decision 488, implemented the activities scheduled for 2001 and 2002 and conducted a number of non-scheduled activities stemming from the PARIS21 workshop. The activities carried out in 2001 included the meetings of the Andean Statistics Committee and the activities carried out in the areas of: (a) foreign trade: the Commission of the Andean Community approved decision 511 on the preparation of statistics on foreign merchandise trade of the Andean Community and its members and resolution 579 on regulations for the compilation and transmission of results on intra- and extra-community trade; (b) censuses and social statistics; (c) the informal sector; (d) national annual and quarterly accounts; and (e) production statistics. Assistance was received from the Government of France, EUROSTAT and INE of Spain. In 2002 activities included the approval by the Commission of the Andean Community of decision 534 on the nomenclature of statistical territorial units of the Andean Community, which will enable the preparation of homogenous statistics among each country's political and administrative departments, and the presentation of the most important statistics regarding poverty, production and other subjects, in the form of maps. Another landmark was the agreement reached by directors of statistics to formulate a strategy on the statistics that the countries should generate with a view to economic and social development. In addition, it was reported that the government experts had approved the proposed decision on national quarterly accounts, for the preparation of water transport statistics and structural statistics on the manufacturing industry.

41. During the regional seminar on the uses of national accounts, held from 12 to 15 November 2001, one session was devoted to reviewing with each country represented at the meeting the schedule of commitments relating to the regional harmonization of quarterly accounts. In general, the countries reported their adherence to the schedule, and reaffirmed their willingness to continue with it. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala reported that it had not been possible for his institution to comply with the proposed programme and referred to the need for advisory services, especially for the improvement of basic statistics, as well as the participation of personnel in workshops and courses designed to improve the professional level of the experts.

Element 1.5: International technical cooperation

42. ECLAC has continued to coordinate the implementation of project PAN/93/002 entitled “Improving the national accounting system and the compilation of basic statistics in Panama”. In this regard, a number of tasks have been completed as provided in the programme of activities. At the end of the first half of 2003, the final project activities to be completed in the course of the year will be rescheduled.

43. In February and March 2001 ECLAC conducted two missions in an advisory capacity to the National Statistical Office of Cuba, at the express request of the Cuban authorities. The outcomes of the two missions, which are set forth in the respective reports, served as a basis for the project entitled “Modernization of the System of National Accounts in Cuba”. This project has a duration of two years and is funded by the Government of Sweden, with ECLAC as the executing agency. Between February 2002, when the project was launched, and November 2002, consultancy work and a number of working meetings were conducted, which together have discharged approximately one third of the project. In the second quarter of 2003, ECLAC participated in two consultancy activities in the context of this project. In the first activity, Cuban statisticians were informed about progress and problems in the application of 1993 SNA in the countries of Latin America; the second activity consisted of collaboration with experts from the National Statistical Office of Cuba in evaluating the feasibility of closing the institutional sector accounts.

44. In 2002 and 2003 ECLAC continued to provide technical assistance to the National Accounts Section of the Central Bank of Uruguay. This collaboration was oriented to developing an Input-Output Table for 1997, which will serve as a base year for implementation of 1993 SNA.

45. ECLAC participated in the seminar-workshop on the 2002 Economic Census, which was organized by the Statistics and Census Office of Panama in October 2001. The participants at the seminar emphasized the crucial support provided by ECLAC in activities to improve the production of basic statistics in the region, and the fact that new data compilation operations, using the framework of 1993 SNA, will make it possible to update and apply the new recommendations on national accounts.

46. In early November 2001, ECLAC headed a mission to Cuba, in which officials from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also participated. The purpose of this mission was to identify and evaluate the most suitable statistics for calculating the Human Development Index (HDI) for inclusion in the Human Development Report, which is published yearly. It was established during the mission that the National Statistical Office of Cuba had the necessary data for UNDP, with the support of the World Bank, to calculate the country’s HDI, which was assessed jointly with the Government of Cuba before its inclusion in the 2002 edition of the Report.

47. ECLAC continued to provide technical assistance to the Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador with regard to the application of classifications corresponding to statistics on external goods trade. Among other activities, government officials were introduced to the computation system developed by ECLAC and trained in its use. Subsequently, an ECLAC mission was sent to the Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador to train its staff in the use of the software developed for statistical calculations. In addition, ECLAC continues to respond to all requests for information and clarification from the Central Reserve Bank.

48. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Statistics Department has continued to run a programme of technical assistance for the national statistical offices, ministries of economic affairs and finance, and central banks of the countries of the region. Within the framework of this programme, technical assistance has been provided in the following areas: balance of payments statistics; public finance, monetary and financial statistics; national accounts; consumer and producer price statistics; and external trade statistics.

49. The United Nations Statistics Division has continued to collaborate with the Central American Monetary Council and to support the central banks in their efforts to link national accounts to financial programming. It has also continued to provide assistance to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) for the preparation of simplified national accounts for small economies in that region.

