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Eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the  
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Quito, 17-19 November 2015

## **RESOLUTION 9(VIII)**

*The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its eighth meeting, held in Quito from 17 to 19 November 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 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

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

*Taking into account* resolution 70/1, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which establishes the commitment of the United Nations Member States to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,

*Having considered* the report on the implementation of the 2014-2015 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference,<sup>1</sup>

*Having considered also* the proposed Strategic Plan 2015-2025<sup>2</sup> and the review of operational guidelines for the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas,<sup>3</sup>

*Taking into account* the growing importance of and need for reliable, high-quality and timely statistics for the exercise of transparency, for the accountability of public authorities and for the assessment of public policy advances, as key elements of institution-building in the region,

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

*Taking into consideration also* the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fifth session,

*Taking into consideration further* the views expressed and the contributions put forward by the Governments of the States members of the Conference and by the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations represented at the meeting,

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<sup>1</sup> LC/L.4081(CEA.8/6).

<sup>2</sup> LC/L.4070(CEA.8/4).

<sup>3</sup> LC/L.4080(CEA.8/5).

**2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the working groups of the United Nations Statistical Commission (Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for post-2015 monitoring)**

1. *Acknowledges* the work carried out by the member countries of 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 and urges them to continue representing the region in the global process of defining and applying the global monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2. *Recognizes* the need to work together, within a new governance framework, to prepare a regional implementation plan with a view to gradually covering the information requirements deriving from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. *Also recognizes* the importance of the regional space as an apt platform for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlights that the Conference is the appropriate intergovernmental body to conduct such monitoring in the region;

4. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as secretariat of the Conference, to prepare a proposal for a regional statistical monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Urges* the international community and the General Assembly to strengthen the role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as secretariat of the Conference, by providing additional resources with a view to creating capacities through institution-building, training and exchange of experiences, as well as by incorporating a geographical perspective into the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Recognizes* the need to work together to develop an outline for a governance mechanism for the treatment of private data in official statistics;

**Strategic Plan 2015-2025 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

7. *Thanks* the secretariat for preparing the Evaluation of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015<sup>4</sup> and the Strategic Plan 2015-2025;

8. *Adopts* the Strategic Plan 2015-2025, with the observations and suggestions as agreed, to guide the activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in support of the development of official statistics in the region;

**Operational guidelines and new strategic structure of the working groups for the biennium 2016-2017**

9. *Adopts also* the revised operational guidelines for the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, with the observations and suggestions as agreed;

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<sup>4</sup> LC/L.4082(CEA.8/7).

10. *Takes note* of the topics identified as highly relevant for the establishment of working groups for the period 2016-2017 and requests the countries concerned to prepare a draft programme of activities to be submitted for adoption by the Executive Committee at its fifteenth meeting;

11. *Recognizes the importance* of using geospatial information for measuring and monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and requests the secretariat to prepare a proposal on incorporating such information into the work of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

12. *Requests* the secretariat to make contact with the various relevant stakeholders and prepare a proposal for a regional programme to meet the statistical training needs of the member countries;

13. *Also requests* that the working groups recognize the need to include cross-cutting topics in their activities;

14. *Urges* countries to invest in new information and communications technologies, with a view to facilitating exchange and the participation of countries in the working groups and other forums for the coordination of activities in order to increase opportunities for participation beyond face-to-face meetings;

15. *Agrees* to extend the term of the working groups until the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee and mandates the Executive Committee to adopt the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2016-2017 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

#### **Criteria for the formation of the Executive Committee**

16. *Thanks* the Executive Committee for preparing the criteria for the formation of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the biennium 2016-2017<sup>5</sup> and endorses those criteria for use in defining the formation of the Executive Committee in future;

17. *Requests* the Executive Committee to prepare a proposal on geographical distribution for the formation of the Executive Committee;

#### **Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2014-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas**

18. *Endorses* the report on the implementation of the 2014-2015 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas<sup>6</sup> and welcomes the progress made by the working groups, task forces and the Knowledge Transfer Network;

19. *Thanks* the international organizations for their support and collaboration in helping to carry out the activities of the working groups, by serving as technical secretariats or by providing financing for planned activities;

20. *Reiterates* the call to countries to generate synergies between the Statistical Conference of the Americas, other subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and subregional bodies, with a view to strengthening statistical systems in the region;

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<sup>5</sup> LC/L.4068(CEA.8/3).

