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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIENNIAL PROGRAMME
OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE
STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2009-2011***

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* Report prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. The section relating to progress in implementing the working groups is based on the reports prepared by the respective coordinating countries.

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I. INTRODUCTION

This document contains a status report on the activities listed in the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2009-2011, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), as adopted at the fifth meeting of the Conference and supplemented at the ninth meeting of the Executive Committee, which was held in April 2010. As proposed by the Conference, the activities of the biennial programme are channelled mainly through the working groups and other forms of coordination between the countries and international agencies that provide technical assistance and conduct cooperation activities relating to statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. This programme is consistent with the Conference's Strategic Plan 2005-2015 and includes lines of action for achieving each of the four strategic goals through regional, subregional and international cooperation projects and activities.¹ However, the programme does not describe all the activities carried out in the region by the various international agencies that have a role in the field of statistics and cooperation within the region. These can be found in the Database on International Statistical Activities (Integrated Presentation), the first version of which has been available at the ECLAC website since the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference.²

II. PROGRESS REPORT

A. ACTIVITIES FOR STRENGTHENING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

1. Code of good practice and international statistical standards

(a) Working Group on Institution-building

At its fifth meeting, held in August 2009, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC decided to maintain the Working Group on Institution-building in order to prepare a proposal for a code of good practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, and promote the use of international statistical standards and ways of implementing them. The Working Group was made up of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay. Colombia is the coordinator and is responsible specifically for developing the activities relating to the regional code of good practice in statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean. Mexico has been conducting the activities relating to the group's second objective: promotion of the use of the inventory of international statistical standards.

(b) Code of good practice in statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Working Group's main activity is to prepare and implement the proposed regional code for generating quality statistics, on the basis of the fundamental principles of official statistics adopted by the United Nations and taking as a reference the European Statistics Code of Practice; another activity is to promote the use of international standards in the countries of the region. In its capacity as coordinator of

¹ ECLAC, Final draft Strategic Plan 2005-2015 (LC/L.2575/Rev.1), Santiago, Chile, January 2007 [online] (<http://www.eclac.cl/deype/publicaciones/xml/5/28015/LCL2575rev1i.pdf>).

² See [online] <http://websie.eclac.cl/SA/actividades.asp>.

the Working Group, Colombia devised a work plan for fulfilling the targets set by the Statistical Conference, and significant progress has been achieved.

In conjunction with the ECLAC secretariat, the Working Group undertook its first activity: the design and preparation of an online self-evaluation questionnaire to enable the national statistical offices to assess their institutional environment, based on the offices' responses to the self-evaluation questionnaire conducted by ECLAC in 2007-2008. The online questionnaire was filled in January 2010 by four member countries of the group and three guest countries (Chile, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic). The results were presented in a document setting forth the strengths, and weaknesses in relation to each of the principles examined, and the steps taken independently by the offices to remedy the situation or proposed to ECLAC for wider application.

The Working Group has prepared a preliminary proposal for the framework of the code, comprising three sections (institutional environment and coordination, statistical process and statistical production) and 14 principles. This proposal was presented at the second workshop on the preparation of the regional code of best practices in statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Luxembourg in June 2010; after discussing the matter and considering the proposals put forward by the other countries attending, a new tentative framework was proposed, consisting of the same sections but with three additional principles.

On the basis of the adjustments to the proposal, the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia conducted a virtual workshop to present the main activities and advances of the Working Group on Institution-building of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to all the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, and to validate the criteria for fulfilment of the proposed framework of the regional code of good practices for Latin America and the Caribbean. Seventeen countries participated in this workshop, which was designed primarily to disseminate and discuss the concepts relating to the preparation of the code and to propose adjustments thereto. In addition, they worked on questionnaires for validating each of the compliance criteria proposed in each section.

The Working Group is at present consolidating the responses to the virtual workshop and preparing a report setting out all the activities and contributions made by the various participants. At the same time, the adjustments proposed by the participants are being reviewed, evaluated and analysed to see if they can be worked into the proposal presented at the virtual workshop.

Furthermore, a pilot run of the self-assessment questionnaires is being conducted to study two procedural principles and two statistical production principles (two sections of the proposed code). This test is designed for the four member countries of the Working Group, and is aimed at checking the relevance, questions, wording and response options.

(i) *Activities scheduled for 2011*

- Design and prepare the questionnaire for the eight missing self-assessment principles of procedural and statistical production.
- Application of the questionnaires designed for the countries of the region, with a sample made up of participants who are obliged to take part (the member countries of the Working Group) and voluntary participants (other countries).
- Reviewing and adjusting the proposed framework of the code, based on the results of the implementation of the procedural and statistical production questionnaires.

(ii) *Results and outputs for presentation at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference*

The Working Group on Institution-building is expected to present the following discussion papers for approval:

- Proposed framework for the code of good practice in statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Self-assessment questionnaires for the national statistical offices on statistical procedures and production.
- Report on implementation of the questionnaires.

(c) **Inventory of international statistical standards (IISS)**

The inventory of international statistical standards was presented at the forty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York, which was held from 23 to 26 February 2010. The objective was to familiarize the international statistical community with this proposal and invite the plenary to consider whether it could be used and what mechanisms could be established for its future update. The inventory has been made available to the statistical community through the Internet site of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico.³ The Statistical Commission made the following statement in this regard.⁴

- Warmly welcomed the offer of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico to provide the inventory of global statistical standards to the international community in order to transform it into a global database to be managed and updated globally.
- Welcomed the proposal of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities to create appropriate mechanisms for the further development and maintenance of the inventory of global statistical standards and, in this regard, requested the Committee to propose a proper classification of those standards.
- Agreed with the proposal that the inventory database be posted on the website of the United Nations Statistics Division for broad public access and use by countries and other users for harmonization and as a reference tool for measuring the degree of compliance with international standards.
- Urged the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities to take the steps necessary for the translation of the inventory into other United Nations official languages with a view to its easy use.

The model and database were presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission for its use by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities. This Committee shall evaluate the potential use of the inventory and present a progress report to the Commission at its forty-second session. On 29 October 2010, an acknowledgement was received from the National Director of the National Statistics Office of the Dominican Republic, the current Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, stating that the Inventory would serve as a model for establishing an inventory at the global level.

In addition to disseminating the Inventory of international statistical standards through their website, the presenters have also used it in a few regional statistical meetings. For example, the paper

³ See [online] <http://mapserver.inegi.org.mx/estandares/Index1.cfm>.

⁴ United Nations Statistical Commission, Report on the forty-first session (23 to 26 February 2010). Economic and Social Council Official Records 2010. Supplement No. 4 (E/2010/24. E/CN.3/2010/34), New York, 2010.

“Estándares aplicables al mejoramiento de la producción estadística” was presented at the first international course “Marco de la calidad para las estadísticas estratégicas”, held in Bogotá, Colombia, from 27 September to 1 October 2010. It was also presented at the workshop on strategies for sustainability within the framework of official statistics, held at the headquarters of the Andean Community in Lima, from 1 to 3 December 2010.

(i) *Activities scheduled for 2011*

- Maintaining the Inventory of international statistical standards on the website provided by INEGI.
- Working with the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the report to be presented to the Commission at its meeting in 2011.
- Promote the inventory site for its use in national, regional and international forums through the website of the Knowledge Transfer Network.

(ii) *Results and outputs for presentation at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference*

- Progress with the inventory of international statistical standards.
- Different mechanisms for disseminating the use of international statistical standards: Inventory of standards, Knowledge Transfer Network, regional and international seminars and forums, among others.
- Report to the United Nations Statistical Commission, prepared by the ad hoc working group of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities.

(d) Strategies for the sustainability of national statistical systems

At the initiative of the Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), a seminar was held on sustainability strategies for official statistics. Financial support for this event was provided by the National Statistics Institute of Spain, while the General Secretariat of the Andean Community provided organizational support. This activity came under specific goal 1 of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference, which seeks to “promote an awareness and application of best practices in terms of legal frameworks, strategic planning, assessment of national statistical systems and financing.”⁵ At the workshop, the different countries of the region and subregional and international organizations shared their experiences in the three following areas: (i) Latin American experiences in promoting sustainability strategies in the field of official statistics; (ii) Statistical programmes and plans at the national and supranational levels; and (iii) Identification of structural deficiencies for training and instruments for the exchange of experiences, with a view to the development of a sustainable, coherent strategy for official statistics in Latin America. Following a fruitful exchange of experiences and an enriching discussion, the participants agreed on a set of recommendations on these issues and decided to request the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to present these recommendations at its tenth meeting, scheduled for April 2011 with a view to their discussion and possible adoption.⁶

⁵ See ECLAC, Final draft Strategic Plan 2005-2015 (LC/L.2575/Rev.1), Santiago, Chile, January 2007 [online] (<http://www.eclac.cl/deype/publicaciones/xml/5/28015/LCL2575rev1i.pdf>).

⁶ See *Informe del Taller sobre estrategias de sostenibilidad en el ámbito de la estadística oficial*. (SG/TALL.ESTAE0/INFORME), Lima, 3 December 2010 [online] http://www.eclac.cl/deype/ceacepal/taller_sostenibilidad/12_tallerSostenibilidad_informe.pdf.

B. ACTIVITIES FOR PROMOTING HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING

2. Knowledge Transfer Network and training

(a) Functioning of the Knowledge Transfer Network

All the countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas are members of the Knowledge Transfer Network. The Council of the Network is made up of the following: Dominican Republic (current Chair of the Executive Committee of the Conference), Brazil, Colombia, Mexico (as Secretariat), Spain, and the World Bank (as a donor).

(i) *Goals of the Knowledge Transfer Network*

The general goal of the Network is to promote the coordination of the training activities of all the working groups of the Conference. The Knowledge Transfer Network was conceived as a regional public good whose mission is to boost the capacity of countries to generate, analyse and diffuse official statistics by encouraging the transfer of the best knowledge available. It serves as a mechanism for coordinating the action of the training programmes in official statistics of the national and international agencies in the region, opening up information and communication channels that enable optimal use of the resources available.

Its specific goals are:

- To coordinate existing national centres and programmes by opening up information and communication channels enabling optimal use of the resources available and helping to remedy the shortage of training in the region.
- To prioritize activities aimed at building a distance-learning platform and promoting the sharing of information, documentation and good practices in the region.

(ii) *Activities carried out*

- Development and constant update of the Network's web page.
- Constant update of the activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network, including the provision of courses, seminars and workshops, with information such as objectives, dates, duration, financing, course trainers for publication on the Network website.⁷
- Updating of the questionnaire for identifying statistical training requirements. Sending out the questionnaire to the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.
- Compiling and integrating the information provided by the countries and generating reports on training needs.
- Updating the database of the network of experts in the region.
- Updating the database of the network of training centres.
- Promoting the Knowledge Transfer Network in various forums.