50. ECLAC, with financing from the Netherlands, is implementing project NET/00/81 entitled “Support for trade development in the Caribbean”, of which a basic component is the creation of an external trade data base at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. This project is expected to enable a comprehensive evaluation of the capacity of the statistical offices of the Caribbean countries selected for the production of external trade data in accordance with Revision 3 of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). In 2001 an expert group met to consider the results of the evaluation of trade statistics production in the Caribbean region, and a preliminary study was completed on the expansion of trade between CARICOM and the Netherlands Antilles. In 2002 three expert meetings were held, in Trinidad (15-16 October), Antigua and Barbuda (25-26 October), and in Jamaica (1 and 2 December). A software programme is now being developed for consultation and analysis within the data cases. External trade data bases are now available for the Caribbean region, including the following countries: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Trinidad and Tobago and the British Virgin Islands. In the case of the Bahamas and Suriname, the project includes discussion and data collection from the customs offices of those countries. This activity will take place in the second quarter of 2003.

51. One of the issues that has been incorporated into project NET/00/81 is the quality of the statistical data collected. Short seminars will therefore be held in the second half of 2003 with the customs offices and customs officials in various Caribbean countries, with a view to improving the quality of the data provided.

52. In order to make broader use of the work of the “city groups” established within the Statistical Commission, ECLAC continues to encourage at least one country of the region to take responsibility for following up each of these groups and passing the relevant documentation and methodological advances on to the rest of the countries.

Subprogramme 2: Environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation

Element 2.1: Status report on environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation

53. ECLAC, INE of Chile and INEGI of Mexico, who comprise the Working Group for the Development of Environmental Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, are conducting a joint evaluation of the integration and publication of environmental statistics in the region, by means of a

questionnaire in which the countries are requested to supply information on the concepts, definitions, sources and coverage of the information they compile and publish. The preliminary results of this research are presented in the report “Termómetro de las Estadísticas del Medio Ambiente en América Latina y el Caribe”. This document is currently being revised prior to its distribution to members of the Conference.

54. INEI of Peru, together with the Peruvian National Council of Science and Technology, have been working since 2000 on producing information on science and technology, compiling data from firms, households and public administration agencies. Once this task is complete, INEI will continue working on a proposal to evaluate the production of statistics and indicators at the regional level.

Element 2.2: Transfer of international experience, training and technical cooperation

Environment

55. From 10 to 12 December 2001 a workshop on environmental statistics was organized by Belize, Chile, Mexico, Puerto Rico and ECLAC, with the participation of 20 representatives from 14 countries. The ECLAC Environment and Human Settlements Division also played an active role in the workshop, and offered its assistance in organizing a joint meeting in the near future with representatives of the environment ministries of the region. The countries' presentations showed that the majority have deployed major efforts to improve the quality and timeliness of their environmental statistics. The final report of this workshop is available on the ECLAC web site.

56. Two workshops remain to be held, one on environmental accounts and the other on environmental statistics and indicators. This is because the revision of the Manual on Environmental Accounting has not yet been published and the revision of the Manual on Environmental Statistics and Indicators is still outstanding, and these two documents are needed to serve as a basis for the deliberations of the respective workshops. However, under the auspices of the United Nations Development Account, a workshop was held on environmental statistics in November 2002, with the participation of experts from six countries. The purpose of the workshop was to review the status of the environmental statistics and the objectives and scope of the REDESA project, which is intended to create a network of institutions and experts on social and environmental statistics.

57. ECLAC, in the framework of the REDESA project, organized a meeting for experts in environmental statistics at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from 9 to 11 April 2003. This meeting was attended by environmental experts from seven countries and one regional expert and was supported by the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC.

58. ECLAC has begun work on the directory of organizations, agencies, institutions and national experts working in the area of environmental statistics. In July 2001 a questionnaire was sent to the countries of the region requesting the names of the institutions and persons working in the field. A draft version of the directory was presented to the participants at a workshop, who were asked to offer comments and updated information. Most of the 17 countries that had responded to the questionnaire by December have updated their information. This directory served as a basis for the creation of an electronic directory for environmental issues, which is part of the REDESA project—currently being implemented by the ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division—to create a network of institutions and experts on social and environmental statistics.

59. Work has continued on the translation and dissemination, via the ECLAC web site, of the newsletter on environmental statistics (ENVSTATS) published by the United Nations Statistics Division. Two issues of ENVSTATS (numbers 9 and 11) included reports prepared specially by ECLAC on the activities of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division in the environmental field. These reports may be consulted from the web site of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division (<http://www.eclac.cl/deype/>).

Science and technology

60. At the nineteenth meeting of the Conference of Iberoamerican Authorities on Informatics (CAIBI), held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in September 2001, it was agreed to move forward with the project to develop basic statistics and indicators for information technology and to request INEGI of Mexico to undertake a consolidation and comparative analysis of trends in information and communication technologies and in the management of government functions by electronic means in the member countries. The CAIBI resolutions provided for the possibility of converting the Conference's existing web site into an observatory for the performance of these functions, the development of indicators of information and communication technologies and other issues relating to the information society.

61. ECLAC has begun the compilation of information available in the context of preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society and the drafting of a substantive document on information and communication technologies, science and technology and their contribution to the economic and social development of the region. This document will be presented at the thirtieth session of ECLAC.