<sup>6</sup> LC/L.4081(CEA.8/6).

## Censuses

21. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the varied activities organized in connection with censuses and vital statistics, including the seminar Sharing Experiences on Developing the Censuses for the 2020 Round;

22. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System for the Countries of South America, especially with regard to the importance of statistics in general and of vital statistics in particular for the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with regard to the need to produce good-quality vital statistics on maternal mortality;

23. *Expresses its satisfaction also* with two initiatives designed, first, to assess the status of the 2020 census round and identify technical assistance needs and, second, to evaluate and improve vital statistics, and urges countries to cooperate on these initiatives;

24. *Commends* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on holding the 2015 edition of the intensive regional course on demographic analysis, thanks countries, and especially the national statistical offices and ministries of health for the interest demonstrated and the efforts undertaken to train staff in order to strengthen the production and analysis of sociodemographic information, welcomes the presence of participants from civil registry offices in the course and urges international organizations to continue supporting this important activity;

25. *Reiterates* the call to countries to make efforts to improve administrative records, in particular with a view to ensuring the availability of reliable, timely information for public policy purposes and to complementing the methods used to conduct censuses, especially with respect to vital statistics;

26. *Welcomes* the holding and convening capacity of the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Mexico City in October 2015, and urges countries to explore the potential of the Operational guide for the implementation and follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, in particular with regard to the strengthening of sociodemographic information systems and staff training on demography, population and development;

27. *Welcomes also* the development of REDATAM7, a software tool of great use for disseminating large databases, such as those concerning population censuses, birth and death statistics and other sources of demographic information, which are of fresh relevance in the framework of the data revolution;

28. *Welcomes further* the censuses corresponding to the 2010 round conducted by various countries, reiterates the importance of carrying out those censuses in any countries that have not already done so without delay, of taking advantage of synergies between countries and of incorporating, to the extent 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;

### **Harmonization of poverty statistics**

29. *Underscores* the central importance of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and urges countries to strengthen the measuring instruments that will allow for proper monitoring of the commitments undertaken;

30. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the activities carried out by the Working Group on the Harmonization of Poverty Statistics to prepare a comparative framework of the household income flows used to measure poverty and to systematize indicators of deprivation in housing habitability as a relevant dimension of multidimensional poverty;

31. *Calls upon* the member countries of the Working Group to provide the support needed for the successful conclusion of the outstanding activities and to incorporate the expenditure perspective in its future research activities;

### **Monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals**

32. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the progress made on preparing a publication presenting an overview and outlook that compiles and systematizes the achievements, lessons learned and outstanding challenges with respect to monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in the context of the activities carried out by the Working Group on Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals since it was established;

33. *Urges* the countries of the region to take advantage of best practices and lessons learned in the monitoring and follow-up process of the Millennium Development Goals with a view to ensuring proper monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and taking advantage of the experience gained in defining the strategy for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the framework of the Conference;

### **National accounts**

34. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the varied activities carried out by the Working Group on National Accounts in the last two years;

35. *Reiterates* the importance for 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, with a view to preparing inputs for the discussions at the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

### **Measurement of information and communications technologies**

36. *Values* the varied activities organized by the Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies in the last two years with a view to obtaining tangible results in the field of harmonized statistics on information and communications technologies and on the use of these technologies in the health sector;

37. *Takes note* of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018), adopted at the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, and reaffirms objective 23 on promoting the measurement of access to and use of information and communications technologies at the national and regional levels;

38. *Supports* the commitment of the Working Group to taking part in the discussions and activities of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, created pursuant to resolution 672 (XXXIV);