⁷ See [online] <http://rtc.inegi.org.mx/>.

(iii) Activities scheduled for 2011

- Translating the main page and essential information into English. Requesting the countries to provide the English translation of the titles and relevant information of the courses offered. Translating the operating rules into English and publishing them on the website.
- Integrating the platform for administration of content for the limited access courses.
- Completing the project for identifying the region's requirements for training and knowledge transfer, carrying out the analysis and preparing conclusions, presenting the relevant conclusions to the Council of the Network and publishing them on the website.
- Requesting the national institutes of statistics to provide information on the staff, academics or other persons with proven expertise and experience in the field of statistics who may be included in the Network of experts in order to keep the Network up-to-date.
- Managing the funds required for operating the Network 2012-2013.
- Requesting support from the institutes of statistics of Canada and the United States to run courses, seminars or workshops for countries of the English- and French-speaking Caribbean.

(iv) Results and outputs for presentation at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference

- A functional and interactive web page with up-to-date information on the activities and other facilities of the Network for use by the working groups and member countries of the Statistical Conference.
- Start-up of World Bank donations.

(b) Training in demography

The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of ECLAC continues to conduct activities to generate alternatives for training in demography, population and development in the region.

- In October 2009, the document of the regional seminar entitled “Key advances and actions for the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action 15 years after its adoption” reiterated the need to have a pool of skilled human resources for including population variables in national and subnational policies and programmes and concluded that this pool is still insufficient in many countries and sometimes non-existent at the subnational level. At their meeting during this seminar, the Deputy Director of the United Nations Population Fund and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, agreed on the need for training in the area and the ECLAC facilities were offered as a venue for the courses.
- At the meeting convened by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC (also in October) on strategies for human resources training in demography and population and development, participants acknowledged the track record and the quality of academic programmes in the region, but drew attention to the problem of distribution and questioned the relevance of the training provided, since the available programmes do not meet the requirements of national, much less local, public institutions. In fact, the lack of skills is evident even in countries that have master's and doctoral programmes.
- The participants concluded that it was necessary to build on experiences already obtained through intensive courses and other arrangements that had yielded greater flexibility and more relevant human resources training. The first proposal was to carry out an intensive regional course of intermediate length (3-4 months). The intensive courses have proved

capable of providing a strong foundation in knowledge of demographic analysis in relation to the duration, and this is thanks to the intensive pace of study and the exclusive dedication to the subject matter. Through these courses, the statistical offices, ministries and other public offices are expected to obtain very well prepared resources within a short space of time. Unfortunately, no funding was available for conducting this course in 2010. CELADE–Population Division has been continuing to make arrangements to procure the necessary funds for an intensive course to be held in the second half of 2011.

- At the Fourth Congress of the Latin American Population Association, held in Havana in November 2010, CELADE–Population Division attended the side event entitled “La enseñanza de la demografía: perspectivas internacionales y una visión de futuro”, which culminated in the creation of the network for teaching demography. This network is designed to establish links between academia and associations of demographers and international agencies with a view to coming up with a common response to different problems faced by the various regions. Within this network, CELADE–Population Division acts as a member of the coordinating committee.

(c) Training in the use of REDATAM

Two regional REDATAM workshops were held in Santiago in 2010: “Uso y procesamiento de datos censales para la generación de indicadores socio demográficos utilizando Redatam+SP” and “Generación de bases de datos en formato REDATAM”. In addition, three national workshops were held (in Ecuador, Grenada and Guatemala, respectively). These workshops provided training for 72 persons in total. The REDATAM Web Server run by CELADE–Population Division caters online for applications for technical assistance, maintenance and accommodation from six countries⁸ in the region to enable them to process and tabulate data from censuses and surveys.

**C. ACTIVITIES FOR PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL AND
METHODOLOGICAL CAPACITIES DESIGNED TO GENERATE
HIGH-QUALITY STATISTICS IN THE REGION**

3. Millennium Development Goals

(a) Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

Coordinating country: Argentina.
Member countries: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panamá and Peru.
Technical secretariat: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

(i) Goals of the Working Group.

The general goals of the Working Group are as follows:

- To analyse discrepancies between the data produced by the countries and those used by international bodies in monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

⁸ Belize, Honduras, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

- To develop an agenda of measures to facilitate inter-agency coordination and harmonization of national statistics at the domestic level as well as with statistics produced by international bodies.
- To support and promote the active participation of national statistical offices in the preparation and dissemination of national reports on the Millennium Development Goals in each country.
- To broaden and improve sources of statistical data and the methodological bases used in the preparation of indicators for monitoring progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The specific goals are as follows:

- To improve coordination between ECLAC and the coordinator of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, with a view to strengthening the role of national statistical offices in implementing the programme of work for the new biennium.
- To contribute to building up national coordination mechanisms for the production of statistics for the Millennium Development Goals and for proper reporting on the Goals in national reports.
- To analyse and propose indicators that will enable the Latin American and Caribbean countries to evaluate progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals at the subnational level in line with the priorities and conditions established in each country.
- To promote the development and implementation of the regional statistical reconciliation strategy for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals in order to facilitate inter-agency coordination and the harmonization of statistics within the countries and between the countries and the international agencies.
- To identify and channel financial resources to contribute to further building and improvement of the countries' statistical capacities to produce indicators showing progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and to promote their use in the corresponding reports and by other users.
- To promote and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences regarding the production and use of statistics for the Millennium Development Goals among the countries of the region, based on the inter-agency network of producers and users of indicators for the Millennium Development Goals in the region.
- To urge international agencies to improve the coverage and transparency of methodologies employed to calculate the values of indicators for the Millennium Development Goals and to avoid the use of imputed figures unless consultations with the respective countries have yielded specific national data to support them reliably.

(ii) *Activities carried out*

Various meetings are held each year in the region to improve statistics in specific thematic areas. These are ideal opportunities for moving towards statistical harmonization in given areas covered by the Millennium Development Goals. It was proposed that special sessions should be organized during these meetings to discuss the different dimensions of the Millennium Development Goal indicators in order to make more efficient use of available resources and take advantage of the attendance of producers and users of statistics relating to each issue to be dealt with.

The meetings held during the reporting period (second half of 2009-2010) are listed below.

- First meeting of countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC on monitoring the Millennium Development Goals. organized by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, Buenos Aires, 28-30 September 2009.

Objectives:

- To share experiences in setting up the initiative relating to the Goals between the participating countries, contrasting national practices regarding the inclusion of each indicator (relevant criteria for the indicator) and above all, the introduction of new indicators that are important for the particular country.
- To ensure the necessary coordination between institutions in order to produce national reports on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.
- To discuss the methodological aspects of the Millennium Development Goal indicators.

Participants: representatives of the MERCOSUR countries (Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and members of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, together with officials from the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies and representatives of INDEC of Argentina.

- Annual seminar on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled "Avances y desafíos en materia de conciliación estadística de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en los países de América Latina". organized by the ECLAC Office in Buenos Aires, 5-6 November 2009.

This seminar served as a follow-up to the annual meetings that had been held in different countries of the region and as a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas on cross-cutting issues relating to the Goals. One of its aims was to build statistical capacity and inter-agency coordination within countries and between the latter and international agencies, these being indispensable components of an agenda for data reconciliation in the region.

Participants: high-level representatives of the national statistical offices and of the national agencies responsible for preparing the national report on the Millennium Development Goals as well as representatives of regional agencies responsible for working out and monitoring indicators of the Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Launch of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Strengthening Health Information Systems (REDLACSHIS) and Meeting of Directors of Statistics. Practices for improving the quality of mortality data and harmonization of Millennium Development Goal indicators 4 and 5: two discussion forums. Organized by: the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and ECLAC. Lima, from 27 to 29 April 2010.

The first day of the meeting was devoted to the establishment of the Network. Participants from 17 countries were present together with representatives of the following strategic partners: ministries of health, national statistics institutes, PAHO, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), MEASURE Evaluation Project, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, ECLAC and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). It was decided that the material collected could be used to define a regional strategic plan for strengthening health information systems. It was agreed that the Network should consider the following issues:

- Human resources training, the establishment of a central support pillar for the national plans, data production standards, evaluation of data quality, and the awareness-building, classification, dissemination and use of information.
- Setting up working groups (composed of representatives of countries and agencies) to generate work plans, schedules and requirements for presentation to the Network.
- Identification of available practices and of the requirements of countries for establishing the priority lines of action.

The meeting of directors of statistics was held on the two following days in order to define practices for improving the coverage and quality of death statistics at the local level (basic support for monitoring Millennium Development Goal indicators), to analyse discrepancies and gaps between the indicators relating to Goals 4 and 5 produced by countries and those obtained by international agencies. . The countries' progress in fulfilling Goal 5 relating to maternal health was evaluated. Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia were the countries with the most difficulty in terms of quality of information. Information from Uruguay was uneven. Progress with fulfilment of Goal 4 relating to reducing child mortality was also assessed. The information from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru presented difficulties. The challenges were as follows:

- To improve the coverage, quality and timeliness of mortality data.
- To improve the reliability of indicators.
- To enhance the information produced by routine health systems.
- To promote information use.
- To strengthen the use of health information.
- To build capacity for analysing health data.

The purpose of the meeting was to improve the availability of reliable, good quality statistical information for monitoring the progress achieved by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was determined that this improvement should be achieved by strengthening statistical systems, monitoring regional practices, compiling statistics and reconciling data.⁹ The participants assessed the objectives established to that date. It was proposed that monitoring of regional practices could be enhanced through statistical support, statistical development, dissemination of methodological standards for the production of the Millennium Development Goal indicators and the establishment of regional indicators.

More accurate measurements are expected to help improve the establishment of regional indicators, as there may at present be statistical discrepancies. Such discrepancies are revealed between indicators reported by a country and information obtained by the regional or global agencies and attempts are being made to identify and discuss the causes.

Progress has been observed with respect to Goal 1 insofar as regionally comparable poverty lines have been established; with respect to Goals 2 and 3 (additional indicators on education and gender); and Goal 7 (additional or complementary indicators and alternative sources). It was proposed that the next challenge for the region should be to review Goals 2, 3 and 7 and Goals 4,

⁹ Data reconciliation refers to the coordination between sectoral statistical units on the basis of the production of Millennium Development Goal series and indicators.

5 and 6 relating, respectively, to reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

In another statement, ECLAC addressed the issue of Millennium Development Goal indicators relating to health: data reconciliation and complementary indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean.” The discrepancies found between national and international sources in these indicators are conceptual and methodological.