62. INEI of Peru, together with the producers of statistics on science, technology and innovation, has developed a system of indicators for information and communication technologies which includes, inter alia, the existing administrative records of the entities participating in the working group. The system is at the stage of incorporating the available historical data and may be consulted via the Internet (www.inei.gob.pe/sitic/index.asp). Together with the National Council of Science and Technology (CONCYTEC) of Peru, the INEI has made efforts to collect statistical information from enterprises working in the area of science, technology and innovation. The data for 1999 have been published on the web page of CONCYTEC (www.concytec.gob.pe).

63. With the aim of making progress in the identification and design of statistics and indicators for information and communication technologies for the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (Peru), with the support of the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information of Mexico, the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute and ECLAC, organized a workshop (28-30 April 2003) on a system of information and communication technology indicators for the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. On that occasion a proposal was made to formulate a draft set of indicators and relevant sources on information and communication technologies, so that they could be included in the statistical plans of the member countries.

Subprogramme 3: Indicators on social variables and well-being

Element 3.1: Improvement of household surveys

MECOVI programme

64. The Programme for the Improvement of Surveys and the Measurement of Living Conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI) has been underway since 1996. It is co-sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank and ECLAC and its purpose is to support the countries of the region in their efforts to strengthen systems of statistical information and, in particular, systems related to household surveys on living conditions. The MECOVI programme has two main components: activities at the national level in the participating countries—including technical assistance and training—and activities at the regional level, such as workshops, training courses and the development of a data base.

Regional workshops

65. During the period from June 2001 to June 2003 four regional discussion and analysis workshops were conducted in the framework of the MECOVI programme, each organized by ECLAC jointly with the statistical office of the respective host country. As on previous occasions, ECLAC also prepared work programmes and participated in the preparation of the technical documents that served as a reference to identify the relevant points to be deliberated. The seventh workshop was held from 30 May to 1 June 2001 at the INEGI office in Aguascalientes in Mexico. The main objective of this workshop was to analyse conceptual, methodological and operational aspects of the design, implementation and management of an Integrated System of Household Surveys (ISHS), as a technically viable and worthwhile alternative for generating statistical information as an input for the design and evaluation of public policies in the social domain. The eighth workshop was organized jointly with the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina and was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 28 to 30 November 2001, to analyse the past, present and future of the MECOVI programme. The general objective of the workshop was to encourage the exchange of experiences among MECOVI member countries, in order to share advances and analyse the shortcomings observed at the national and regional levels in the operation of the programme, and to establish how it had contributed to strengthening national systems of statistical information. In particular, the workshop examined the programme's technical and institutional contributions to regular household survey programmes, especially surveys geared towards measuring and monitoring the standard of life and living conditions of individuals. The ninth MECOVI workshop was organized in Lima, Peru, from 17 to 19 June 2002, jointly with the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru. The main objective of this workshop was to analyse technical and operational aspects involved in the design and construction of sampling frames, as an essential input in planning and implementing household surveys in an organized and integrated manner, according to the practices of the statistical offices of the region. This event also sought to encourage the exchange of ideas among experts in the area of household surveys and censuses, in order to achieve greater coordination among the institutions. Lastly, the tenth workshop took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 27 to 29 November 2002, in collaboration with INDEC. The prime objective on this occasion was to analyse technical and operational aspects of preparing sample designs for use in household surveys. At least 16 countries were represented at each of these workshops and experts from a number of international agencies were present on each occasion.

Data bank

66. In order to carry out the work on standardizing, normalizing and dissemination of the databases of household surveys carried out by Latin American and Caribbean countries, ECLAC produced two compact discs—one at the end of 2001 and the second in late 2002— each containing 14 databases. As on previous occasions, in addition to the microdata relating to each survey, the discs contain the format of the questionnaire used for data collection, the variables developed by ECLAC and the figures published by the countries.

Regional training

67. Under the auspices of IDB, five three-week courses were held: the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth courses on the design, implementation and analysis of household surveys. The fifth, seventh and ninth courses were held with the cooperation of INDEC of Argentina and took place in Buenos Aires from 16 April to 4 May 2001, 8 to 26 April 2002, and from 5 to 23 May 2003, respectively. The sixth and eighth courses had the support of INEGI of Mexico and took place from 3 to 21 September 2001 and from 26 August to 13 September 2002, respectively, in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Together, these five courses have trained approximately 150 technicians from 18 countries of the region.

68. In addition, the first subregional training course of the MECOVI programme for the English-speaking Caribbean countries took place. The course dealt with the analysis of censuses and surveys for the development of social policies and strategies for poverty reduction in the Caribbean, and was organized in cooperation with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the World Bank Institute (WBI), in Saint Lucia, from 14 to 25 May 2001.

National projects

69. At June 2003, the countries participating or that have participated in the MECOVI programme are Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru. Ecuador, Honduras and Dominican Republic are in the process of consolidating their incorporation into the programme. In addition, Costa Rica and Venezuela have recently requested admission to it. The beneficiary countries have received technical assistance from the programme in the following areas: (i) updating of cartography and sample design; (ii) development of digitalized cartography; (iii) organization of field work; (iv) organization of decentralized data entry; (v) development of the main criteria of consistency and quality control in the field; (vi) organization of the data base; (vii) processing and analysis of information.

