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

Quito, 2-4 July 2012

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is a subsidiary body of the Commission established pursuant to resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which defined as follows the objectives of the Conference: to promote the development and improvement of national statistics and work to ensure that they are comparable 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.

At its sixth meeting, held in Bávaro, Dominican Republic in November 2011, the Conference determined that the composition of its Executive Committee for the period 2012-2013 would be as follows: Belize, Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay (Chair), and Spain.

At its eleventh meeting, the Executive Committee will review the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2012-2013, which was adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC at its sixth meeting in resolution 7(VI). In particular, the Executive Committee will review progress made in implementing the plans of action drawn up by the working groups of the Conference, and will propose measures to enhance their achievements. As is usual, two substantive seminars will be held during the meeting of the Executive Committee: (a) Panel on the importance of statistics on security in national statistical systems; (b) Panel on the concepts to be discussed at the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

B. CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE

In accordance with resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Paraguay, in its capacity as Chair of the Conference, will preside over the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee.

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Committee will have before it the following provisional agenda for adoption or amendment:¹

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Progress report on the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2012-2013.

¹ LC/L.3478(CE.11/1).

- (a) Reports of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - (i) Working Group on Censuses
 - (ii) Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals
 - (iii) Working Group on Gender Statistics
 - (iv) Working Group on National Accounts
 - (v) Working Group on information and communications technologies
 - (vi) Working Group on Institution-building
 - (vii) Working Group Environmental Statistics
 - (viii) Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers
 - (ix) Working Group on International Classifications
 - (x) Working Group on Agricultural Statistics
 - (xi) Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators
 - (xii) Working Group on Household Surveys
 - (xiii) Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence

- (b) Reports on the status of regional projects
 - (xiv) Report of the Knowledge Transfer Network
 - (xv) Report on the regional strategy and plan of action for the preparation, implementation and management of directories of businesses and establishments
 - (xvi) Report on the International Comparison Programme

- 3. Information on subregional coordination initiatives.

- 4. Substantive seminars.
 - (a) Panel discussion on the importance of statistics on security in national statistical systems
 - (b) Panel discussion on the concepts to be discussed at the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians

- 5. Joint meeting with the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development to discuss population, territory and sustainable development.

- 6. Other matters.

- 7. Agreements.

- 8. Report of the Rapporteur and closure of the meeting.

2. Progress report on the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2012-2013

The secretariat will give an oral report on the composition and operation of the new working groups created by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC at its sixth meeting. The representatives of the countries coordinating the various working groups will then be invited to report on progress in implementing the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities,

2012-2013, with particular reference to the outcomes which will be presented to the Conference at its seventh meeting in November 2013.

Reference document:

- Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2012-2013 (LC/L.3390(CEA.6/17))

(a) Reports of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

- (i) Working Group on Censuses

This working group's main objective is to promote and organize activities to support the implementation of the 2000 census round. Its focus has shifted increasingly towards issues relating to the evaluation of census information and estimates of population projections based on recent census rounds, as well as analysis of the analytical potential of census information and dissemination across a broad spectrum of technological platforms. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) coordinates this group and will report on targets and actions planned in these areas.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Censuses (LC/L.3490(CE.11/3))
- (ii) Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

The general objective of this working group has been to understand and reduce the discrepancies between the data produced by countries and those used by international bodies in monitoring the Millennium Development Goals. As group coordinator, Argentina will report on the activities planned to achieve that objective mainly by building national capacities for broadening and improving the quality of statistical data on the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and promoting statistical reconciliation and inter-institutional coordination both within countries and between the countries and international agencies.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (LC/L.3491(CE.11/4))
- (iii) Working Group on Gender Statistics

The general objective of this working group is to promote the production, development, systematization and consolidation of gender statistics and indicators for the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies. Its specific objectives are to promote the development of technical, methodological and analytical capacities with regard to gender statistics, strengthen partnerships between national statistical offices and mechanisms for the advancement of women and foster cooperation, international technical assistance and regional collaboration for the development and dissemination of gender statistics. As group coordinator, Mexico will report on the activities planned to achieve the objectives set.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Gender Statistics (LC/L.3492(CE.11/5))
- (iv) Working Group on National Accounts

The general objective of this working group is to contribute to the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008) in the countries of the region and to promote greater integration between the production of basic economic statistics, national accounts and users in the areas of international coordination, the development of methodologies and standards, regional harmonization and human resources development. In particular, one of its specific objectives is to encourage more countries to participate in its activities, especially representatives of central banks, in order to strengthen the collaboration with national statistical offices with a view to improving economic statistics and national accounts. As group coordinator, Peru will report on the activities designed to meet these objectives.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on National Accounts (LC/L.3495(CE.11/6))
- (v) Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies

The general objective of this working group is to contribute to the development of the statistical and methodological capacities of national statistical systems for gathering timely information on the measurement of information and communications technologies (ICT). As group coordinator, the Dominican Republic will report on the activities designed to build national capacities for producing and disseminating indicators of ICT access and use by individuals, households, businesses, governments and key sectors, such as education and health, proposed by the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development. It will also report on the contribution of the working group to defining quantifiable goals and indicators of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015).