Fulfilment of the health-related Millennium Development Goals is monitored at the global level by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics, World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), ECLAC and the United Nations Statistics Division. At the regional level, it is monitored by the following: regional and international agencies: PAHO, ECLAC, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, World Food Programme (WFP); at the national level by the following entities: the ministry of planning; national statistical offices; and the ministry of health.

Various international agencies are involved in monitoring the indicators for Goals 1, 4, 5 and 6. The national reports on the Goals are being prepared by different agencies including ministries of planning, social cabinets, national councils for the coordination of social policies, policy coordination agencies, technical coordination offices and national statistical offices. For monitoring at the regional level, different entities, for example, the agencies responsible for data reconciliation and complementary indicators should work together.

As regards inter-agency cooperation as a mechanism for data reconciliation relating to Goals 4 and 5, the sources of health information include vital statistics, population censuses (which contribute data that identify the at-risk population), demographic surveys and household surveys. Data sources are limited in terms of regional cover and reporting schedules. Nevertheless, countries such as Argentina, Chile and Uruguay have good administrative records.

At the regional level, the different operating criteria used lead to discrepancies in the figures obtained when computing the following indicators:

- Proportion of births according to whether institutional or non-institutional care is provided.
- Inequities.
- Constraints in breaking down the percentage of births attended or not by skilled personnel.
- Unmet need for family planning.
- Complementary indicators.

In addition, complementary indicators should be agreed upon as shown below:

Millennium Development Goal indicators	Complementary indicators
- Birth rate	- Percentage of young mothers
- Contraceptive prevalence	- Prevalence of modern/traditional methods
	- Condom use prevalence
	- Prevalence of the use of contraceptive methods by sexually active women
- Unmet need for family planning	- Percentage of unwanted fertility

Data are not always comparable owing to differences in the degree of disaggregation; this occurs, for example, with regard to the contraceptive prevalence rate. The specific fertility rate for young people aged 15 to 19 may be obtained from censuses, therefore it can feasibly be broken down geographically and by social group; moreover, it is more readily understood and is useful for implementing public policies.

The working groups gathered together for the closing session, . The object was to prepare draft instructions for data reconciliation relating to Goals 4 and 5 and the corresponding complementary indicators. Given that each country has its own method of organization for obtaining statistical data, it was decided that the inter-agency groups in each country, made up of the national statistical office, the ministry of health and the migration office, should coordinate the steps to be followed, with support from ECLAC. The problems of finding a venue for the meetings and of raising financing in order to ensure continuity over time had to be solved. The findings reached by the groups were submitted to the organizers of the meeting and it was recalled that an initial version of the draft would be ready in June and the final draft would be presented at the end of September.

- The sixth Workshop on Measuring the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean was organized by the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC), with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and took place in Montevideo from 21 to 23 September 2010.

Meeting 9 of the Workshop: Sharing national experiences in the construction and use of information and communications technologies (ICT) for enhancing regional monitoring of target 8F of Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals. Participating in this event were representatives of the national statistical offices and the ICT regulatory agencies of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the ECLAC proposal relating to complementary indicators for monitoring fulfilment of the Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. The participants felt that the indicators proposed by ECLAC were important for monitoring progress towards the Goals and relevant for overseeing the development of ICT in the region. Nevertheless, not all countries were in a position to calculate them.

With respect to indicator 1, Percentage of households with access to broadband Internet, it was stated that the wording should not specify the type of broadband connection, since some countries in the region were still not able to provide it.

Indicator 2, the percentage of Internet users who have interacted with government organizations within the past 12 months, is calculated marginally in Latin America and is not calculated in the countries of the Caribbean. While this is usually recognized as indicative of progress towards the information society, it was pointed out that its inclusion in the monitoring exercise is not so direct and other more relevant indicators could be incorporated into a monitoring proposal. In this respect, it should be noted that some countries considered it relevant to include indicator A8 relating to monthly rates for access to fixed (wired) broadband Internet, since the values adopted in this indicator may report to a significant extent on the possibility of Internet access for the least privileged segments of the population. This indicator is aimed directly at measuring the reduction in the gaps in access within and between countries. The information needed for working out this indicator comes from the regulatory agencies in each country and as such the national statistical offices do not play a part.

Indicator 3. The percentage of enterprises with a web presence was also considered relevant as an indication of progress towards the information society, although several countries of the region still had difficulties in achieving it.

Lastly, all participants in the Workshop considered that indicator 4, percentage of schools with broadband access, was considered by all as extremely relevant for inclusion within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals; however since this indicator was produced by the ministries of education, the representatives of the national statistical offices could not determine whether it would be feasible to calculate it for their own countries.

(iii) Activities scheduled for 2011

These include activities linked to measuring the Goals in 2011 in meetings on poverty, hunger, employment, education and the environment. In addition, a series of projects has been programmed, including the following:

Activities to be carried out by the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals	Date	Outputs
A. General activities		
Meeting of the Working Group Organized by: INDEC, Argentina (i) Achievement of the activities carried out during the biennium (ii) Adjustment of guidelines and definition of new goals (iii) Agreement on the contents of the activities report for the biennium	April/May 2011	Report of the Working Group for Presentation at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
B. Activities relating to the goals of the Working Group relating to reconciliation, the formation of a regional network and discrepancies between data from national and international sources		
Annual seminar on the Millennium Development Goals. Joint assembly Organized by: ECLAC This seminar builds on previous annual meetings held in different countries in the region and is aimed at high-level representatives of national statistical offices and national entities responsible for preparation of the national Millennium Development Goals report. It will offer a place for discussion and exchange of ideas on cross-cutting issues relating to the Goals.	November 2011 (to be confirmed)	Report of the meeting
C. Activities relating to the analysis of the discrepancies between data from national and international sources		
Request international and regional bodies to report on the measures they have been adopting to improve the coverage and transparency of the information on the Millennium Development Goal indicators and the methods of imputation used. Objectives (i) Formally request that information from international and regional organizations. (ii) Present the information to the Statistical Conference of the Americas-ECLAC for information and analysis.	March-November 2011	The output of this activity is a report on good practices among international and regional agencies in measures for reconciling the Goals, which will be presented at the annual seminar on the Millennium Development Goals 2011.

(iv) *Outputs and results to be presented at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC*

In addition to the specific outputs listed above and which are the basis for discussion for the thematic workshops and regional seminars, documents will be produced specifically for presentation at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC in August 2011 .

- Contents: Report on the Working Group's biennial activities.
Agency responsible: ECLAC-INDEC
 - Review of guidelines and definition of new goals
 - Design of activities and timetable
 - Drafting of the final report
 - Submission of the activity report to the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference
- Report on the identification of obstacles for the estimation of indicators at the subnational level.
Agency responsible: INDEC of Argentina

4. Gender statistics

(a) Working Group on Gender Statistics

Coordinating country: Mexico (INEGI).

Members: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Panama, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay, together with the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC as secretariat.

(i) *Activities for furthering technical and methodological capacity-building for producing and disseminating gender statistics*

- Activities relating to time use and unpaid work
 - Promoting time-use surveys and technical assistance

ECLAC provided technical assistance, in particular for planning the time-use survey of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (September 2009) and support for designing that of Guatemala (October 2010). This technical assistance was provided in order to measure the total work time within the framework of the training course on gender-related statistics organized in Guatemala by UNIFEM (January 2010).¹⁰

UNIFEM, part of UN-Women, provided technical assistance and financial support for the incorporation of a module on time use and unpaid work in the 2009 Permanent Multipurpose Household Survey of Honduras and in the 2010 Household and Multipurpose Survey of El Salvador.

By virtue of Law 1413 of November 2010, Colombia initiated the management process for conducting its time-use survey. Unpaid work was measured for 2007, 2008 and 2010 using the information of the module entitled "Otras actividades y ayudas" of the Major Integrated Household Survey. The National Institute of Statistics, in conjunction with the Central Bank of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, launched the first time-use survey project with a pilot test and the formal execution of the survey is scheduled for early 2011.

- Towards harmonization of time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean

ECLAC, with support from UNIFEM, part of UN-Women, and INEGI, organized the Technical meeting to adjust the classification of time-use activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (4 and 5 August 2009). This meeting was held to address time use and unpaid work in the programme of activities of the Working Group on Gender Statistics. It was organized in response to the need that countries had expressed for a conceptual and methodological framework, including a classification, in order to strengthen and harmonize time-use surveys,

¹⁰ ECLAC participated in the International seminar on time-use research (September 2010) organized by the Secretariat on Policies for Women of the Office of the President of the Republic of Brazil; the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE); the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA); the office in Brazil of the International Labour Organization (ILO); and the Regional Office for Brazil and Southern Cone Countries of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

statistics and indicators, taking total paid and unpaid work as the central pillar.¹¹ These inputs were incorporated in the work manual published under the title “Directrices y referentes conceptuales para armonizar las encuestas de uso del tiempo en América Latina”.¹² The INEGI publication contains the draft classification of time-use activities in Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL), which will be useful in the review of the indicator “total work time”, defined by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.¹³

- National diagnostic studies on information for calculating indicators that reveal the extent to which women’s work contributes to poverty reduction

During the reporting period, ECLAC carried out studies for Colombia, Haiti and Honduras, including a conceptual and methodological review of the available sources of information such as: censuses; household, employment and time-use surveys; and demographic and health surveys.¹⁴

In January 2010, a study was published on the childcare economy in Haiti; this was followed in July of the same year by a book entitled *El cuidado en acción: entre el derecho y el trabajo*. This book explores different facets of care in the region within the framework of the agreements of the Quito Consensus approved by the Governments represented at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

INEGI, INMUJERES, the Secretariat of Labour of Mexico and the Inter-American Development Bank are working on the design of a module on labour integration and productivity of women, the role of care services, whose objective is the generation of new empirical evidence that accounts for the relationship between these indicators, which will be used to design social policies and programmes that take into account the obstacles to women’s participation in the workforce.

- Activities relating to the issue of violence against women

The interregional project “Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities” was launched. It is expected to help to implement pillar 3 of the Secretary-General’s Campaign Unite to end Violence against Women. This project is based on indicators adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission and which relate to sexual and physical violence and violence perpetrated by the current or former intimate partner¹⁵ and indicators of psychological and financial abuse and gender mutilation which the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission is expected to recommend at the next

¹¹ See [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/noticias/noticias/5/38415/Reuni%C3%B3nTecnicaClasificadorRegional.pdf>.

¹² This publication was distributed at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Brasilia from 13 to 16 July 2010.

