

UNITED NATIONS

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC**



Distr.
LIMITED

LC/L.1888(CEA.2003/2)
28 May 2003

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Second Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas
of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, Chile, 18-20 June 2003

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is a subsidiary body of ECLAC established pursuant to resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and whose objectives are: to promote the development and improvement of national statistics and to ensure that they are compatible internationally, bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations; to promote international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies. and to draw up a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the demands of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources.

In 2002, the Executive Committee elected at the first meeting of the Conference (Santiago, May 2001) and chaired by Brazil held two meetings (one in Rio de Janeiro, in March, and the other in Panama City, in December). Having set the date for this second meeting and adopted a provisional agenda, the Committee agreed to consider in depth the following substantive issues (i) public credibility of national statistical institutes; (ii) preparation of directories and use of administrative registers as a primary information source and as a framework for surveys and other statistical research, and (iii) management geared to ensuring the quality of data produced by national statistical institutes.

At this second meeting of the Statistical Conference, member States shall approve the Programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003–June 2005 and shall elect the Executive Committee of the Conference for the period 2003-2005.

B. CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE

In accordance with the provisions of resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Brazil shall chair the second meeting of the Statistical Conference in its capacity as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the second meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC will have before it for adoption with amendments as appropriate, the following provisional agenda.¹

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the second meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

¹ Document LC/L.1887(CEA.2003/1).

2. Report on the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003
3. Presentation of the proposed programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003-June 2005
 - (a) Presentation of 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)
 - (b) Presentation of subprogramme 2: Improvement of the production and use of statistics on social variables and well-being
 - (c) Presentation of subprogramme 3: Improvement and extension of the production of statistics on specific issues
 - (i) Environmental statistics
 - (ii) Statistics on science, technology and innovation
 - (iii) Statistics on gender equity
 - (d) Presentation of subprogramme 4: Modernization of statistical systems and dissemination of statistical information
4. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues
 - (a) Public credibility of national statistical institutes
 - (b) Preparation of directories and use of administrative registers as a primary information source and as a framework for surveys and other statistical research
 - (c) Management geared to ensuring the quality of data produced by national statistical institutes
5. Report of the Rapporteur
6. Adoption of agreements
7. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas for the period 2003-2005

In determining how much time to assign to the consideration of each agenda item, emphasis has been placed on the substantive debate and on the exchange of views among participants. Due consideration will be given to each issue brought to the attention of the plenary, while every effort will be made to foster the participation of as many delegations as possible and to ensure that the agreements adopted are the outcome of a broad dialogue. For this reason, presentations should be no longer than 15 minutes and should focus on the substantive points in question.

The secretariat placed the relevant material on the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC on the Commission's Web page well in advance of the meeting so that it would be available to participating delegations.

2. Report on the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003

The ECLAC secretariat has prepared a report on the activities carried out as part of the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2001-2003, it contains detailed information on the statistical cooperation activities in which various countries and international and regional agencies have participated.²

An advance version of the report was submitted to the Executive Committee at its meeting in December 2002; the updated report gives a brief overview, rather than an exhaustive account, of statistical cooperation activities of the activities carried out in the region during the period under consideration.

3. Presentation of the proposed programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003-June 2005³

- (a) Presentation of 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)

The objective of this subprogramme is to plan, coordinate and describe in detail activities designed to facilitate implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA), in particular in the presentation by countries of their quarterly, regional and satellite accounts, while maintaining continuity of the advances achieved to date in the adaptation and production of basic statistics that the system requires as well as in the application of 1993 SNA.

This subprogramme is divided into five components, which contemplate the following activities: giving those responsible for national accounts and the producers of basic statistics in the countries of the region access to the technical documentation available and support in the adoption of international concepts, definitions and classifications recommended for the production and organization of basic statistics; improving, expanding and advancing with harmonization of basic statistics and prices and macro-statistical systems; improving, expanding and advancing with the harmonization of external sector statistics and fostering international technical cooperation.

- (b) Presentation of subprogramme 2: Improvement of the production and use of statistics on social variables and well-being

The objective of this subprogramme is to design and coordinate the activities geared to improving and expanding the production of statistics and demographic and social indicators.

The activities of this subprogramme for the period 2003-2005 are classified in four groups relating to the improvement of sources of information for producing social statistics, the use of

² Document LC/L.1697/Rev.2.

³ Document LC/L.1903(CEA.2003/3).

information from household surveys and population censuses, the participation in work and study groups on issues of regional interest and other international technical cooperation projects.

The first group covers the activities of the Programme for the Improvement of Surveys and the Measurement of Living Conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI), which includes providing support for the conduct of population and housing censuses of the 2000 round. The second group addresses activities relating to the development of data banks and the construction and use of social statistics and indicators. The participation in international study groups corresponds fundamentally to the group of experts on poverty statistics in the Rio Group. The international technical cooperation covers the REDESA project, which is intended to create a network of institutions and experts on social and environmental statistics, and regional activities relating to the follow-up of the achievement of the millennium goals.