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies (LC/L.3494(CE.11/7))
- (vi) Working Group on Institution-building

The general objective of this working group is to carry out activities designed to strengthen national statistical offices in the region through compliance with the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. As group coordinator, Colombia will report on the activities planned to achieve the group's specific goals, which are to disseminate and complete the first phase of implementation of the Code and prepare the proposal for a bank of good statistical practices.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Institution-building (LC/L.3495(CE.11/8))

Reference document:

- Report on strengths, weaknesses and improvement actions found in the self-assessment questionnaire measured against the principles of the Regional Code of Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean (DDR/2).

(vii) Working Group on Environmental Statistics

The general objective of this working group is to promote the development of relevant statistics on natural resources and the environment and their integration into the national statistics systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. As group coordinator, Mexico will report on the project on the development and strengthening of official environmental statistics in support of public policymaking in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is funded by the Regional Public Goods program of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and on the outcomes expected for November 2013.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics (LC/L.3496(CE.11/9))
- (viii) Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers

The objectives of this working group are to obtain a set of basic agreements on the harmonization of criteria and definitions; promote the dissemination of the basic agreements reached and the harmonized criteria and definitions; promote horizontal cooperation and training activities; and encourage broad discussion of topics not covered by the project being carried out by ECLAC to update regional poverty measurement methodology. As group coordinator, Uruguay will present the plan of activities required to achieve these objectives.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers (LC/L.3497(CE.11/10))
- (ix) Working Group on International Classifications

This working group was established pursuant to resolution 7(VI) adopted by the Conference at its sixth meeting. Its general objective is to assist the countries of the region in adopting or adapting revised international classifications with a view to developing official statistics in the different statistical programmes. As group coordinator, Mexico will report on the activities designed to achieve this objective by building the capacities of member countries in the process of adopting or adapting international classifications, sharing information, experiences, knowledge and good practices relating to the implementation of international classifications and establishing a network of experts on international classifications.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on International Classifications (LC/L.3498(CE.11/11))
- (x) Working Group on Agricultural Statistics

The objectives of this working group —which was established pursuant to resolution 7(VI) adopted by the Conference at its sixth meeting— are to improve harmonized agricultural statistics in the region, design the regional implementation plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, bearing in mind the state of the art of these statistics in the countries, train human resources and prepare a viable programme of work for improvement of agricultural statistics in the framework of the Global Strategy. As coordinator, Brazil will present the plan of activities designed to achieve these objectives.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics (LC/L.3499(CE.11/12))
- (xi) Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators

The general objective of this working group —which was established pursuant to resolution 7(VI) adopted by the Conference at its sixth meeting— is to promote the international comparability of labour-market indicators and contribute to methodological harmonization and the development of new indicators through the sharing of national experiences. As coordinator, Chile will report on the activities that will be carried out to achieve the following specific objectives: carry out a regional assessment of the official instruments used by the various countries to measure employment, unemployment, underemployment and decent work and provide an inventory of country practices in that area; establish a regional position on the definitions of employment, unemployment and underemployment currently applied, which will be reviewed at the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians in 2013; and promote a strategic plan for the development of a system of basic indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress towards decent work.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators (LC/L.3500(CE.11/13))

Reference document:

- ILO report on the advancement on employment and unemployment statistics (DDR/1)
- (xii) Working Group on Household Surveys

The general objective of this working group —which was established pursuant to resolution 7(VI) adopted by the Conference at its sixth meeting— is to assist the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in improving their household surveys as a basic source of information for the analysis of well-being and the design and implementation of policies designed to improve living conditions. As group coordinator, Ecuador will report on the activities planned in the following areas: supporting the formation of integrated household survey systems as a framework for the implementation of harmonized household surveys; exchanging experiences and good practices in the statistical design of household surveys; use of methodologies for generating transverse and longitudinal estimators based on continuous surveys; and regional and subregional cooperation activities to build the capacities of member countries to implement good-quality household surveys.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Household Surveys (LC/L.3501(CE.11/14))
- (xiii) Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence.