¹³ The document on the classifier is still being revised to incorporate the recent inputs of the participants and those of the International Labour Organization. It is expected to be published, distributed and translated into English in 2011 with funds from the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID) and UNIFEM.

¹⁴ These studies will be published shortly by the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

¹⁵ See Economic and Social Council, Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women (E/CN.3/2009/13), New York, 11 December 2008.

session of the Commission (February 2011).¹⁶ The first outcome of this project is expected to be an improvement in the capacity of national statistical institutes to collect and analyse data and to establish indicators of violence against women through the common use of population survey methodologies and modules. The second expected outcome of the project is the increase in the sharing of information among national machineries for the advancement of women and other actors at the regional and interregional level for promoting policies for the elimination of violence against women. Following the study entitled “Estudio de la información sobre la violencia contra la mujer en América Latina y el Caribe”, which was financed by the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID) within the framework of the interregional project “Desarrollo de indicadores de género: capacidades de las instituciones de estadísticas y de las oficinas de la mujer”, ECLAC is preparing five national studies in Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago) on the availability of statistical information for the recommended indicators and its use in public policymaking.

Two subregional workshops were organized for the countries of the Caribbean (Saint Lucia, 15 June 2010) and South America (Chile, 4 and 5 November 2010). Another seminar of users and producers was held in Trinidad and Tobago (30 November-1 December 2010) to strengthen and harmonize the use of administrative records for collecting information on violence against women.¹⁷ In addition, an interregional Internet site, including a Wiki platform (2009) was designed for the counterparts of the project and a web page (2010) is being coordinated by ECLAC for disseminating knowledge and the tools produced by the project counterparts.¹⁸

In April 2010, INEGI of Mexico conducted a pilot test to evaluate this questionnaire. INMUJERES participated as an observer in this test.¹⁹ Tests were also carried out in Armenia, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.²⁰ The results were analysed at the second meeting of the Group of Experts (Geneva, 18 and 19 November 2010), which also approved the preliminary version of the methodological guide on measuring violence against women, prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division.²¹ In Colombia, initial steps were taken to define and design a strategy for preparing indicators of violence against women. In 2009, an initial pilot test was made of the single register of reports of cases of violence against women, which was adopted in 2008. This register is to be filled by all the relevant bodies and submitted to the National Institute of Statistics for processing. In 2010, an evaluation report on data completion, dispatch and transcription as well as on information flows between the entities and the Institute was prepared with a view to the joint planning of a standardized process.

¹⁶ See United Nations/INEGI (2009), Conclusions and Recommendations, Meeting of the Friends of the Chair Group on Statistical Indicators on Violence against Women, Aguascalientes (Mexico), 9-11 December 2009 [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/noticias/paginas/0/41340/Conclusions2009.pdf>.

¹⁷ The participants in the seminar were representatives of national machineries for the advancement of women from 11 countries including: from the Ministry of Health of Belize, national statistical offices (Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago), the police (Antigua and Barbuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Maarten, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago).

¹⁸ See [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/cepal/>.

¹⁹ See INEGI “Nota sobre la prueba del cuestionario internacional para medir la violencia contra las mujeres”.

²⁰ The documentation of the meeting of experts and the findings of the pilot tests are available online at <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2010.11.vaw.htm>.

²¹ The Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission will share the findings of the study on a proposal for obtaining information through surveys with a view to making recommendations at the forty-second session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

INMUJERES and UNIFEM, part of UN-Women, implemented the project “Creación de un sistema piloto de información sobre la atención que reciben las mujeres víctimas de violencia por parte de las agencias del Ministerio Público”. This project sought to analyse the service provided by the Offices of the Public Prosecutor to women victims of violence and to determine variables or statistical indicators relating to the sociodemographic profiles of victims, perpetrators or aggressors.

(ii) *Activities designed to strengthen the relationship between producers and users of information*

- International meetings on gender statistics:
 - Tenth international meeting on gender statistics advances and challenges, organized jointly by UNIFEM, part of UN-Women and INMUJERES, ECLAC and INEGI and held from 28 to 30 October 2009. Participants shared experiences and discussed conceptual and methodological aspects of the statistical instruments from the gender perspective and on the basis of the information requirements for public policymaking; they reported on the progress achieved, good practices and lessons learned on mainstreaming the gender perspective into statistical production from the viewpoint of the statistical offices and machineries for the advancement of women; and examined the challenges of information systems for producing statistics relating to gender, Afro-descendants and ethnicity. ECLAC reported on time-use surveys in Latin America, while UNIFEM reviewed the progress and challenges in gender statistics in the sub-region. INEGI reported on the headway made by the Working Group on Gender Statistics with its programme of work. This meeting placed special emphasis on the importance of statistical information for formulating policies for equality, an issue put forward by INMUJERES.
 - The eleventh International Meeting on Gender Statistics and Public Policies was held from 28 to 30 September 2010. In addition to dealing with different areas of statistical production, emphasis was placed on sharing experiences and discussing conceptual and methodological advances in producing and enhancing statistics relating to reporting and dealing with violence against women in administrative records. Similarly, discussions were held on the challenges for collecting statistics on homicides of women and femicide. On this occasion, the issue of gender statistics for public policymaking was presented by the chair of INEGI, coordinator of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.²²
 - On 21 and 22 October 2010, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala, with financial and technical support from UNIFEM, held the first Congress on Statistics relating to Gender and Indigenous Peoples for public policymaking. The meeting was attended by representatives of ECLAC (Division for Gender Affairs and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre – Population Division of ECLAC).
 - The seventh and eighth meetings of experts in time-use surveys were held in August 2009 and July 2010, respectively.²³ At both meetings, participants shared experiences with

²² In this regard, see summary of the eleventh International meeting on gender statistics and public policies based on empirical evidence.

²³ Since 2002, eight international meetings of experts in time use have been organized by UNIFEM, in coordination with INEGI and INMUJERES. Since 2006, these meetings have been conducted with support from ECLAC and,

different methodologies and instruments for compiling information on time use (objectives, monitoring units, design of questionnaires, data collection and processing, validation of the quality of the data and presentation of the results). In addition, different strategies for promoting greater use of data collected in time-use surveys were discussed. At the eighth meeting, the focus was on the need to improve the methodology for setting up satellite accounts on unpaid work in the systems of national accounts, using the information obtained through time-use surveys. At that meeting, INEGI announced that the unpaid work satellite account was being prepared and should be ready by mid-2011.²⁴

- UNIFEM, with the assistance of INMUJERES, the National Council of Evaluation of Social Development Policy of Mexico (CONEVAL), INEGI and ECLAC, organized the second International Seminar on Gender and Poverty within the framework of the gender observatory and poverty (27-28 January 2010) in Mexico City. The seminar was an important forum for reflection on theoretic and methodological issues, on the constraints posed by conventional poverty measurements and how they impacted public policy. At this seminar, INMUJERES and CONEVAL presented different poverty analyses with gender information collected in the recent surveys of income and expenditure and time use, conducted by INEGI with technical support from INMUJERES. INMUJERES and UNIFEM used that information to prepare a study on measuring time poverty as part of the official multidimensional poverty measurement. The methodology used represents an important methodological contribution, which may be replicated in the region.²⁵
- Technical assistance and training
 - UNIFEM designed and implemented in Guatemala (2009) partly on a face-to-face basis a module of the first training course on gender statistics, which was attended by a total of thirty participants from the National Institute of Statistics, the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) and other public institutions.
 - In November 2010, the second training course on gender statistics in Guatemala was launched, again on a partly face-to-face basis. It was organized jointly by UNIFEM, SEPREM and INE and was run for a group of 50 persons, most of whom were civil servants from the National Statistical System (SEN) of Guatemala.
 - In 2010, work was started on a self-administered, distance-learning version of the course. This version is expected to be ready for implementation 2011 in a virtual platform that will be administered with support from the Knowledge Transfer Network of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, which is currently being coordinated by INEGI.
 - ECLAC provided technical assistance to the Dominican Republic in November 2009, with the aim of strengthening the capacity to generate, analyse and use gender statistics and to develop and promote the use of gender indicators in designing national gender-equity

since 2008, they have taken place in the framework of the programme of work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

²⁴ See Minutes of the eighth International meeting on statistics on time use and public policy.

²⁵ In mid-2010, the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia (DANE) initiated poverty measurement for 2008, based on unmet basic needs (UBN), with support from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID). In 2010, the National Institute of Statistics of Venezuela published a research paper entitled *Situación de las Mujeres en el Sector Laboral. Venezuela 1989-2009*, which contains an estimate of the gender-adjusted human development index (HDI) for each federal entity in the country.

policies. In the case of Paraguay, ECLAC supported the Women's Secretariat in the design and implementation of a system of gender indicators.

- In August 2010, the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia (DANE) organized the third International Diploma Course on Gender Statistics and Indicators with support from the UNIFEM Regional Office in Mexico and ECLAC, which assisted by providing course instructors.
 - With support from the AECID and UNIFEM, the first training programme for staff of the National Institute of Statistics on the production of gender statistics was conducted in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Support was also received from DANE of Colombia.
 - A joint ECLAC-ENEGI technical assistance programme was conducted in Ecuador from 7 to 10 December 2010. The objective of the technical assistance was to “assess the availability of information for recognizing the economic value of unpaid work and launching the establishment of the satellite account on the production of unpaid services by households.
- Institution-building
 - In August 2010, a collaboration agreement was signed in Mexico between INEGI and UNIFEM for the promotion of gender statistics. This agreement seeks to achieve closer collaboration in order to provide more support for the work of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and to promote new statistics-generating projects in the interior of the country and to improve administrative records.
 - On 29 September 2010, the Governing Board of INEGI approved the establishment of the Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Information, a permanent body which has the distinction of being the first participatory and consultative mechanism in Latin America which deals with the production and integration of gender statistics and is part of the country's National Statistical and Geographical Information System. This initiative may enable countries of the region to assess their advantages and promote the implementation of similar participatory machineries.

(iii) *Activities for promoting international cooperation for development and dissemination of gender statistics*

- Millennium Development Goal indicators
 - Preparation of chapter V “Gender equality: women's participation, autonomy and empowerment” of the United Nations report entitled *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals with Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean: Progress and challenges*.
- Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Establishment of a technological platform offering easy access to systematized information through an online portal in Spanish, English, French and Portuguese.
 - Preparation of the User Manual for the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean in the four languages in which the tool is available.
 - Construction of gender indicators and other analytical tools, which have been made available to Governments, civil society and academia gender indicators to support policymaking and policy implementation.

- The development of recommendations for monitoring gender equality issues and best practices associated with gender equality policies.
- Provision of responses to requests from countries for technical assistance and training for producers and users of statistics from national machineries for the advancement of women or national statistical institutes.
- The dissemination of the Observatory's different areas of activity at working meetings and through liaison with different agencies in the United Nations system, State bodies and civil society.