39. *Takes note* of the support, already expressed by the Working Group, for strengthening the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, as a useful tool for promoting information and communications technologies, and its online forum for fostering dialogue among institutions at the regional level;

40. *Welcomes* the efforts made by national statistical offices and requests the directors of those institutions from the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to lend their indispensable support, through their focal points, to ensure the fulfilment of the tasks of the Working Group, and appreciates the collaboration of government institutions from different sectors and the technical and financial support provided by international and regional financing and cooperation agencies;

### **Labour market indicators**

41. *Values* the work carried out by the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators to provide opportunities for technical discussions on how countries approach new International Labour Organization recommendations and their impact on the main labour market indicators, as well as to analyse the conceptual and methodological aspects of measuring informality statistics and identify statistical gaps in respect of the proposed standards;

42. *Welcomes* the approval of the project entitled “Regional adaptation of new international guidelines for measuring labour statistics through the design of questionnaires and methodological guides” submitted to the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank, which sets out to design methodological guides and harmonized questionnaires that can be used by all countries in the region;

43. *Highlights* the importance for the countries of the region of strengthening their labour statistics systems, with a view to incorporating the new international recommendations on measuring employment and labour underutilization, and takes note of other topics relevant to regional statistical cooperation, such as 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**

44. *Values* the active participation of the countries in disseminating, monitoring and evaluating compliance with the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular with regard to executing overall assessments, developing South-South cooperation, completing the questionnaire on the Code and attending regional training on statistical planning;

45. *Thanks* the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia, in its capacity as coordinator of the Working Group on Institution-building, for its efficient management of the Group's resources, the Inter-American Development Bank for the financing provided and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its support in carrying out the activities planned for the biennium;

46. *Agrees* to establish a formal partnership for the permanent funding of monitoring and evaluation activities on compliance with the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to improve the quality of statistics in the region, and invites countries and international organizations to support the consolidation of this partnership;

47. *Urges* the Working Group to include in its future work other elements of institution-building, as indicated in paragraph 2 of the Mitad del Mundo Declaration of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

#### **Environmental statistics**

48. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the varied activities carried out by the Working Group on Environmental Statistics in the last two years;

49. *Takes note* of the progress achieved on the project "Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean", in the framework of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank and of the success of the Development Account tranche 9 project "Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin American, Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries";

50. *Reiterates* the importance of environmental statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;

#### **International classifications**

51. *Welcomes* the activities carried out by the Working Group on International Classifications in the last two years and, in particular, the progress made towards the adoption or adaptation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4, the Central Product Classification, Version 2, the International Standard Classification of Occupations, 2008, and the International Standard Classification of Education, 2011, as well as towards the identification of challenges and solutions;

52. *Values* the work carried out by the Working Group to support countries in the adoption or adaptation of classifications of activities, products, and occupations, by translating relevant documents into Spanish, promoting horizontal collaboration between countries, coordinating with organizations preparing regional classifications, and engaging with the international organizations that are custodians of classifications and that have prepared documents for the adoption, adaptation or updating of classifications;



### **Agricultural statistics**

53. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the adoption of the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics by the Global Steering Committee of the Strategy at its meeting on 22 June 2015;

54. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the progress made on 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, recognizes that the required consultations are being duly carried out, and requests that a regional workshop be held in February 2016 to present the regional evaluation and the conceptual framework for a regional integrated system of agricultural and rural statistics;

55. *Reaffirms* the important contribution of the project to the implementation of the Global Strategy in the region and draws attention to the urgent need to mobilize additional resources in order to achieve the full implementation of the Regional Action Plan;

### **Gender statistics**

56. *Underscores* the statistical challenge presented by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and calls on countries to redouble their efforts to produce gender statistics and indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals on time use and unpaid work, violence against women, and participation in decision-making, as well as on multidimensional poverty measurement and the use of information and communications technologies, which are priority areas in the activities of the Working Group on Gender Statistics;

57. *Commends* the efforts made by the Working Group to prepare a time-use classification for Latin America (CAUTAL) with a gender focus and adapted to the regional context, including its inter-agency work in recent years, and adopts the classification of time-use activities for Latin America<sup>7</sup> as presented to the Conference at its eighth meeting;

58. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies towards consolidating a list of indicators on the use of information and communications technologies and gender and encourages all working groups to include gender statistics in their work;

59. *Urges* countries to allocate resources to national statistical offices for developing collection mechanisms and disseminating gender statistics;

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<sup>7</sup> LC/L.4083(CEA.8/8).