Direct technical assistance

70. Between June 2001 and June 2003, ECLAC conducted thirteen technical assistance missions in the area of statistics to the following countries: Bolivia (three), Costa Rica (three), Guatemala, Mexico (two), Dominican Republic (two), Uruguay and Venezuela. These missions dealt with a number of aspects of the design of integrated systems of household surveys (ISHS) and the construction of sampling frames, together with analysis of the technical, methodological and operational aspects of sample designs. In addition, the missions included training sessions geared towards strengthening the skills of local experts in relation to the various projects underway.

71. In response to the need highlighted in the programme of work for an international workshop on the design, construction and updating of sampling frames and a workshop on the evaluation of sample designs in household surveys, the ninth and tenth MECOVI regional workshops were devoted to those

subjects. The ninth MECOVI workshop dealt with such aspects as the association between the preparation of the census cartography and the need for a household sampling frame, strategic planning and decisions on the design of the sampling frame and the identification of best practices in its construction and administration. In addition to these topics, the tenth workshop also included the analysis of available algorithms to determine optimum sample size and the identification of best practices in sample design.

Element 3.2: Use of information generated by household surveys and cooperation activities

Updating of the Data Bank of Latin American and Caribbean Household Surveys

72. ECLAC has continued to regularly update its data bank of Latin American and Caribbean household surveys, which is an essential tool for the analysis of living conditions in the region and for the design of public policies. It is also crucial for driving methodological progress in the field of economic and social indicators. The data bank holds information from around 1980, and came to be called the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG) in 2002. It not only contains tabulations of information, but also offers access to methodological data and user manuals.

Social Panorama of Latin America

73. In the period June 2001-June 2003 two editions of the *Social Panorama of Latin America* were published. The 2000-2001 edition was published in September 2001 and presents an account of the achievements and challenges of the effort to combat poverty in the region. In particular, it examines 17 of the region's countries from 1997 to 2000, their development in the 1990s, the profile of poor households, and future scenarios for poverty reduction efforts. It also deals with characteristics and trends in income distribution and the dynamics of employment and unemployment in Latin America. The 2001-2002 edition was launched in November 2002 and offers an analysis of Latin America's possibilities of meeting the poverty reduction target established in the Millennium Declaration and of the importance of distributive changes in this respect. The document also looks at types of participation in the labour market in the region, the problem of school dropout and a number of dimensions of social capital.

Studies undertaken jointly with the countries

74. As part of the activities planned to carry out joint studies with the countries of the region, in July 2001 ECLAC published a work of research on poverty in Chile, based on the results of the eighth National Socioeconomic Survey (CASEN) conducted in late 2000, in the framework of an agreement with the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation (MIDEPLAN) to carry out an official measurement of poverty in Chile (Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos series, No. 14 (LC/L.1551-P)).

75. At the first meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, Bolivia offered to host two technical meetings on gender statistics and indicators, the conclusions of which would contribute to future debate in this area. The first of these meetings was held in La Paz from 21 to 23 November 2001, with the sponsorship of ECLAC, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Government of Italy and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The workshop deliberations covered conceptual aspects of violence against women, the gender indicators approach and the experiences of a number of countries in this regard. ECLAC put forward a proposal aimed at developing a means to measure violence through household surveys and encouraging greater coordination within the countries, which would enable more orderly maintenance of administrative records and enhance their usefulness as a source of statistical information. The second meeting, originally planned for

the first semester of 2003, was rescheduled for August 2003, and its agenda will include the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in methodologies of poverty measurement. This meeting will also be held in Bolivia, and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations System have conducted a series of preparatory activities in the conceptual and methodological fields. These include the calculation of data on poverty trends from a gender perspective and the organization of an inter-agency working meeting on the subject.

Project for the Caribbean

76. In view of the lack of social data sets in many Caribbean countries, ECLAC, through its Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, obtained funds from the Government of the Netherlands for implementing a project entitled “Development of social statistical data bases and a methodological approach to a social vulnerability index for small island developing states”. The aim of the project is to develop a social statistics database in order to support the countries in the follow-up and evaluation of social vulnerability in the small and open economies of the Caribbean. Thus far the participating countries are: Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. A number of institutions are also participating, including UNICEF, CARICOM, the Caribbean Tourism Organization, UNESCO and PAHO/WHO. CARICOM and the University of the West Indies have agreed to undertake the receipt and upkeep of the data.

77. At the same time, with funds provided by UNDP, the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters in Port-of-Spain is carrying out another two projects: the first grew out of the relations established between UNDP and the Government of Belize in the preparation of human development reports and consists of developing a National Human Development Agenda with a long-term vision and with clearly-stated objectives, goals and follow-up indicators. The second is aimed at strengthening administrative records in Haiti, through a plan of action and a national strategy for the consolidation, reform and modernization of the civil records system.

Preparation of methodological material for the construction of social indicators

78. ECLAC is developing a Bank of Social Statistics and Indicators (BADEINSO) which contains data, estimates and projections with regard to the main thematic areas involved in the study of living conditions and social structure, including demography, education, health, employment and income. This tool, which will shortly be available on the Internet, also carries extensive methodological material for the construction of social indicators, presented in the form of technical sheets.

Other activities

79. At the beginning of 2002, ECLAC, in conjunction with UNDP, the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil and a group of experts, developed a simulation methodology based on household surveys, which can be used to analyse the feasibility of meeting the extreme poverty reduction target for mid-2015 established at the United Nations Millennium Summit. The results of the application of this methodology in 18 countries of the region, together with an analysis of the effects of different public policies on poverty, are contained in a document to be published shortly by ECLAC in four languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese and French).