The Gender Equality Observatory also carried out various activities to disseminate statistics and gender indicators including the following:

- Meeting of gender and health observatories, convened by the Pan American Health Organization and the Ministry of Health of Spain, held in Santiago (2 November 2009). Participating in this meeting were representatives of the health sector, of health observatories of the Americas and Spain and of the PAHO regional team.
- Meeting of experts on the political participation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized in Panama by the Spain Trust Fund, AECID, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNIFEM (14 and 15 April 2010).
- Update of gender statistics and indicators in the computer platform Poverty Database in Latin America of the statistical database of ECLAC, CEPALSTAT

In 2009 and in the first half of 2010, ECLAC processed and incorporated in the CEPALSTAT computer platform gender statistics relating to 2008 or the closest year for which data were available in the following areas: demography, household and family, education, poverty, paid and unpaid work, violence and country profiles. The CEPALSTAT gender statistics and indicators only had information relating to 1994, 1999, 2002 and 2005 for the Latin American countries that conduct household surveys.

- Other activities

UNIFEM, the National Institute for Social Development (INDESOL) and the Colegio de México updated the information contained in the website of the gender and poverty observatory of Mexico. This site also contains research using the new statistical tools such as time-use surveys and the Income and Expenditure Survey which contains gender indicators. In 2010, UNIFEM also designed the Poverty, Gender and Ethnicity Observatory for Guatemala, which will start to operate in January 2011.

(iv) *Activities scheduled for 2011*

- Modify and adjust the Distance Course in Gender Statistics for upload to the Knowledge Transfer Network (task entrusted to UNIFEM).
- Develop the face-to-face course for facilitators of the Distance Course on Gender Statistics (task entrusted to UNIFEM).
- Organize the Meeting of Experts on Time-use: a critical approach to production, in June 2011.
- Organize the Encuentro Internacional sobre Estadísticas de Género in Aguascalientes, in October 2011.

- Conduct, at ECLAC, a virtual course within the framework of cooperation with the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) on the use of gender statistics for policymaking.
- Develop a project on time use and work at ECLAC with a view to improving the knowledge and capacities (i) of the national institutes of statistics/producers of information for implementing time-use surveys for measuring the unpaid work of women; and (ii) of the machineries for the advancement of women and other government authorities for analysing and using information from the time-use surveys with a view to defining policies for closing gender gaps in social protection and income , among others, as well as in care policies.

5. Social statistics

(a) Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers

Coordinating country: Uruguay.

Members: Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

(i) Objectives and goals of the Working Group

- Obtain a set of basic agreements on the harmonization of criteria and definitions. An updated map of the status of national experiences in this regard will be required to achieve this goal.
- Promote the dissemination of the basic agreements reached and the harmonized criteria and definitions.
- Promote horizontal cooperation and training activities.
- Encourage broad discussion of topics not covered by the aforementioned project.

The activities scheduled for 2010 were as follows:

- Consult the countries of the group to obtain a broad overview of the methodology they use for calculating poverty rates, the criteria adopted and their training needs in this area.
- Study the results and disseminate them in a report, stressing similarities and differences for discussion.
- Hold a meeting of the group.

(ii) Expected outputs

- Prepare a detailed report on the methodology and criteria to be used for harmonizing the figures on poverty and submit it for discussion by the group. This report should be completed and discussed by the end of 2010.
- Design a training plan in light of each country's needs and in coordination with the Knowledge Transfer Network for implementation as of March 2011.
- Design a horizontal cooperation plan that promotes human resources training and the preparation of harmonized statistics through internships and sharing of experiences for implementation as of March 2011.

(iii) *Description of the activities of the Working Group*

The activities were related to the first points set out above, that is, the consultation among the countries of the group for obtaining a broad overview of the methodology they use for calculating poverty rates, the criteria adopted and their training needs in this area and the analysis of the results obtained. The work meeting was not held because the inputs were not available in time and no financing was obtained.

The following is a brief explanation of the outcome of the consultation conducted with the countries.²⁶

- The nine member countries of the Group received a form made up of 25 questions. Seven of the nine countries filled in the form.
- For the time being, two of them, Cuba and Guatemala, have not been calculating the poverty line. Guatemala did do these calculations in 1989, 2000 and 2006, however.
- The entities responsible for working out poverty lines are the national statistical offices, except in the case of Chile, where it is the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation (MIDEPLAN).
- With the exception of Brazil, the calculations carried out are considered official figures.
- There are similarities in the sources of information used, as well as in the indicators published. All the countries use the information in household income and expenditure surveys to prepare the basket of basic consumer items and publish poverty and indigence lines as well as the incidence of those lines. Poverty profiles are prepared by region, gender, age group, household characteristics, etc. Very diverse methods of dissemination are used.
- In terms of the calculation or the type of basket used, there is a certain diversity. Both in the food baskets and in the non-food baskets used there are observed baskets and normative baskets.
- No country uses the concept of adult equivalent and only Uruguay uses the concept of economies of scale.
- The table presented along with this report shows the concepts of income, ways of determining the reference stratum and the actual calculation of the basket.

(iv) *Activities scheduled for 2009-2011*

The activities for 2011 will be centred on two major meetings/workshops arranged by the group. The proposal is that the first, which should have been held at the end of 2010, should now take place within the first four months of the year. The topics to be discussed are set out below:

- The status of poverty calculations in the countries belonging to the group.
- The methodology that must be adopted to harmonize statistics in the region as a whole?
- Each country's requirements for the adoption of the methodology.
- The appropriate strategies for providing training to the countries that need it?
- The number of meetings needed to complete the task.
- Assignment of tasks for the design and drafting of the outputs and results to be presented at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC in 2011.
- The timetable of activities to be undertaken once the date of the meeting has been set.

²⁶ See [online] the summary table with the responses from the countries at http://www.eclac.cl/deype/ceacepal/gt_cea.htm.

A meeting/workshop should be held, no later than October 2011, to discuss other forms of poverty measurement with a view to generating capacities relating to the multidimensional measurement of poverty. Financing will be needed in order to implement a training plan and horizontal cooperation among the countries.

(v) *Findings and expected outputs for presentation at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.*

- A consensus document setting out the criteria to be applied by the member countries of this group in preparing their poverty figures to enable them to comply with the proposed methodology, even if each country uses its own internal estimation criteria.
- The training plan and its implementation in 2011 according to the financing obtained.
- The horizontal cooperation activities carried out in 2011, depending on the financing obtained.

(b) Project for updating poverty measurements

Within the framework of the Inter-American Development Bank's Regional Public Goods Program and the programme "Improvement of *Statistics for Measuring Living Conditions*", ECLAC and the countries concerned completed joint research and analytical studies for updating the methodology for measuring poverty in the region. The new methodological proposal will be presented and discussed with the countries during 2011 as part of the activities of the working group on harmonization of statistics relating to poverty based on income and public transfers.

(c) Project for social cohesion indicators

ECLAC completed the project Measuring social cohesion in Latin America, which had been sponsored by the European Commission. The book *Social Cohesion in Latin America: Concepts, frames of reference and indicators* was published in June 2010. ECLAC is seeking to follow up on the project in order to further deepen its conceptual study and measure the extent of social cohesion.

6. Preparation and conduct of the 2010 round of population censuses

(a) Working Group on Censuses

Coordinating country: At the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in Bogota from 10 to 13 August 2009, Paraguay took over the coordination of the Working Group on Censuses. Members: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

(i) *Objectives and goals of the Working Group*

The general goals set out in the Programme 2010-2011 were to promote and implement initiatives for assisting countries with the planning and conduct of the population and housing censuses of the 2010 round. These general goals will be achieved by means of the following specific goals: To promote and implement activities aimed, among other things, at training, sharing experiences in census management and operation, harmonization (concept and content design and the technology used to capture and process census data and analyse and disseminate information).

(ii) Activities carried out

In pursuit of the goal of promoting and implementing initiatives to support countries in planning and conducting the 2010 round of censuses, the following activities were carried out: technical assistance; workshops on editing, correcting and processing of data, on censuses, and on living conditions; and a proposal for harmonization of nomenclature. In addition, the observation of the 2010 round of censuses was contemplated as well as pilot tests from countries including Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay. Countries shared their experiences in mapping and participated in a workshop on harmonization of a minimum set of questions on disability. All the programmed activities were conducted with technical and financial support from the United Nations Population Fund Regional Office and other cooperation agencies.

The countries' participation in the above-mentioned activities depended on the stage of development of their respective censuses and their ability to capitalize as efficiently as possible on the experiences and knowledge-sharing. An account of the highlights of the activities organized in 2010 in accordance with the scheduled work plan is given below.

- Workshops and seminars
 - Workshop on procedures for editing census data, organized in Paraguay from 3 to 6 May 2010 by the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay and the UNFPA regional office.
Participants: 16 representatives from Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay.
Objectives: To enable participants and instructors to share knowledge and experiences in the application of techniques and methodologies, to benefit from the discussion of the different problems and practical solutions and to reach consensus on best practices. The meeting was also an opportunity for the experts from the national institutes of statistics of Latin America to present the techniques and procedures used in editing data from the population and housing censuses.
 - Seminar-workshop “Censuses 2010 and living conditions”, organized from 7 to 9 June 2010 in Santiago by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, the Working Group on Censuses of the Statistical Conference and UNFPA, with support from other international agencies.
Participants: Representatives of the following countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Uruguay and English-speaking countries. Forty-seven experts from national institutes of statistics and other agencies also participated.
Objective: The overall objective of the Seminar-workshop was to consider the potential of the censuses to produce information for monitoring indicators of the living conditions of the population, to learn about the experiences of the countries of the region in these areas and to present guidelines for the forthcoming censuses.
 - Technical assistance provided between 20 and 24 September 2010 to the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay in assisted coding of classifications of economic activities and occupations.
Participants: Technical staff from the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay.

Objective: The objective of the technical assistance provided in the framework of horizontal cooperation between Paraguay and Peru was to prepare the main guidelines for a work plan for establishing a system of automatic and assisted coding for the open questions relating to branches of economic activity and occupational groups for the 2012 population census. The coding system applied by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru (SICODA) for processing open responses in the forms of its various statistical research projects is a model that can be replicated by the Department in Paraguay. In this regard, the technical assistance from Peru in automatic and assisted coding and sharing experiences in the use of new classifiers was fundamental and mutually beneficial to both agencies.