### **Household surveys**

60. *Welcomes* the organization of the “Regional workshop on household surveys in Latin America: current situation and outlook”, held in Santiago in October 2015, as a forum for sharing the progress made on implementing household surveys in the region, on measuring income and employment, and on using longitudinal samples;

61. *Recognizes* the value of household surveys as an essential source of information for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and urges countries and the working groups of the Conference to continue modernizing and enhancing the integration and efficiency of household survey processes and integrating into the analysis information from relevant administrative records and new methodologies;

### **Statistics on childhood and adolescence**

62. *Welcomes* the activities carried out to identify information gaps in respect of child protection, children with disabilities, early childhood development, indicators on sexual behaviour and HIV prevention among adolescents, as well as to define harmonization problems between the estimates used by international bodies and those used at the national level;

63. *Also welcomes* the holding of workshops to strengthen capacities with respect to standardized methodologies for gathering information on childhood and adolescence and promoting the use of existing data;

64. *Highlights* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains multiple targets relating to childhood and adolescence, and that countries will therefore be called upon to respond to new demands for information on this topic;

### **Statistics on public security and justice**

65. *Acknowledges* the contribution of the Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice to preparing the standardized questionnaire of the Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative and calls upon the countries of the region to use it;

66. *Thanks* the countries that participated in the feasibility tests and in defining the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and reiterates the importance for countries to progressively adopt the classification in order to improve the quality and availability of data on crime and criminal justice;

67. *Urges* the member States of the Conference to address the priorities established in the regional road map for improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to strengthen statistical systems on crime and criminal justice in the region;

### **Quantification of South-South cooperation**

68. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the progress made by the Task Force on Quantification of South-South Cooperation towards defining a standard measurement of expert-hours, consolidating data collection methods for measuring South-South cooperation, and defining standard units for measuring grants, and urges the task force to continue making progress in these areas for consideration by the Executive Committee at its fifteenth meeting;

### **Disability statistics**

69. *Welcomes* the activities carried out by the Task Force on Disability Statistics to define a consensus-based work plan and to administer the funding needed to execute it;

### **Knowledge Transfer Network**

70. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the active participation of the countries in the new activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network, led by Colombia, and invites them to continue collectively creating opportunities for exchanging knowledge, disseminating information more widely and ensuring that regional information is kept up-to-date through the website of the Network;

### **Subregional cooperation**

71. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the productive subregional cooperation activities carried out by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians of the Caribbean Community, the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System, the Andean Statistical Committee of the Andean Community and the Specialized Statistical Meeting of the Southern Common Market;

72. *Thanks* Statistics Canada for the organizing the Forum on Strengthening Statistical Management Practices in Latin America and the Caribbean, which constituted an extraordinary contribution to reflections and regional action on institution-building, as well as for the financial support provided to hold the Forum;

73. *Thanks also* the United Nations Population Fund, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the German Agency for International Cooperation for organizing the substantive seminar “The data revolution and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: challenges and opportunities for national statistical institutes” and for the financial support provided to hold the seminar;

74. *Urges* the international community to channel resources towards efforts to strengthen national statistical systems through cooperation, technical assistance and financial support;

75. *Values and expresses gratitude* for the work of the National Statistics and Censuses Institute of Ecuador and for the efforts and dedication its Executive Director, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Conference during the biennium 2014-2015;

76. *Thanks* the President and the Government of Ecuador, and in particular the National Statistics and Censuses Institute, for the excellent organization of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, and for the hospitality extended to the participants;

*77. Adopts* the Mitad del Mundo Declaration of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.