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

Santiago, 26-28 May 2015

**AGREEMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STATISTICAL
CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its fourteenth meeting, held in Santiago, from 26 to 28 May 2015,

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

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

Bearing in mind further resolution 8(VII) adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its seventh meeting, and the agreements adopted by the Executive Committee at its thirteenth meeting,

Having reviewed the reports on the progress of the activities of the working groups and those of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015, of the Conference,

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

Taking into consideration also the views expressed and the contributions provided by the Governments of the States members of the Conference and by the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the international organizations represented at the meeting,

Review of progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. *Endorses* the report on the activities of the working groups, August 2014-March 2015,¹ and urges the groups to continue pursuing their fruitful work until their terms of reference are fully discharged;
2. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador, in its capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee, for developing and implementing an online system for following up on the activities of the working groups, requests the secretariat to continue maintaining and improving that tool and urges the countries to continue using the system to submit their four-monthly reports in order to furnish the Executive Committee with appropriate, up-to-date information for monitoring the activities of the working groups;
3. *Also thanks* the international organizations whose technical secretariats have provided support and collaboration for the activities of the groups;

¹ LC/L.4015(CE.14/6).

4. *Urges* member States of the Conference, the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to contribute actively to carrying out the activities envisaged in the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015;
5. *Also urges* the countries to generate synergies between the Statistical Conference of the Americas and other subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to strengthening statistical systems in the region;

Censuses

6. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the various activities planned or held in relation to censuses and vital statistics, such as the seminar Sharing experiences on developing the censuses for the 2020 round, organized by the National Institute of Statistics of Chile, with support from the United Nations Population Fund and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC; the Third Latin American and Caribbean Course on Population Estimates and Projections, to be organized by National Statistical Institute of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC in Caracas in July 2015; and the Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, which will be held from 9 to 12 November 2015 and organized by the United Nations Statistics Division and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC;
7. *Urges* the countries of the region to take part in the new edition of the intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications between August and December 2015, and requests the United Nations Population Fund and other agencies to continue to support this important activity;
8. *Also urges* the countries to strive to modernize the methods used to conduct their censuses, in particular by aiming to use a wider range of administrative data sources;
9. *Acclaims* the forthcoming second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Mexico City from 6 to 9 October 2015;
10. *Welcomes* the decision by several countries to conduct intercensal surveys or censuses corresponding to the 2010 round, reiterates the importance of incorporating, as far as possible, the recommendations emanating from the activities of the Conference in census exercises, and requests the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean to continue supporting the countries in planning and analysing their population and housing censuses and to promote activities to continue identifying and evaluating the lessons learned from the 2010 round, with a view to applying them in the next census round;
11. *Notes* the importance of carrying out preparatory activities for the 2020 census round sufficiently in advance;

Harmonization of Poverty Statistics

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuing to improve instruments for measuring monetary and multidimensional poverty, including poverty relating to time use, in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;
13. *Welcomes* the activities of the working group to identify dimensions of well-being that lend themselves to harmonized measurement and invites the member countries to provide the support necessary to ensure the successful conclusion of the activities still pending;

Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

14. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the proposed reprogramming of the activities of the working group in order to meet its specific objectives and urges the working group to take action as required to carry out these activities within the time estimated;
15. *Requests* the countries to redouble their efforts to generate the information necessary to produce indicators for the Millennium Development Goals in order to obtain solid evidence for assessing achievement of the Goals deriving from the Millennium Summit;
16. *Restates* the need for national statistical offices to take an active part in discussion forums and in the preparation of the indicators for the post-2015 development agenda in order to ensure that appropriate statistical information is used for monitoring purposes;
17. *Recognizes* that the sustainable development goals merit special attention and proposes that the best way to address them should be discussed at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

National accounts

18. *Takes note of* the start-up of activities under the Development Account tranche 9 project “Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin American, Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries” and of the progress made on the first phase of national and regional evaluation;
19. *Encourages* the countries, especially the pilot countries, to offer their full support for future activities relating to the Development Account project as regards application of the main recommendations of the System of National Accounts, 2008;
20. *Calls upon* experts on national accounts in the region to discuss, at the upcoming seminar on national accounts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the future activities and the composition of the working group, for presentation at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;
21. *Restates* the importance of continuing to raise the profile of the working group’s activities vis-à-vis potential donors and interested partners;
22. *Notes* the important links between national accounts, gender statistics, environmental statistics and risk management, and the potential benefits resulting from those links;

Measurement of information and communications technologies (ICTs)