- Workshop on census data capture and editing using the Census and Survey Processing System (CSPro), held from 27 September to 1 October 2010, by the Department for Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay and the UNFPA regional office in Asunción. Participants: 18 representatives from the following countries: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Puerto Rico. Carlos Ellis and Guillem Fortuna, consultants of the UNFPA Regional Office, acted as facilitators. Objective: At the request of the countries, to study in greater depth the contents examined at the first workshop. The experience shared by the different participating countries concerning the methodologies and techniques developed proved useful and attests to the value of holding workshops of this kind.
- Workshop for sharing experiences in census cartography for the 2010 round of censuses in Latin America, organized by the National Statistics and Census Institute of Ecuador (INEC) and the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay in San Cristóbal, Ecuador, from 27 to 29 October 2010. Participants: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Objective: To share experiences in the use of cartographic information for the census process and identify potential areas of cooperation between the statistical institutes of the region.
- Regional seminar for sharing experiences in classifiers and nomenclatures, organized by the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay and CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC in Santiago from 13 to 14 December 2010. Participants: 31 persons from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay. Objective: To provide insight into the preparation of inputs from population censuses in the region for the implementation of classifiers of the branch of economic activity, occupation and education and to make headway with the processes of harmonization, by fostering an exchange of experiences between the statistical institutes in the region; and to identify areas of cooperation and complementarity in terms of classifiers. One of the main outcomes of the workshop was the countries' request that a working group on nomenclature should be set up within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, with ECLAC as secretariat.

- Observation of pilot tests and censuses of the 2010 round
 - Pilot test of Uruguay, organized from 5 to 7 October 2010 in Montevideo.
 Organizer: the National Institute of Statistics of Uruguay.
 Participants: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Plurinational State of Bolivia.
 Objective: It was centred on the sharing of experiences with respect to the changes in methodology and technology that Uruguay intends to introduce in the next census, scheduled for 2011 and, in particular, the transition from a de facto to a de jure census and the use of personal digital assistants (PDA) for collecting data in the field.
 - Pilot test for the 2010 Population and Housing Census in Ecuador, held from 26 to 28 June 2010, in La Troncal, province of Cañar.
 Organizer: INEC.
 Participants: Representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC.
 Objective: This pilot survey was designed to test on a small scale the functioning of the main instruments, methodology and activities developed in the seventh population and sixth housing census. The prime concern in running the pilot test was to ensure transparency and to conduct it in a responsible manner, and to share the knowledge acquired during the preparatory process with international representatives, the whole exercise being geared to perfecting and strengthening the census process.
 - Monitoring of the 2010 Population, Household and Housing Census of Argentina, 25-27 October 2010, Buenos Aires.
 Organizer INDEC, Argentina.
 Participants: representatives of the national statistical offices of six countries: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain and Uruguay.
 Objectives: To observe different stages of the census operation (de facto census). Various points of organization and census activity such as the Ministry of Defence, the Office of the Intendant of the Administrative Area of Merlo, colleges, centres of distribution of materials and zonal coordination covering all the entities responsible for organization of the census. The field operation is supported basically by the teaching structure. From the viewpoint of the international overseers, according to what was observed in the municipalities visited, the census was conducted in a normal manner notwithstanding the situation in Argentina caused by the passing of the former president Néstor Kirchner.
 - Monitoring of the Demographic Census 2010 of Brazil, 28-30 September 2010, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
 Organizer Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), Brazil
 Participants: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Paraguay, Peru, Saõ Tomé and Príncipe, United States and Uruguay.
 Objectives: To monitor different phases of the census operation, in particular the use of personal digital assistants (PDAs). Collection stations in the municipality of Rio de Janeiro were visited and subsequently an international seminar on new technologies used

in population censuses was held to assess the technology used in data collection for the 2010 Census and to share experiences with different methodologies.

(iii) *Activities scheduled for 2011*

In 2011, workshops will be held on census training, dissemination, international migrations, and short courses will be conducted on the application of concepts and the construction of demographic indicators. In addition, those countries that plan to perform their censuses in 2011 will be encouraged to participate as observers in the censuses and pilot tests. These activities are subject to the availability of financing.

(iv) *Outputs and results to be presented at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC*

The plan is to present a report listing all the activities conducted, highlighting the constraints faced, as well as criticisms and positive points and putting forward suggestions and recommendations for future census rounds.

- Support for censuses by sharing experiences with countries

These activities have materialized through the preparation of documents and the organization of workshops.

- Seminar-workshop “2010 Censuses and health”: convened by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and UNFPA and conducted from 2 to 4 November 2009 in Santiago,²⁷ in order to consider the methodological aspects of the inclusion in the censuses of the 2010 round, of issues relating to health, such as fertility, child mortality, adult mortality, disability, enrolment in social security and health care, questions on sexual and reproductive health, including maternal mortality, adolescent fertility, prenatal care and attendance at childbirth, among other issues that are part of the Millennium Development Goals. The Seminar-workshop included a special session on mainstreaming the gender perspective in Latin American population censuses.
- Workshop on census management requested by the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic in the framework of the agreement between the Office and ECLAC. The objective was to strengthen this entity’s management capabilities for running the population and housing censuses, with a view to the 2010 exercise. It was designed for 25 members of the management staff of the Office and to the team directly involved in the census.
- Seminar/workshop The 2010 censuses and living conditions, held by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and UNFPA from 7 to 9 June 2010.²⁸ The objective was to report on information on living

²⁷ The documents of the workshop on censuses and health may be viewed [online] at : http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/celade/agenda/4/37454/P37454.xml&xsl=/celade/tpl/p3f.xsl&base=/celade/tpl/top-bottom_2010.xslt.

²⁸ The documentation of the Workshop on censuses and living conditions is available [online] at: http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/celade/agenda/3/39573/P39573.xml&xsl=/celade/tpl/p3f.xsl&base=/celade/tpl/top-bottom_2010.xslt.

conditions collected during the censuses, present United Nations recommendations and establish technical recommendations in the light of experience obtained in Latin America.

- Regional seminar on sharing experiences relating to classifiers and nomenclatures, held by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and UNFPA on 13 and 14 December 2010. The objective was to obtain information on how the region prepares inputs from population censuses for the application of classifiers of branches of economic activity, occupations and education and to advance towards harmonization by encouraging sharing of experiences among statistical institutes in the region, and to identify areas of cooperation and complementarity with respect to classifiers.

For each of the issues addressed at the seminars, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, with technical and financial support from UNFPA, prepared a discussion paper setting out the relevant recommendations.²⁹

- Update and expansion of regional systems of indicators on the basis of census data and other sources

In the second half of 2009 and 2010, CELADE-Population Division reviewed, updated and enhanced the Regional System of Indicators on Ageing (SISE). The update consisted in the incorporation of two new modules based on population estimates and projections, one on demographic characteristics and basic indicators of population ageing and the other on issues of dependency and care.³⁰ A review and update were also conducted on the System of indicators for following up on and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development.³¹ Development of a new system for projections to replace the demographic projections programme (PRODEM) will be ongoing. A data bank on indigenous peoples and Afro-descendent populations in Latin America and the Caribbean, containing 5 sub-systems, has also been developed.³²

- Updating of the population projections

CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC has updated national population estimates and projections for the 20 countries of Latin America, extending them to up to 100 years and more. This update constituted a contribution to the publication *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*. In conjunction with UNICEF, it has also updated the publication on infant and child mortality. One of the problems faced in preparing the population projections is the discrepancy that can occur between implicit indicators and those estimated by other national and international institutions. In the case of under-one mortality and under-five mortality, which is one of the Millennium Development Goal indicators, an Inter-agency Group on Child Mortality Estimation has been set up to produce estimates using comparable methodology. However, the results in

²⁹ The documentation of the Workshop on censuses and living conditions is available [online] at: http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/celade/agenda/3/39573/P39573.xml&xsl=/celade/tpl/p3f.xsl&base=/celade/tpl/top-bottom_2010.xslt.

³⁰ The update is available for download and installation or online processing at: <http://www.eclac.cl/celade/envejecimiento/>.

³¹ The update is available [online] for download or processing at: <http://www.eclac.cl/celade/indicadores/default.htm/>.

³² The update is available [online] for download or processing at: <http://www.eclac.cl/celade/indigenas/>.

some countries are significantly different from those handled by other agencies, in particular CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, which in turn has carried out a joint review task with the countries. CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC has identified those countries for which these differences are substantial and has indicated to the Inter-agency group the causes of these divergences. The objective is to agree on the critical elements in each of the estimates so that the different methodologies produce robust results which can be adopted by the different national and international agencies.

7. Implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA) in all the countries of the region and compiling of economic statistics

(a) Working Group on National Accounts

Coordinating country: Peru (National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI)).

Members: Brazil (Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE)); Colombia (National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE)); Cuba (National Statistical Office); Chile (National Institute of Statistics); Mexico (National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)); France (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)); United States (United States Census Bureau).

(i) Goals of the Working Group

The general goal 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 producers and users of basic economic statistics and national accounts.

The specific goals are:

- International coordination. The objective is that the international agencies should join forces to promote the development and implementation of the System of National Accounts by expanding and updating diagnostic studies and inventories with a view to furthering the preparation of strategic plans for monitoring implementation of SNA in the countries of the region.
- Development of methodologies and standards for basic statistics and national accounts. The aim is to promote awareness of the methodologies and best practices used in national accounts estimates in the region as reflected in manuals, international classifications, norms and international standards that are useful for implementing SNA in the region.
- Regional harmonization. The harmonization of methodologies, classifications, cycles and coverage used in relation to national accounts and basic statistics will be promoted through workshops, seminars and forums.
- Human resources development. The development of human resources is one of the strategic goals and is geared to ensuring the quality of basic information and national accounts. The idea is to develop specific technical skills and competencies for the staff of national statistics offices and central banks through courses, workshops and seminars, among other activities.