80. In order to place the Millennium Development Goals at the heart of the work in the region and follow them up in a timely manner, ECLAC, IDB, UNDP and the World Bank signed a cooperation framework agreement to carry out joint research and analysis projects relating to the Millennium

Development Goals. Projects being studied include a second phase of the ECLAC-UNDP-IPEA project mentioned in the previous paragraph, which would serve to broaden the methodology developed for poverty to other goals established in the Millennium Declaration.

81. In early 2002, ECLAC, with the collaboration of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, began implementing the project “Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics” (REDESA). This project is intended to accelerate and support the development of environmental statistics and, at the same time, to broaden and strengthen existing social statistics. It is planned to generate a platform of communications among agencies, institutions, professionals and experts working in the areas of social and environmental information, to provide them with access to methodological advances, the experiences of other countries and the statistics available in the two fields. In addition, it is intended to organize horizontal technical cooperation activities among the members of the network. This platform will include the following elements: a directory of experts on social and environmental statistics, a database of methodological documents relating to the production of social and environmental indicators, a regional database with comparable social and environmental data for Latin America and the Caribbean, and an online discussion forum. Two expert meetings were held in the framework of this project —one on social statistics and the other on environmental statistics— in Santiago, Chile, from 7 to 9 April 2003 in the first case, and from 9 to 11 April 2003 in the second. There was a presentation of the project and a review of its objectives and outputs at these meetings, as well as an analysis of the current state of statistical information systems in the region. At both events there was discussion of the tasks to be carried out in the framework of the project by ECLAC and the participating countries over the next few months. ECLAC offered to provide the region with a preliminary version of the Internet portal with the elements referred to during the second half of 2003.

Element 3.3: Implementation of population and housing censuses

82. In May 2001, on the occasion of the meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Population Division of ECLAC - Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) organized a seminar for the exchange of experiences among those countries that had either already conducted censuses for the 2000 round or scheduled them for the following years. A similar meeting was planned for June 2003 on the occasion of the second meeting of SCA-ECLAC. In August 2001, CELADE also participated in the United Nations Symposium on Global Review of the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, at which it presented a document on the experience of the Latin American countries, with particular emphasis on new substantive and technological approaches.

83. Since mid-2001, CELADE has been implementing an IDB-financed project to promote the dissemination and utilization of the population censuses of the 2000 round, in which six countries are participating. One of the components of the project is the creation of census databases and computer tools designed to facilitate census processing and analysis. A second component comprises census evaluation and updating of population projections, as well as the creation of a set of indicators that are comparable among the countries at the first administrative political level. During this period consultancy has been provided to Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama in the framework of this project. The results of this project to date include the facility for online processing of census microdata from Costa Rica and Panama using the REDATAM web server.

84. CELADE also provided technical assistance in relation to the 2000 round of censuses to Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, Paraguay and Venezuela. In the case of Bolivia, an intensive three-month course on sociodemographic analysis with emphasis on analysis of data from the 2001

census was also organized jointly with the INE and the Centre for Population Studies of San Simón University (September-December 2002).

85. In 2001, with a view to encouraging the use of sociodemographic data, especially census data from the 2000 census round, CELADE made available to the countries, via its web page and free of charge, the fourth generation of its system for the retrieval of census data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM). This recent version contains several new options for disseminating data with different security modes. It also allows the user to develop applications to obtain predefined indicators in tabular, graphic and map form.

86. With assistance from the University of Minnesota and funding from the National Science Foundation of the United States, work is also underway to retrieve the CELADE census data bank containing the population censuses of almost all the Latin American countries since the 1960s. Thanks to this project, various censuses from the 1960s and 1970s, which were no longer available in the countries, have been recovered. A copy of the databases on CDs, together with the documentation, have been delivered to the respective national statistical offices.

87. In order to update information from population estimates and projections with new data from the 2000 census round, CELADE has provided advisory services to Costa Rica (nationwide population), Panama (nationwide), Bolivia (nationwide and provincial) and Brazil (nationwide). CELADE also collaborated with Peru on the revision of projections (for nationwide population, by simple ages and calendar years, urban/rural, by department, and economically active population).

88. A data base was made available on the CELADE web page containing estimates and projections of population nationwide, by urban and rural areas and EAP, which were prepared jointly with the countries of the region. Estimates and projections for the Caribbean countries conducted by the United Nations Population Division were also uploaded. Four issues of the Demographic Bulletin were published over the period 2001-2003: Latin America: fertility, 1950-2050 (No. 68); Latin America and the Caribbean: population estimates and projections 1950-2050 (No. 69); Latin America and the Caribbean: selected gender-sensitive indicators (No. 70); and Latin America: population by calendar years and simple ages: 1995-2005 (No. 71).

89. During the period covered by this report, work has continued on updating the project on Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA), with the addition of data on births abroad from censuses for Honduras 1988, Belize 1980 and 1990, Costa Rica 2000, Mexico 2000 and Panama 2000. Useful information has also been obtained relating to the most recent censuses in Canada and the United States. The database on spatial distribution and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean (DEPUALC) has also been updated with the results of the 2000 census round.