23. *Calls upon* the national statistical offices to respond in a timely manner to the ICT surveys conducted by the working group, which are aimed at offering the countries updated, harmonized data that will serve the purposes of public policy decision-making geared towards tapping information technologies to improve health care, raise education quality, galvanize the labour market, contribute to the development of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, promote public services through e-government and contribute in general to expediting social and economic progress;
24. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the commencement of activities to develop a methodology for measuring gender and ICT indicators in household surveys and administrative records, which is being carried out in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, the coordinating country of the Working Group on Gender Statistics, and the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
25. *Emphasizes* the importance of this working group's efforts to integrate the English-speaking Caribbean countries through activities such as support for holding a meeting in the Caribbean aimed at promoting the measurement of ICT in accordance with these countries' priorities, which will have technical and financial support from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
26. *Expresses its appreciation* for the valuable support that the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) has always afforded to this working group within the framework of the collaboration agreement, and expresses its interest in including reference in the eLAC 2018 Digital Agenda to the importance of promoting and strengthening the measurement of ICTs through national statistical plans, and in inviting the focal points of eLAC2015, on the occasion of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to reinforce the measurement of ICTs in their digital agendas and to increase synergies with national statistical offices, in order to work together to generate good-quality, timely statistics on ICTs, also bearing in mind the strong increase in demand for information arising from the sustainable development goals;

Labour market indicators

27. *Acknowledges* that this is a good time for the region to strengthen its systems of labour statistics, given the existence of new recommendations issued by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians at its nineteenth session, which are aimed at better measurement of employment and labour underutilization, and commends the working group for promoting technical discussion on ways to approach these new recommendations and their impacts on the main labour market indicators;
28. *Commends* the efforts made by the working group to secure financing for its activities, in particular its submission of the project "Regional adaptation of new international guidelines for measuring labour statistics through the design of questionnaires and methodological guides" to the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank;
29. *Notes* the existence of issues related to the preparation of labour statistics that the group should tackle in due course, including the review of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93), the effects of the new population projections on estimations of labour market indicators and the construction of gross flow statistics for analysing labour market dynamics;

Institution-building

30. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the broad participation of the countries in the various activities undertaken to disseminate and implement the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and invites them to continue engaging in forthcoming activities;
31. *Commends* the working group on conducting an additional two overall assessments on Code compliance, further to the six that were initially planned;
32. *Urges* the working group to finalize a proposal, to be presented to the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its eighth meeting, for securing ongoing financing for assessing and monitoring the implementation of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to raise the quality of statistics in the region, and also urges the countries and international organizations to support regional projects in that connection;

Environmental statistics

33. *Notes* the progress achieved regarding the project “Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean”, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank;
34. *Welcomes* the completion of the Spanish-language version of the handbook “System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. Central Framework”, by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and calls for it to be printed to improve its dissemination in the region;
35. *Recognizes* the importance of environmental statistics for the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals;
36. *Notes* the start-up of activities under the Development Account tranche 9 project “Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin American, Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries”, and the progress made on the first phase of national and regional evaluation;
37. *Encourages* the countries, especially the pilot countries, to offer their full support for future activities relating to the Development Account project as regards application of the main recommendations of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA 2012);

International classifications

38. *Takes note* of the progress achieved on the planned activities of the working group, and underscores the importance of securing funding for another meeting at the end of the biennium;
39. *Welcomes* the project proposal “Latin American Cluster for the Promotion of Standard Information and Classification Systems (CLASIC)”, which was submitted under the 2015 Call for Proposals of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank;

Agricultural statistics

40. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the commencement of the project “Developing a methodology for implementing agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean” in the framework of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank, with the workshop held in Santiago on 25 and 26 May 2015, at which the project’s Steering Committee agreed to complete the assessment of the status of agricultural and rural statistics in the countries, develop a conceptual framework for a regional integrated system of agricultural and rural statistics, develop a strategy for capacity-building on related issues in the region, and hold a first workshop in February 2016 to endorse the assessment and set the priorities for component 1 of the project, and a second workshop later that month to establish the training programme to be pursued;
41. *Urges* the national statistical offices and the ministries of agriculture of the countries to complete, if they have not yet done so, the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistics system, with a view to obtaining a full assessment of the status of agricultural and rural statistics in the countries;
42. *Reaffirms* that the project entitled “Developing a methodology for implementing agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”, implemented in the framework of the Regional Public Goods Initiative, represents a valuable contribution to the implementation in the region of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, but draws attention to its limited scope and thus to the pressing need for the Global Office of the Global Strategy to adopt the regional implementation plan;

Gender statistics

43. *Welcomes* the availability of the Spanish-language version of the *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys*,² urges the countries to access them through the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and to apply them in future statistical events on the subject, and encourages them to make good use of other sources, such as administrative records for this specific area;
44. *Hails* the commencement of joint activities by the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and the Working Group on Gender Statistics to implement their respective work plans and build indicators on ICT use and gender issues;
45. *Notes with pleasure* the invitation extended by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to the Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to attend the fifty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women, which will be held from 29 to 31 July 2015 in Santo Domingo, in fulfilment of agreement 2 adopted by the Presiding Officers at their fiftieth meeting (Santiago, May 2014), on facilitation of coordination and synergies between the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC;
46. *Encourages* the countries to include shortcomings relating to time use in their multidimensional poverty estimates, in view of their association with gender inequality;

² ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/110.