(ii) *Activities carried out*

- International coordination
 - The questionnaire was sent to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to update and expand the diagnostic studies on the progress made in implementing the SNA.
 - At the first technical meeting of the Working Group on National Accounts, the member countries of the Group adopted the Programme of Work 2010-2011 and the project for strengthening the system of producing national account statistics.
 - A horizontal cooperation survey was prepared and sent to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to find out and assess the specific needs of the member countries of the Working Group on National Accounts and of Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to basic statistics and national accounts, in order to create synergies for SNA implementation. The findings were presented at the 2010 Latin American and Caribbean Seminar on National Accounts: Regional implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008. Since only 42% of the countries filled in the information on horizontal cooperation, this information is now needed for the rest of Latin American and Caribbean countries in order to identify their specific needs in terms of basic statistics and national accounts, so as to set up mechanisms to facilitate the flow of information between countries.³³
 - The project on strengthening the system of statistical production for the national accounts was prepared and presented to IDB for financing, but this application was not approved.
 - The meeting of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts was held in February 2010 in New York. A number of points were highlighted including the need for coordination in order to implement SNA 2008 and the support statistics programme, the need for an inventory of material and support tools in order to explain to decision-makers the importance of national accounts and economic statistics, the generation of synergies between regional and global programmes, the role of the regional commissions in establishing regional implementation plans and liaising with other related statistical programmes, such as the International Comparison Programme.
 - Organization of the 2010 Latin American and Caribbean Seminar on National Accounts: Regional implementation of the System of National Accounts from 9 to 12 November 2010 in Lima. This Seminar was designed to support the execution of the regional programme for implementation of 2008 SNA and to strengthen the basic economic statistics required for its preparation. The participants recognized that the national statistical offices needed to work in close collaboration with the central banks in order to implement 2008 SNA and strengthen the basic economic statistics that underpinned the System. This requirement was based on the fact that in several countries, the central banks were responsible for drawing up the national accounts while, in several others, the statistical offices produced most, or at least a significant percentage, of the basic economic statistics used for those accounts. The countries present at the seminar therefore stressed that the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC should urge the central banks and other entities responsible for collecting basic economic statistics to send representatives to participate in its activities.³⁴

³³ For the results and findings of the survey, see [online] http://www.eclac.cl/deype/noticias/noticias/2/41522/S8_GTCNCEA_cooperacion-horizontal.pdf.

³⁴ See the Executive summary of the 2010 Latin American and Caribbean Seminar on National Accounts: Regional implementation of the System of National Accounts [online] http://www.cepal.org/ar/deype/noticias/noticias/2/41522/2010_11_SemCN_conclusiones_preliminar-en.pdf.

- Development of methodologies and standards for basic statistics and national accounts
 - The inventory of international statistical standards which INEGI of Mexico has been developing is currently being updated and maintained.
- Regional harmonization
 - A Wiki information platform has been developed and is now being used by three technical working groups for sharing methodologies.
 - At its first technical meeting, the Working Group on National Accounts agreed that the coordinating country would coordinate the drafting of a report on experiences in the harmonization of basic statistics at the subregional level, with support from ECLAC. DANE will prepare the report of the countries of the Andean Community; INEGI will provide support for that relating to Central America; IBGE will be in charge of the MERCOSUR report; and ECLAC will prepare the report for the countries of the Caribbean.
 - At the 2010 Latin American and Caribbean Seminar: Regional implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008, each coordinating country of the technical working groups proposed a methodology for addressing the following issues: financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM); goods for processing and the informal sector.
 - The Working Group on National Accounts fully supports the 2011 round of the programme of international price comparison, a regional project for harmonizing prices and national accounts.
- Human resources development
 - The Working Group on National Accounts adopted the project for an advanced course on National Accounts, the proposal for which IDB had declined to provide financing.
 - The coordinating country of the Working Group on National Accounts reviewed the courses and seminars relating to national accounts and economic statistics that were to be offered in 2010 by the National Institute of Statistics of Spain, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and INEGI.³⁵
 - IMF and ECLAC held an intermediate course on quarterly national accounts in Brasilia (8-19 March 2010).
 - The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, in conjunction with INSEE of France, World Bank, INEGI of Mexico and ECLAC ran the basic-level KANGARE course in Aguascalientes, Mexico (17-28 May 2010).

(iii) *Activities scheduled for 2011*

- International coordination
 - Update and expand regional diagnostic studies on the following: basic statistics, implementing the SNA, human resources in the Latin American and Caribbean countries (task entrusted to the Working Group's coordinating country).

³⁵ The complete list of courses is available [online] at http://www.cepal.org/ceacepal/actividades/Inventario_cursos_CN-2010.pdf.

- Set up a system for updating diagnostic studies on the countries in the region with a view to preparing strategic plans for monitoring implementation of the SNA in the countries of the region.
 - Prepare and coordinate a regional horizontal cooperation programme on national accounts, including internships and technical assistance.
 - Raise funds for a programme of this kind.
 - Map national accounts activities in the region in support of which a report will be prepared on experiences in harmonization of basic statistics at the subregional level, with assistance from ECLAC, which will produce a report on the Caribbean; DANE will do the same for the countries of the Andean Community; INEGI for Central America and IBGE for MERCOSUR.
- Development of methodologies and standards for basic statistics and national accounts
 - Development of an operational virtual library, which includes documentation at the international, regional, subregional and national levels. INEGI of Mexico is expected to submit a progress report to the Working Group on National Accounts on the project for compiling manuals and international recommendations on official statistics as a contribution to the virtual library.
 - Creation of discussion forums and networks of experts on specific technical issues of interest to the region.
 - A compendium of standards and best practices in economic statistics and national accounts will be made available to the countries.
 - Regional harmonization
 - Peru, in conjunction with the other members of the Working Group on National Accounts, will coordinate the drafting of a report on recent experiences in harmonization of basic statistics at the subregional level.
 - Human resources development
 - The coordinating country of the Working Group on National Accounts will prepare a briefing paper on courses on national accounts and economic statistics scheduled for 2011 by the various subregional, regional and international organizations.

8. Statistics on information and communications technologies

(a) Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)

Coordinating country: Dominican Republic.

Members: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and Panama. Technical secretariat: the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC).

(i) Objectives of the Working Group

The general goal is to contribute to the development of statistical and methodological capacities.

The specific goals are:

- To ensure that all countries have, depending on their conditions, relevant statistics on the use, availability and impact of ICT on the economy and society as well as a minimum set of standard indicators for the region.
- To support the definition of quantifiable targets and indicators for the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2010).
- 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 educational or health sectors, proposed by the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development.³⁶
- To update the compendium of practices on the inclusion of ICT questions in household and 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.
- Promote the strengthening of the regional database of the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC) by encouraging countries to send in the results of the relevant measurements.

In achieving these goals, the Group proposes the following:

- Increase the number of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean that incorporate the measurement of ICT in their household and business surveys.
- Take into account the agreement to systematize and disseminate statistics and indicators with a gender-based approach.³⁷
- Contribute substantially to greater integration of the non-Spanish-speaking countries of the Caribbean in the activities of the group by promoting closer ties with them.

(ii) Activities carried out

Between November 2009 and November 2010, the Working Group, in close collaboration with OSILAC, organized, drafted and revised a number of documents.

- Consolidation of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. The Group's first activity was to consolidate its structure, along with OSILAC, and to reaffirm the list of member countries. The Group then proceeded to draw up its programme of activities for the period 2010-2011 on the basis of the report for implementation of the preceding period, in order to follow up on the proposed tasks, within the framework of the established objectives.
- Preparation and implementation of the survey "Caracterización del proceso de creación de estadísticas armonizadas sobre TIC en los organismos nacionales de estadística", versión 2010. This survey was conducted jointly with OSILAC in the first quarter of 2010.

³⁶ See [online] <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/partnership/material/2009-19-ICT-E.pdf>.

³⁷ See [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/deype/publicaciones/xml/1/30051/LCL2795i.pdf>.

- In March 2010, the Working Group and OSILAC addressed this questionnaire to the national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean and carried out the relevant procedure and analysis. Information was collected on the progress and challenges in measuring ICT in the region, and the inclusion of ICT questions in household and business surveys was cited as an achievement. Also in this survey, questions were formulated on the participation of national statistical offices in constructing ICT indicators in areas such as education, health and e-government, mastery and involvement of these technologies in the digital strategy of their countries, participation and assessment of the activities of OSILAC and the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies, regional training requirements and ways of disseminating the survey findings through the national statistical bodies.
- Revision of the compendium of practices. In order to update the compendium of practices on the incorporation of ICT questions in household and business surveys, OSILAC produced a 2010 version, which is now available at <http://www.cepal.org/publicaciones/xml/8/40928/W340.pdf>.
- Promoting strengthening of the OSILAC regional database [online] <http://www.eclac.org/tic/flash/>. The report of the Working Group on the 2010-2011 Plan of activities, which was presented and adopted at the ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in April 2010, urges the national institutes of statistics to send the findings of their measurements for incorporation in the OSILAC ICT Statistical Information System.³⁸
- The sixth Workshop on Measuring the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by OSILAC, was held in Montevideo from 21 to 23 September 2010. The Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies played an active part in the design, organization and conduct of this important activity, which dealt with issues relating to the ICT agenda throughout the continent.
- The Working Group met in Montevideo on 20 September 2010 before the start of the sixth OSILAC Workshop to review with the OSILAC and ECLAC representatives the programme of activities 2010-2011. Other items that were added to the agenda were also discussed. The following proposals were agreed at the meeting:
 - Take the necessary steps to set up in the near future a discussion list, with the same participants as those on the OSILAC list, which will be migrated to a virtual platform. The objective is to foster greater exchange between the members. This platform will be moderated by the Working Group On Information and Communications Technologies and OSILAC. The effective use of the platform, in order to promote the measurement of ICT in the region, depends on the motivation and commitment of all the participants.
 - To continue to have the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean send their household survey databases with questions on ICT to ECLAC for incorporation into the OSILAC online ICT Statistical Information system (<http://www.eclac.org/TIC/flash>).
 - Suggest that the technical secretariat of the Plan of Action for the Information Society (eLAC) conduct a survey on the preparation and availability of ICT indicators in the ministries and agencies involved with the monitoring of progress towards the information society in the region, taking as the basis the approach to the survey “Caracterización del proceso de creación de estadísticas armonizadas sobre tecnologías de la información y la comunicación en los institutos nacionales de estadística”.

³⁸ See [online] http://www.cepal.org/ceacepal/2010_CE_IXreunion.htm. This information is also available at the CEPALSTAT statistical information portal : <http://websie.eclac.cl/sisgen/ConsultaIntegrada.asp?idAplicacion=16>.