90. CELADE took part in the seminars organized by the United Nations Population Division on the future fertility of countries with high demographic levels, and by the United States Census Bureau on future fertility trends in those countries. It is also organizing an expert meeting on current and expected fertility trends in Latin America, which will be held in June 2003 in Santiago. CELADE also participated in the working meetings on the MERCOSUR census project (Buenos Aires and Santiago), and in the thirteenth meeting of the Brazilian Association for Population Studies (Ouro Preto).

91. A regional system of indicators for follow-up to the goals of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was prepared on the basis of a conceptual proposal (Población y desarrollo series, No. 26, March 2002), using a REDATAM application. This system, which is available on the CELADE web page, enables the user to obtain sociodemographic indicators for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in tabular, graphic and map format, and it contains general conceptual and methodological information-. An extended version of the system is in preparation and will also include indicators for follow-up to the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995).

92. CELADE and the Women and Development Unit organized two workshops on the creation of national systems of indicators for follow-up to international conferences, in particular the Cairo and Beijing conferences, one in December 2002 in Santiago for the South American countries and another in May 2003 (in Panama) for the countries of the Central American Isthmus and the Caribbean. CELADE has also been providing technical advisory services to Panama since 2001 for the development of its Integrated System of Development Indicators.

Element 3.4: Project on statistical cooperation between the European Union and the MERCOSUR countries

93. Of the ten task forces involved in the statistical cooperation project between the European Union and the MERCOSUR countries, group 6 is responsible for the preparation of social indicators. This group continued to work on the harmonization of social indicators, which has involved preparing statistics on the active population and employment and educational indicators that are comparable among the MERCOSUR countries and Chile. ECLAC has participated in the group as a permanent observer. In 2002, the harmonized statistics for employment and education were published, and these are also available on the project's web site. In addition, from 27 June to 7 July 2002 a two-part training workshop was conducted on this subject; the first part held in INE of Spain and the second in INSEE of France. Although the programme of work provided for the possibility of group 6 conducting research on the measurement of the quality of employment, the authorities of the project did not assign any such activities to the group.

Element 3.5: Regional and national training activities

International Workshop on Poverty Measurement

94. In August 2001, INEGI of Mexico, with the active collaboration of ECLAC, organized the eleventh International Workshop on Poverty: definitions, concepts and measurement methodologies, which took place in Aguascalientes, Mexico. The workshop focused on the basic concepts of welfare, equity and poverty; methodological approaches to poverty measurement; evaluation of information sources; and indicators and tools for social analysis. ECLAC provided the instructors and prepared the teaching materials for the course. As a follow-up to these workshops, INEGI organized the First International Symposium on Methodology Criteria to Measure Poverty, which was held from 23 to 27 September 2002, with the participation of experts from national statistical offices and social departments from Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Panama.

Workshops on training in statistical methods

95. The National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru, through the National School of Statistics and Informatics, and under the auspices of the MECOVI programme of Peru and ECLAC,

organized an international course-workshop on household surveys as a source of information for the preparation of the household account, which was held in Lima, Peru from 17 to 21 September 2002. This event was the first on this subject at the regional level. Experts from 10 Latin American countries — Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic and Venezuela— participated in the event.

Element 3.6: Participation in working and study groups on issues of regional interest

96. The Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) organized, with assistance from ECLAC, the fourth and fifth meetings of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics, established by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1996. The fourth meeting took place at the IBGE headquarters in Rio de Janeiro from 15 to 17 October 2001, and dealt with the following issues: information requirements for the design and follow-up of poverty reduction policies; absolute poverty lines and measurement of household income; new approaches to multidimensional poverty; and international poverty reduction policies. Twenty-two representatives of 15 countries from different regions of the world participated, as well as eight officials from five international organizations. The fifth meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro from 13 to 15 November 2002, and dealt with existing conceptual approaches to poverty measurement, under the headings of: absolute poverty lines, access to basic services and ownership of capital, relative poverty, subjective poverty, social exclusion and social and political dimensions of poverty. Efforts to define standards, units of measurement and other technical characteristics for those five subjects focus on the collection of technical information that will serve as a basis for the development of a compendium of best practices in poverty measurement, compilation and publication of which shall be the main activity of the Rio Group for the next biennium. The methodological contributions of these two and previous meetings are available on the web site of IBGE of Brazil at (<http://www.ibge.gov.br/poverty>).

97. The Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) organized the sixth meeting of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics, which took place from 16 to 18 September 2002 in Rio de Janeiro. The discussions covered the following areas: case studies on the practical application of the concept of “informal employment” and the difference between this and “employment in the informal sector”; linkages between informal sector statistics, expenditure and revenues and poverty statistics; the establishment of comparable data sets on the informal sector; methods and procedures for the compilation of informal sector statistics; and the preparation of a manual on the informal sector.

98. ECLAC prepared the Spanish-language version of the final report of the Canberra Group, with financial support from the MECOVI programme. The document, which is entitled “Canberra Group: final report and recommendations”, was published in March 2002, in response to the need to disseminate to the region a compendium of best practices in income measurement, as an essential step to improving income statistics in Latin America and making them comparable at an international level.