The general objectives of this working group —which was established pursuant to resolution 7(VI) adopted by the Conference at its sixth meeting— are to improve regional coordination for the production of statistics and indicators on childhood and adolescence in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, enhance the comparability of statistics within the region, increase the reliability of administrative records and achieve coordination between sectors and with international agencies in order to contribute to the development of indicators that promote and protect the rights of the child. As coordinator, Panama will report on the activities planned to achieve these objectives.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence (LC/L.3502(CE.11/15))

(b) Reports on the status of regional projects

- (xiv) Report of the Knowledge Transfer Network

The general objective of the Knowledge Transfer Network is to consolidate its use as a shared project by promoting recognition of the strategic value of knowledge and encouraging horizontal technical cooperation between Network members in the region. As the country responsible for the operational unit of the Network, Mexico will report on the activities carried out and planned to achieve the following specific objectives: help to coordinate the training activities of all working groups of the Conference; promote the coordination of official statistics training programmes organized by national and international bodies in the region; and encourage knowledge transfer activities developed on online education platforms.

Working document:

- Report of the Knowledge Transfer Network (LC/L.3503(CE.11/16))
- (xv) Report on the regional strategy and plan of action for the preparation, implementation and management of directories of businesses and establishments.

The purpose of the Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments project is to define a regionally agreed strategy for the preparation, implementation, management and improvement of the directories of businesses and establishments of the 11 countries participating in this Regional Public Goods program financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and to complement it with a regional plan of action for execution of the strategy. The aim of the project is to improve the quality of statistics on businesses and establishments prepared on the basis of fiscal information, economic surveys and other administrative records, in order to improve sampling frames and the quality of economic statistics in the countries of Latin America. The project comprises four components: diagnostic review, regional strategy and plan of action, technical recommendations and training. The first two components have already been carried out and the third is under way. Peru, as coordinator of the second component recently completed, and Colombia, as coordinator of the third component, which will begin in July 2012, will report to delegations on the progress made and future activities.

Working document:

- Regional strategy and plan of action for the preparation, implementation and management of directories of businesses and establishments (LC/L.3504(CE.11/17))
- (xvi) Report on the International Comparison Programme

The Statistics Division of ECLAC will present an updated status report on the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme,² which was submitted for consideration at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas held in Bávaro, Dominican Republic in November 2011, which describes the work carried out since then in the context of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme in the region.

Working document:

- Updated status report on the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3505(CE.11/18))

3. Information on subregional coordination activities

Under this agenda item, the various coordination bodies —the specialized statistical meeting within MERCOSUR, the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System (CENTROESTAD), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the statistical programme of the Andean Community— will report on their programmes of work.

Reference document:

- Central American Committee of Statistics of SICA: the initiation of actions towards a Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) (DDR/3)

4. Substantive seminars

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC decided to examine the following substantive matters at its eleventh meeting: the importance of statistics on security in national statistical systems; and review of the concepts to be discussed at the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

Ecuador is responsible for organizing and coordinating the seminar on the importance of statistics on security in national statistical systems. The objectives of the seminar are to:

- Present national experiences of the implementation of statistics on citizen security and emphasize the participation of national institutes in their improvement.
- Propose the regional development of statistical operations relating to citizen security to obtain a set of indicators allowing comparability.

² LC/L.3388(CEA.6/15).

Chile, with the support of the International Labour Organization, is responsible for organizing and coordinating the seminar on the review of the concepts to be discussed at the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians. The seminar will cover the following subjects:

- International recommendations on labour statistics: International Labour Organization and International Conference of Labour Statisticians.
- Reasons for revising existing standards.
- Concepts to revise and proposals by the International Labour Organization.
- Work of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators of the Statistical Conference relating to the proposed revision.

5. Joint meeting with the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development to discuss population, territory and sustainable development

The ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC have agreed to hold a joint session on population, territory and development at their respective meetings in Quito on 4 July. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC has prepared the document *Population, territory and sustainable development* (LC/L.3474(CEP.2/3)) evaluating the links between location and population mobility and sustainable development according to different operational definitions of territory, focusing on the specific characteristics of Latin America and the Caribbean. It also identifies arguments and evidence on the advantages and opportunities of intense, rapid urbanization, as well as the problems, difficulties and challenges. The document ends with conclusions and recommendations and points out that the difficulties caused by population concentration in the region are not just inevitable problems. Rather, they constitute challenges that can be overcome, albeit temporarily, if the concentration is gradual, the economy is solid and the country has technical capacities, strong governance and public policy planning.

A representative of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC will present the document and the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference will comment on it, especially its implications for the development of official statistics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. Other matters

7. Agreements

The Conference will adopt decisions as appropriate.

8. Report of the Rapporteur and closure of meeting

The Rapporteur will give an oral summary of the proceedings and the main agreements adopted. The final report of the meeting will be prepared by the secretariat and sent to participating delegations for their comments.

The Chair of the Executive Committee will close the meeting.