- Incorporate in its programme the issue of development and use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange standard in the region.
- Follow up on the document “Propuesta de trabajo colaborativo entre los ministerios y los institutos los institutos nacionales de estadística (INEs), en beneficio de una mayor y mejor disponibilidad de datos sobre las tecnologías de la información y las comunicaciones (TIC) para la formulación y monitoreo de políticas públicas”, an idea contributed and fostered by OSILAC. The document was submitted to the technical secretariat of eLAC with a request for inclusion of the topic on the agenda of the third Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was to be held in Lima. At this Conference, it was agreed that the representatives of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and OSILAC and of the ministries of the member countries of eLAC should decide on the operation of a joint working commission by 31 March 2011 with a view to constructing indicators for monitoring the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2015).
- On the basis of the plan presented and approved by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference at its ninth meeting, the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies adopted the following Plan of Activities for 2011:

(iii) *Activities and tasks programmed for 2011*

Proposed date	Activities
First quarter 2011	<p>Disseminate and update an ICT module in household and business surveys, on the basis of a prepared questionnaire covering not only the standard international questions on the topic Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy but also issues and questions formulated by the countries of the region which have conducted ICT business surveys.</p> <p>Prepare a workshop which will train staff in the countries of the region in implementing the above-mentioned questionnaire.</p> <p>Countries will be encouraged to take part in the Seminar on the development and use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange, which will be held in the region, with support from EUROSTAT, during the first week of March 2011.</p>
Second quarter 2011	Survey (in Spanish and English) for updating the compendium of practices of questions relating to ICT statistics in e-mail surveys to households.
Second quarter 2011	Organization of a workshop to propose a set of indicators on statistics on ICT in health.
Third quarter 2011	Meeting of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies to evaluate the implementation of the Plan 2010-2011 with a view to the preparation of the final report 2009-2011, for submission in late 2011 and definition of guidelines for a new plan of activities 2012-2013.

In addition to those already established as set out in the above table, the following activities and tasks will be accomplished:

- A review of the compendium of practices, version 2011.
- Collaboration on the above-mentioned joint study to be conducted by eLAC, OSILAC and the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies to define indicators for monitoring the Plan of Action eLAC 2015.

- (iv) *Outputs and results to be presented at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC*

At the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC to be held in late 2011, the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies will present the outputs and results of the activities proposed in this programme of work with a view to achieving the goals for 2010-2011.

The Group intends to promote gender-based statistical production, as well as to establish closer ties with non-Spanish-speaking countries to further their integration in the process by providing interpretation services at meetings and workshops and by arranging to have documents on the following topics translated into English:

- Revised quantifiable eLAC indicators and goals.
- An updated ICT module to be incorporated into business surveys, together with the information needed to calculate basic indicators.
- Updated modules on ICT access and use in government and in the education and health sectors.
- The updated 2011 version of the Compendium of practices on the inclusion of questions on ICT in household and business surveys.

9. Environmental statistics

(a) Working Group on Environmental Statistics

Coordinating country: Mexico (INEGI).

Members: (National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI); Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: Brazil: National Institute of Statistics (INE), Ministry of People's Power for the Environment and Central Bank; Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT); Chile: National Institute of Statistics (INE); Colombia: DANE, Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Territorial Development; Costa Rica: National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINAET), Central Bank; Cuba: National Statistical Office (ONE), Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment (CITMA); Dominican Republic: National Statistical Office (ONE), State Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARENA), Central Bank; Panama, National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), Environmental Analysis unit (ANAM), Technical secretariat: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Advisory agency: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

(i) Objectives of the Working Group

The general goal is to promote the gathering of relevant statistics on natural resources and the environment and their integration into the systems of national statistics of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The specific goals are as follows:

- Identify and promote activities of regional and subregional cooperation for building the capacity of member countries to produce high-quality national and subnational (or local) official environmental statistics.
- Ensure that experiences and good practices regarding the development of national and subnational (or local) environmental statistics systems are documented and exchanged.
- Develop a set of standard and harmonized indicators of environmental sustainability that ensure an appropriate response to requests for national, regional and international information, based on previous regional initiatives.
- Develop a minimum set of common environmental statistics in the region that respond to countries' demands for information and international initiatives in this area, based on previous regional initiatives.
- Promote the creation of inter-agency platforms for collaboration in, and coordination and integration of, regional initiatives in environmental statistics, indicators and accounts.
- Promote the use of the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) as a benchmark for developing statistics and related indicators in the region.

(ii) *Priorities and work plan*

At its fifth meeting, which was held in Bogota in August 2009, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC approved the creation of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics and appointed INEGI of Mexico as coordinator. At that meeting, the following lines of action were identified:

- Invite the ministries of the environment of the member countries of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics to be part of the Group.
- Create an electronic forum to facilitate the group's workings, communication among focal points and exchange of information.
- Build partnerships and mechanisms for coordinating with the working group on statistics and environmental indicators of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and with the environmental commissions of subregional groupings (Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), Andean Community (CAN), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), among others).
- Establish a sub-group to formulate projects and seek financing.
- Prepare a proposal for a modular set of relevant environmental statistics for the region.
- Prepare a common format for metadata to facilitate comparison of the minimum set of environmental statistics and their eventual harmonization.

In addition, in accordance with the resolutions adopted at the first teleconference, held in December 2009, the Working Group on Environmental Statistics decided that the three specific activities covering part of the group's objectives would be held as soon as the necessary funds were mobilized.

- A theoretical-methodological course on environmental statistics and integrated environmental-economic accounting for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- A meeting of experts and seminar on water statistics and integrated water accounting.
- A regional seminar on environmental statistics and climate change: the statistical challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Lastly, in 2010, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference requested the Working Group on Environmental Statistics to prepare a regional report on cooperation in environmental statistics for presentation and discussion at its next meeting.

(iii) *Activities carried out*

- In 2009, letters were sent to the ministries of the environment of the nine countries belonging to the Working Group on Environmental Statistics inviting them to join the Group. Of the nine countries, seven responded positively and designated a ministry representative. At the first teleconference of the Working Group held in December 2009, the priority lines of action for 2010 were set.
- In 2010, priority was given to the formulation of projects and fund-raising to facilitate the realization of the Group's work plan. In June 2010, the Group's coordinator travelled to Washington with an ECLAC representative to present the Group's objectives, work plan and priorities to different international organizations and seek sources of financing. The opportunity arose of presenting a project in the framework of the regional public goods initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
- Subsequently the technical secretariat of the Working Group organized an electronic forum to facilitate communication and operation of the Group. This platform was also used to facilitate the preparation and review of the draft proposal. INEGI initiated talks with IDB with a view to obtaining financing from IDB for a regional seminar on climate change statistics.
- In October 2010, the Working Group held its first face-to-face meeting during the Conference of the International Association for Official Statistics "Conference on official statistics and the environment: approaches, issues, challenges and linkages". Eight of the nine countries belonging to the Group were present at the meeting. The discussions focused mainly on the draft proposal for IDB and the formulation of agreements and follow-up action. It was decided that priority should be given to preparing the report requested by the Executive Committee of the Conference on international cooperation in environmental statistics.
- Participants also agreed that a brief survey should be sent to the national institutes of statistics and ministries of the environment on the activities being carried out by them with support from international cooperation agencies and that the findings should be used as an input in the report. The survey was designed by ECLAC with support from Mexico and the Dominican Republic. The aim of the survey is as follows: to report on the current state of environmental statistics programmes; to find out what studies on environmental statistics are being carried out with international cooperation; and to identify the challenges and needs in this sphere. INEGI sent the survey to the 33 ECLAC member countries and to date has received 27 responses. The study and preparation of the document were coordinated by Mexico and ECLAC.
- It was agreed that in 2011, the Working Group on Environmental Statistics would collaborate with the Group on Environmental Indicators of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) on the definition of core regional environmental statistics that respond to countries' requests for information and to international and regional initiatives.
- On 15 November, the Working Group on Environmental Statistics successfully delivered the draft proposal for the project entitled "Desarrollo y fortalecimiento de las estadísticas ambientales oficiales para la formulación de políticas públicas en América", for which the sum of US\$ 1.8 million is being requested for a three-year period. Together with the draft proposal, eight letters of support (five from national institutes of statistics and three from ministries of the environment) were submitted.

The achievements of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics for the period 2009-2010 are summarized below.

Progress report on the activities of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics (2009-2010)	Percentage implementation (Percentages)
1. Integration of representatives of the ministries of the environment in the Working Group on Environmental Statistics	90
2. Establishment of an electronic forum with support from ECLAC.	100
3. Establishment of a partnership with the working group on statistics and environmental indicators of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean	100
4. Establishment of a sub-group for the formulation and presentation of the IDB regional public goods project	100
5. Procuring financing for a seminar on climate change statistics	50
6. Preparation of another project (led by Colombia and Costa Rica) for presentation to the Netherlands Organisation for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB)	50
7. Preparation of the report on international cooperation in environmental statistics	100
8. Invitation to regional organizations (CCAD, Andean Community, CARICOM) to join the Working Group	100
9. Definition of a core set of environmental statistics in response to countries' requests for information and to international and regional initiatives	30
10. Development of a common format for metadata to facilitate comparison of the minimum set of environmental statistics and their eventual harmonization.	30

D. ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE COORDINATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF ECLAC AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

10. Subregional coordination and cooperation activities

During the period covered by this progress report, the different subregional mechanisms for statistical coordination carried out numerous activities and consolidated major achievements, all of which relate to the respective reports.

11. Integrated presentation of cooperation activities between international organizations and agencies and the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

As instructed by the Conference at its fifth meeting, ECLAC updated the database using the statistical cooperation activities that will be carried out by the international agencies in the region in 2011. The Commission will present the main findings of this update of cooperation activities between international organizations and agencies and the member countries to the Executive Committee for its information and discussion and to enable it to adopt the measures it deems appropriate for promoting the coordination and timely information by the countries of the different statistical activities being conducted in the region, to

encourage countries to participate in such activities, avoid duplication of efforts and foster regional and international cooperation. To this end, Mexico and ECLAC will present a preliminary report on the status of coordination between international organizations with activities in the region relating to environmental statistics. Thus, the delegations could take this opportunity to carry out further environmental analyses and identify areas for improving international coordination.

12. Development of the regional public goods project Regional statistical framework for directories of businesses and establishments

This Project is aimed at preparing a strategy that has been agreed to region-wide for the preparation, implementation and management of a directory of businesses and establishments (the regional public good) and complements it with a set of tools for implementing the strategy in the region. The objective of the project is to improve the quality of statistical information on economic establishments in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to increase the international comparability and sustainability of this category of statistics, thus helping to close the gaps between countries in terms of methodologies, experiences and progress.

The project coordinators, namely, Chile, leader of component 1, the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO),³⁹ executive agency and ECLAC, the technical agency, will report to delegations on the establishment of the project and component 1: A diagnostic study of the Directories of businesses and establishments in the Latin American countries. The aim of this component is to design and implement a set of tools for conducting a diagnostic study on the status of directories of businesses and establishments and economic statistics in general in the participating countries. The regional self-analytical model will be used to appraise the current situation relating to the preparation of the directory of businesses and establishments. The component comprises the design of the tool and the conduct of a self-analysis by each participating country as well as three regional workshops with a view to sharing and compiling the results of the self-analysis.

³⁹ See Marco estadístico regional para directorios de empresas y establecimientos. Plan de operaciones (DDR/2), <http://www.cepal.org/publicaciones/xml/5/39005/DDR2e.pdf>.