Subprogramme 4: Dissemination of statistical information

Element 4.1: Use of the Internet environment for information and data dissemination via static and dynamic web pages

99. The Division of Statistics and Economic Projections of ECLAC has developed a regional bank of social indicators (BADEINSO), and has continued to work on updating and disseminating the Division’s existing data bases. New query systems have been designed for the Foreign Trade Data Bank for Latin America and the Caribbean (BADECEL), the ECLAC Annual Statistics Data Bank (BADEANU),

BADEINSO and BADECOY (the regional short-term indicators database), in order to make them available to the public over the Internet. The Economic Development Division published on its web page the database containing the statistical data collected and processed by ECLAC on the basis of official sources in the context of preparing the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean.

100. In May 2003, the BADECEL data was included on the web site in order to facilitate queries and tabulations. ECLAC also published on its web site an electronic version of the Statistical yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean.

101. In the case of the regional short-term indicators database (BADECOY), the Statistics and Economic Projections Division has been evaluating alternatives for modernizing the data management system. The aim is to integrate the short-term data with the other economic data banks of ECLAC, taking into account the progress made in short-term data dissemination by national and international organizations, especially the International Monetary Fund. ECLAC is also evaluating with CEMLA the possibility of developing harmonized systems of short-term macro-financial indicators at the subregional level.

102. ECLAC has been working on the design of the technological architecture and the analysis of the contents for the Internet portal of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. Proposals with regard to the contents have been received from Peru and Mexico. In response to a request from the Executive Committee of the Conference, an electronic forum was set up in the first quarter of 2003 in the context of that portal, in order to facilitate the exchange of ideas among the participants and among users in general.

103. In June 2001, INE of Spain and the European Training Centre for Economic Statisticians of Developing Countries (CESD-Madrid) organized a seminar on techniques of electronic data dissemination as part of its training programme.

Element 4.2: Incorporation of technology and electronic commercial services via the Internet

104. With the aim of encouraging the use or adoption of technology and services available in the Internet environment for the dissemination and marketing of statistical information, INEI of Peru and IBGE of Brazil have made their marketing models available to those interested: INFO-INEL, "Virtual shop" and the results of an Internet census. This offers users the opportunity to make tabulations of relevant data, subject to payment.

Annex
A. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Beneficiary countries	Beneficiary institutions	Project	Activities	Period	Sponsor(s)	Sponsoring institutions
Brazil	Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA), National Commission on Population and Development (CNPD), Brazilian Association for Population Studies (ABEP)	Population and development in Brazil - Project BRA/02/P02	Training, technical assistance, organizational advisory services.	2002 – 2006	International agencies	UNFPA
Brazil	Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE)	Technical cooperation agreement with a view to the Programme of Statistical Information and Monitoring on Child Labour	Research on child labour	August 2001 – May 2003	International agencies	ILO
Brazil	IBGE, IPEA	Network of public policy research and development - Project BRA/97/013	Projects	October 1997 – October 2003	International agencies	IDB
Brazil	IBGE	Protocol of intent UNICEF - IBGE	Training, technical assistance.	To December 2006	International agencies	UNICEF
Brazil	IPEA, CNPD, ABEP	Reproductive health in Brazil - Project BRA/02/P03	Training, technical assistance, organizational advisory services.	2002 – 2006	International agencies	UNFPA
Ecuador	INEC	Support for the population and housing census and strengthening of the national statistical system – SEN	Technical assistance, training, internships, organizational advisory services, others.	2001 – 2003	International agencies	IDB
Ecuador	INEC	Bilateral agreement for strengthening industrial statistics in Ecuador	Technical assistance	2001 – 2002	France	INSEE

Beneficiary countries	Beneficiary institutions	Project	Activities	Period	Sponsor(s)	Sponsoring institutions
El Salvador	Department of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC)	Cooperation agreement between the ILO Office for Central America and Panama and DIGESTYC	Technical assistance, training	Since July 1999	International agencies	ILO
El Salvador	DIGESTYC	Memorandum of understanding between the World Food Programme and DIGESTYC	Others	November 2001 – October 2002 (extendable)	International agencies	World Food Programme
El Salvador	DIGESTYC	Non-reimbursable technical-cooperation agreement	Training, technical assistance, internships, others.	April 1995 – December 2001 (extendable to December 2002)	International agencies	IDB, ECLAC
El Salvador	DIGESTYC	Agreement between ILO - Central America and Panama and DIGESTYC	Others	October 2000 – December 2002	International agencies	ILO
Nicaragua	INEC-Nicaragua, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Central Bank	Third national agricultural census, CENAGRO	Technical assistance	June 1998 – October 2003	International agencies, European Union	FAO
Nicaragua	Technical Secretariat of the Office of the President, Central Bank of Nicaragua, Emergency Social Investment Fund, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education Culture and Sport, Ministry of Labour, Ministry for Family Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Nicaraguan Women's Institute, Nicaraguan Institute for Municipal Development,	Programme for the improvement of surveys and measurements of living conditions in the Republic of Nicaragua - MECOVI 2	Training, technical assistance, internships.		International agencies, Sweden, Norway.	Government of Sweden, Government of Norway, UNDP, UNFPA, World Bank, IDB

