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ECLAC

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

**REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES**

2012-503

A. BACKGROUND

The Working Group comprises Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic (coordinator), Mexico and Panama.

General objective:

- To contribute to the development of statistical and methodological capacities for gathering timely information on the measurement of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Specific objectives:

- To ensure that all countries have, irrespective of their conditions, relevant statistics on the use and availability of ICTs in the economy and in society, and to establish a minimum set of standard indicators for the region.

- To contribute to defining the quantifiable targets and indicators for the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015).

- To contribute to the discussion on and dissemination of indicators of ICT access and use by individuals, households, businesses, governments and key sectors such as the education or health sector, proposed by the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development.[1]

- To update and improve the compendium of practices on the inclusion of ICT questions in household surveys and encourage the development of similar compendiums of practices for surveys on ICT access and use by businesses, the public sector and the education and health sectors.

- To promote the strengthening of the regional database of the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC) and encourage countries to submit the relevant measurements.

The Working Group also proposes to:

- Significantly increase the number of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that incorporate the measurement of ICTs into their household and business surveys.

- Take into account the agreement to systematize and disseminate statistics and indicators with a gender-based approach.[2]

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[1] See United Nations, Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development: information and communications technology statistics. Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2009/19), December 2008 [online] www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/partnership/material/2009-19-ICT-E.pdf.

[2] See Report of the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L. 2795), Santiago, Chile, 2007 [online] http://www.eclac.cl/deype/publicaciones/xml/1/30051/LCL2795i.pdf

- To contribute in particular to greater integration of the non-Spanish-speaking countries of the Caribbean in the Working Group's activities by promoting closer ties with them.

B. PROGRAMME OF WORK, 2012-2013

With a view to continuing to strengthen the measurement of ICTs in the region, the following programme of work was drawn up for the period 2012-2013 and adopted by the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference.

The Working Group proposes to continue implementing the outstanding activities from the period 2009-2011. The programme of work for the period 2012-2013 gives priority to the modules in the health sector and business. The modules in the public sector and electronic education have been postponed to 2014-2016 due to difficulties in securing financing and technical support.

The migration of the OSILAC electronic list to a virtual platform located on the ECLAC server but administered and moderated by the coordinator of the Working Group is still pending.

The Working Group has included a proposal to conduct the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs, 2012 version, among the government institutions representing the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in matters relating to eLAC, after it has been fully reformulated in conjunction with the eLAC secretariat.

2012

- Completion of the work started in 2011 to develop a set of eLAC indicators.

- Organization of a workshop to provide training on the inclusion of an up-to-date ICT module in business surveys to assist countries that have not conducted measurements in this sector. Requests will be made for financial support from multilateral institutions and technical support from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and ECLAC.

- Implementation of the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs in national statistical offices, 2012 version.

- Revision of the compendium of practices to produce an up-to-date 2012 version on the inclusion of ICT questions in household and business surveys, with the help of a specialist provided by ECLAC. This task requires technical support from an expert.

- Development of a module on ICT access and use in the health sector. Implementation of this proposal is dependent on technical cooperation from the World Health Organization and the assistance of a country in the region to host the workshop, as well as the financial support of international cooperation and financing organizations and help from ECLAC.

2013

- Implementation of the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs in national statistical offices, 2013 version.

- Proposal to the government institutions representing the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in matters relating to eLAC to conduct the 2012 survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs, following its reformulation, in coordination with the eLAC secretariat.

2012

Period	Activities
January to April	Continue the work started in 2011 to construct eLAC2015 indicators.
May to August	Meeting to review the concepts and methodology of the ICT module in business surveys.
	Survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs in national statistical offices, 2012 version.
	Workshop for training staff on an ICT module in business surveys for countries that so require.
September to December	Update the compendium of practices with the help of an expert from ECLAC and the support of the Working Group.

2013

Period	Activities
January to April	Workshop on statistics on ICTs in health with a view to suggesting a set of indicators for an ICT module in this sector.
May to August	Survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs in national statistical offices, 2013 version.
September to December	Reformulation of the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs, to be conducted among the government institutions representing the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in matters relating to eLAC.
	Implementation of the survey in the government institutions representing the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in matters relating to eLAC.

C. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE WORKING GROUP IN 2012

- In March, a report was prepared in Spanish and in English on the 2011 version of the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs in national statistical offices.

- In April, a brief comparative analysis of the 2010 and 2011 versions of the survey was circulated, together with the results of the 2011 survey.

- In April, the process of setting up a Working Group forum was launched, in coordination with ECLAC. This project is currently in the initial stages.

- During March and April the Working Group revised and adapted the 2012 version of the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs in national statistical offices.

- It is hoped that phase two of the document containing the eLAC indicators will be completed in May. This document is the outcome of work coordinated by the commission on eLAC indicators, which is made up of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and eLAC. As part of phase two, the document will be sent to the other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

- The Working Group is preparing to send the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on ICTs in national statistical offices, 2012 version, to the countries of the region in June.

- The Working Group is organizing a meeting to review the concepts and methodology of the ICT module in business surveys, to take place before the workshop. This task was not included in the 2012-2013 programme of work because the programme had already been adopted by the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference in November 2011 when the Working Group decided to conduct this review.

- Some of the activities included in the 2012-2013 programme require financing from international organizations and bilateral cooperation agencies. The necessary steps are being taken to secure this support.