Household surveys

47. *Notes with satisfaction* the preparation of an assessment of the status of integrated household survey systems (IHSS) in the member countries of the group, and the continuing compilation of information on the stratification of the sampling frame;
48. *Appreciates* the importance of modernizing and continuing to enhance the integration and efficiency of household survey methodologies, particularly in view of the growing demand for information arising from the monitoring requirements of the post-2015 development agenda;
49. *Urges* the countries to use the electronic forum and to contribute to the working group's digital library;
50. *Also urges* the working group to identify the competences of the statistical institutes of the region in respect of household surveys, with the goal of promoting South-South cooperation;

Statistics on childhood and adolescence

51. *Welcomes* the progress report on the biennial programme of activities of the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence, which describes the activities carried out and the outcomes achieved;
52. *Commends* the holding of a workshop on the analysis and dissemination of data on childhood, in Santo Domingo in November 2014, and a workshop on the design of household surveys using the multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) methodology in Panama in October 2014;
53. *Urges* the countries to participate in the activities of the working group and to redouble their efforts to compile the information needed to produce indicators on children and young persons, and asks for greater collaboration with the other working groups to address the issue of statistics on childhood and adolescence in a cross-cutting manner;
54. *Notes* the importance of administrative records for generating statistics on childhood and adolescence and suggests that these be considered as a possible future topic for the working group;

Statistics on public security and justice

55. *Notes with satisfaction* the holding of various group coordination activities and commends the progress achieved under the established work plan;
56. *Applauds* the recent joint adoption of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;
57. *Recommends* that the States members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas consider drawing up national plans for the gradual adoption of the Classification, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and, specifically, the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Government, Public Security, Victimization and Justice, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the working group;

58. *Calls upon* national statistical offices to forward information relating to the assessment of the status of crime and criminal justice statistics in the region's countries, as defined in the work plan of this group, in order to plan actions to improve the performance of these systems;
59. *Encourages* the member countries of the Conference to persevere with their efforts to harmonize victim survey questionnaires and methodologies in the region, under the coordination of this working group and with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular, the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Government, Public Security, Victimization and Justice;

Quantification of South-South cooperation

60. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in discussions to identify and agree upon elements for measuring South-South cooperation in technical and financial terms, and thanks the National Administrative Department of Statistics and the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia for providing financial and technical support for the performance of the task force's activities;
61. *Invites* the member countries of the task force to complete the planned activities, and to continue to develop methodologies, build instruments and establish common processes to measure and systematize information on South-South cooperation, through close collaboration between national statistical offices and the agencies responsible for coordinating international cooperation in each country;
62. *Notes* the need to review the scope for continuing discussions on the measurement of South-South cooperation and to foster knowledge-sharing between the different initiatives that are addressing the issue in the region;

Disability measurement

63. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the initiatives by Mexico, in its capacity as coordinator, to secure funding for the task force to carry out its activities as set forth in resolution 8(VII), adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its seventh meeting;
64. *Recognizes* the need for a regional agreement on the most appropriate ways to measure the situation regarding disability and on suitable instruments for this purpose;

Knowledge Transfer Network

65. *Thanks* the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia for its work in coordinating the Knowledge Transfer Network;
66. *Acknowledges* the network's role as a key platform for sharing knowledge and experience between national statistical offices and for generating common solutions to statistical challenges;
67. *Reiterates* the need for all member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to collectively and actively engage in building the Knowledge Transfer Network, and requests that they update information and contribute to promoting innovation and the dissemination of services on a continuous basis;

Information on subregional cooperation activities

68. *Notes with satisfaction* the activities carried out by the subregional statistical cooperation agencies;
69. *Commends* the Statistics Committee of the Andean Community upon the resumption of its activities and recognizes its valuable contribution to the development of statistics in the Andean subregion;

Proposed strategic plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas

70. *Thanks* the secretariat for preparing the proposed Strategic Plan, 2015-2025,³ of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and requests it to proceed with the preparation of the final document, taking into account the suggestions and comments contained in the report of the present meeting of the Executive Committee, with a view to its submission for review and adoption at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;
71. *Requests* the working groups to prepare their respective draft biennial work plans on the basis of the ground lines established in the new strategic plan;
72. *Pledges* to submit draft rules of procedure on the functioning of the working groups, as well as criteria for the formation of the new Executive Committee, at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

Election of the countries that will participate in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring

73. *Welcomes* the election of Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico as representatives of the region to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators;
74. *Also welcomes* the election of Argentina, the Bahamas, Ecuador, El Salvador and Saint Lucia as representatives of the region to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring;
75. *Urges* the countries serving as representatives to seek prior consultation mechanisms and to report to all the countries of the region on the progress of the work carried out in both groups;
76. *Calls upon* all the countries to actively participate and engage in the process;

Place and date of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

77. *Welcomes* the offer extended by the Government of Ecuador to host the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place from 17 to 19 November 2015;

³ LC/L.4009(CE.14/4).

78. *Also welcomes* the proposal by Canada to hold a seminar on 16 November 2015, as a side event at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, to examine the outcomes in the region of the International Statistical Fellowship Program of Statistics Canada;
79. *Takes note* of the proposals to hold substantive seminars at the eighth meeting of the Conference, including a seminar on the data revolution proposed by the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund, a seminar on censuses proposed by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as the coordinator of the working group on that topic, and a seminar proposed by Brazil on indicators for monitoring the progress of the sustainable development goals, and requests the secretariat to consult with the countries to determine other topics of interest to be discussed in the substantive seminars.