Beneficiary countries	Beneficiary institutions	Project	Activities	Period	Sponsor(s)	Sponsoring institutions
	Civil Emergency Coordination Department, National Council of Universities, Higher Council of Private Universities					
Nicaragua	INEC-Nicaragua, Ministry of Health, Emergency Social Investment Fund	Health survey 2001 – ENDESA	Field research, surveys.	2001-2002	International agencies, Sweden.	United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank, IDB, UNFPA, UNDP, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
Paraguay	DGEEC	Industrial sector statistics	Technical assistance, financial assistance		International agencies	EUROSTAT
Peru	INEI	Bilateral cooperation between the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) of France and the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru	Bilateral cooperation	2 years	France	INSEE
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Planning Unit, Department of Labour	Labour market survey	Technical assistance	2003	International agencies	ILO

Beneficiary countries	Beneficiary institutions	Project	Activities	Period	Sponsor(s)	Sponsoring institutions
Venezuela	INE-Venezuela	Strengthening of the Central Statistics and Informatics Office – National Institute of Statistics, as the coordinating body of the Venezuelan National Statistical System	Technical assistance, training	3 years	Spain	INE – Spain, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation
Venezuela	INE-Venezuela	Implementation, development and coordination of the National Statistical System (SEN) particularly at the state and municipal levels - VEN/02/ 002	Technical assistance	34 months	International agencies	UNDP
Venezuela	INE-Venezuela	Institutional strengthening of the Central Statistics and Informatics Office - INE, VEN/00/018/A/01/99	Training, organizational advisory services	2000 – 2002	International agencies	UNDP

B. REGIONAL OR SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION

Beneficiary countries	Beneficiary institutions	Project	Activities	Period	Sponsor(s)	Sponsoring institutions
Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay	INDEC, IBGE, INE-Chile, DGEEC, INE-Uruguay, other institutions	Statistical cooperation agreement between the European Union, MERCOSUR and Chile (ASR/B7-311/IB/96/165)	Training, technical assistance, preparation of methodological studies.	November 1998 – March 2003	European Union, Spain	EUROSTAT, CESD-Madrid
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay	INDEC, INE-Bolivia, IBGE, INE-Chile, DGEEC, INE-Uruguay	Incorporation of new methodologies and integration with the countries of MERCOSUR in the 2000 Population Census - Stage 1	Training, technical assistance, internships, horizontal cooperation.	1997 – 2001	International agencies, Japan, United States	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA – Argentina), Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE), US Bureau of the Census
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay	INDEC, INE-Bolivia, IBGE, INE-Chile, DGEEC, INE-Uruguay	Support for the Extended MERCOSUR Common Census - Stage 2.	Training, technical assistance, internships, horizontal cooperation.	2002	International agencies	UNFPA, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay	INDEC, INE-Bolivia, IBGE, INE-Chile, DGEEC, INE-Uruguay	Support for the Extended MERCOSUR Common Census - Stage 3	Training, technical assistance, internships, horizontal cooperation	2003 – 2005	International agencies	
Bolivia, Colombia,	National Statistical Offices,	Project on cooperation with the Andean Community on	Training, technical assistance	2001 – 2002	Spain	INE-Spain

Beneficiary countries	Beneficiary institutions	Project	Activities	Period	Sponsor(s)	Sponsoring institutions
Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela	Central Banks, Ministries of Tourism, SGCAN	tourism statistics and the tourism satellite account				
Latin American countries	National Statistical Offices, Central Banks.	Programme of ongoing training for statisticians in the Latin American region.	Training	June 1997 – December 2002	Spain	INE- Spain
Latin American and Caribbean countries	National Statistical Offices, Central Banks, Ministries responsible for the preparation of official statistics	New programme of training for Latin American statisticians and economists	Training, technical assistance, internships, organizational advisory services	From 2003	Spain	INE- Spain, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation
Peru Andean countries	National Statistical Offices	ERETES module project	Subregional cooperation	2 years	International agencies, France	General Secretariat of the Andean Community, Ministry of External Affairs of France

C. HORIZONTAL COOPERATION

Country/institution	Country/institution	Title	Period
Peru – INEI	Bolivia – INE	Horizontal cooperation agreement between INEI of the Republic of Peru and the National Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Bolivia	Not specified
Peru – INEI	Chile – INE	Horizontal cooperation agreement between INEI of the Republic of Peru and the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of the Republic of Chile	From July 2001, for five years
Peru – INEI	Ecuador – INEC	Horizontal cooperation agreement between INEI of the Republic of Peru and the National Statistics and Census Institute of the Republic of Ecuador	Not specified
Peru – INEI	Guatemala – INE	Horizontal cooperation agreement between INEI of the Republic of Peru and the National Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Guatemala	From August 1997, indefinite
Peru – INEI	Honduras – DGEC	Horizontal cooperation agreement between INEI of the Republic of Peru and the Department of Censuses of the Republic of Honduras.	From June 1997 indefinite
Peru – INEI	Paraguay – DGEEC	Horizontal cooperation agreement between INEI of the Republic of Peru and the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of the Office of the President of the Republic of Paraguay	From April 1998, for 3 years
Peru – INEI	Venezuela – OCEI	Horizontal cooperation agreement between INEI of the Republic of Peru and the Central Statistics and Informatics Office of the Ministry for Planning and Development of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	From October 2000, for 5 years