In all the areas mentioned, cooperation activities will be pursued with a view to improving and increasing the capacity of national statistical institutes through the transfer of methodologies and training of national statisticians.

- (c) Presentation of subprogramme 3: Improvement and extension of the production of statistics on specific issues

The demand for statistical information has been evolving in Latin America and the Caribbean among other things because of the increasing complexity of the interrelationships between the different aspects of economic and social development. In response to these new demands, priority is given in the Programme of Work 2003-2005 to three issues that have been acquiring increasing importance in the process of productive and social transformation in the region, whether because of its relationship with the potential for growth and sustainability or through its relationship with equity.

This subprogramme encompasses statistics on the environment, science and technology and gender. The activities contemplated in these three areas are an important complement to the other tasks provided for in the proposed programme of work and which will be carried out on a multidisciplinary basis, thereby strengthening the links between the producers and users of statistics.

- (i) *Environmental statistics*

Although progress has been made in the production of environmental statistics in the countries of the region, it is still a relatively new area on which there are few concrete examples of production of statistics and indicators; countries that already have statistics on this issue have continued to refine them. Generally speaking, the task of collecting primary statistics is dispersed among many public- and private-sector bodies which have little technical relationship with the respective national statistical systems; for their part, these systems fulfil a very important role in coordinating these activities, disseminating information and controlling the quality and international comparability of the data.

In follow-up to the work done in this area in the countries of the region and to give impetus to the activities started in the biennium 2001-2003, further work will be done on the project "Network of Latin American Experts in Social Statistics and the Environment" (REDESA).

(ii) *Statistics on science, technology and innovation*

This category includes activities of collecting and harmonizing statistics and specialized indicators, bearing in mind the requirements of the region. Further work will be done on executing the activities of identification and harmonization of methodology and promoting and following up on the dissemination of relevant information.

(iii) *Statistics on gender equity*

In view of the need to facilitate the integration of the gender perspective in the national and regional production of statistics in the programme of work provides for activities that seek to improve the collection, processing and use of gender statistics for policy formulation and for strengthening ties between producers and users of these statistics. In the period 2003-2005, further work will be carried out on surveys on use of time, violence against women and the differential impact of poverty on men and women and the dissemination of new gender indicators.

(d) Presentation of subprogramme 4: Modernization of statistical systems and dissemination of statistical information

This subprogramme is divided into three main groups of activities, which range from the most general (promoting the use of statistics as a factor for greater efficiency and transparency in the application of economic and social policies) to the most technical (training and use of new technologies in data management and dissemination). The overall objective is to promote the role of national statistical institutes and strengthen their technical and institutional capacity. This subprogramme also includes activities relating to the processes of regional integration.

In the light of the need to highlight the strategic role of statistics in the new information-intensive society, the activities of the subprogramme seek to identify the initiatives adopted at the international and regional levels and to transmit them to national statistical offices. In collaboration with regional integration bodies, emphasis will be placed on the strategic role of economic and social statistics and the importance of harmonizing them for integration programmes and the process of economic convergence.

In terms of strengthening the response capacity of national statistical bodies, the subprogramme provides for strengthening the institutional capacity of national institutes and bodies and providing support for technical and managerial training.

Lastly, this programme covers activities relating to the incorporation of technological innovations in data processing and dissemination and meta-information. In addition, provision is made for adapting information systems and economic indicators to new requirements, among them the incorporation of statistical information systems of territorial dimension and the evolution of the demand for short-term indicators.

4. Presentation and discussion of substantive items

At its first meeting held in Rio de Janeiro on 25 and 26 March 2002, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC agreed that the second meeting of the Statistical Conference would study in depth the following issues:

- (a) Public credibility of national statistical institutes
- (b) Preparation of directories and use of administrative registers as a primary information source and as a framework for surveys and other statistical research
- (c) Management geared to ensuring the quality of data produced by national statistical institutes

The documents that address each of the issues have been prepared by member countries designated by the Executive Committee and will be distributed to all participating delegations.

5. Report of the Rapporteur

One of the members of the Executive Committee, acting as Rapporteur, will give a provisional oral summary of the main agreements adopted and of the discussions. The final report of the meeting will be prepared by the ECLAC secretariat and sent to participating delegations for their comments.

6. Adoption of agreements

The Conference will adopt the agreements it deems appropriate.

7. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas for the period 2003-2005

In accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7, the Conference will elect an Executive Committee, consisting of a Chairman and six members. In so doing, it will take pains to ensure that all subregions are represented.

The members of the Executive Committee may be reelected for three consecutive periods. The Chairman may not be reelected for a second consecutive term but may be elected as a member of the Committee. Any member of the Committee who has fulfilled three successive mandates may be reelected only after two years have elapsed since the end of his last mandate.