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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC**



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

Dallas, United States, 30 November and 1 December 2004

**ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

## **A. BACKGROUND**

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is a subsidiary body of ECLAC established pursuant to resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which assigned the Conference the following objectives: to promote the development and improvement of national statistics and work to ensure that they are comparable internationally, bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations; to promote international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies; and to draw up a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the demands of the countries of the region.

At the second meeting of the Conference, held in Santiago, Chile, in June 2003, the representatives of the member States elected the following countries to serve on the Executive Committee of the Conference: Chile (Chairperson); Bolivia, Brazil, Panama, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and United States of America (members). The Committee's mandate will expire at the end of the next regular meeting of the Conference, to be held in June 2005 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile.

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

## **B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Executive Committee will have before it the following provisional agenda (LC/L.2185) for its adoption or modification:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Round-table discussion on strategic guidelines for the Statistical Conference of the Americas and establishment of a medium-term plan of action
3. Report by the secretariat
  - (i) Progress report on the activities of the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003-June 2005
  - (ii) Follow-up to the third meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

4. Substantive preparations for the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC: review and discussion of progress in preparing for the deliberations on the substantive issues to be dealt with at the third meeting of the Conference
  - (i) Human resources training and education: towards a strategic vision
  - (ii) Development of national statistical systems and the responsibilities of national statistical offices
  - (iii) Follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals: challenges and opportunities for national statistical systems
5. Other matters
6. Agreements and decisions

**2. Round-table discussion on strategic guidelines for the Statistical Conference of the Americas and establishment of a medium-term plan of action**

Document LC/L.2215, entitled “Reflections on the meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean”, was prepared at the initiative of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Conference. The purpose of the document is to serve as a basis for reflection and the exchange of ideas at the meeting on how to give new impetus to the Conference, ensure that due importance is attached to its work and define its mandate more precisely.

To achieve this objective, it will be necessary to broaden the technical and institutional approaches used thus far and to devise a plan of action to serve as a frame of reference for statistical work and initiatives in the region. In this regard, the initiatives agreed upon in the different subregions must be taken into account in order to avoid duplication of effort, lend support to those initiatives and ensure that they are consistent with the region-wide objectives laid down in the strategic plan of action.

To this end, it is proposed that the Committee work out long-term strategic guidelines, for the period up to 2015, for the development and consolidation of statistics in the countries of the Americas. This plan of action will provide multilateral and subregional institutions with a frame of reference that will enable them to coordinate their activities more effectively, taking national and regional priorities into account, as well as the countries’ technical and institutional requirements.

The Chairperson would also like to take this opportunity to review the modus operandi of the Conference and its Committee in order to promote more active participation on the part of the member States in the work of the Conference and in the preparation and implementation of its recommendations.

**3.(i) Progress report on the activities of the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003-June 2005**

The secretariat will introduce a report (LC/L.2113/Rev.1) on the activities conducted in the framework of the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period July 2003-June 2005.<sup>1</sup> The report will give a detailed account of the cooperation activities undertaken by the States members of the Conference and by regional and international agencies.

Further to the commitment undertaken at the first meeting of the Executive Committee, the secretariat will report on multilateral cooperation activities carried out by the countries and on the updating of the database on offers of cooperation and activities in progress in this regard. The information system available on the Conference web site facilitates the monitoring of activities with a view to coordinating and strengthening cooperation and directing it towards priority issues.

**3.(ii) Follow-up to the third meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC**

Pursuant to the agreements adopted at the third meeting of the Executive Committee, the secretariat will give a presentation on the organization of statistical work in ECLAC and will present a report on substantive issues addressed by the Conference of European Statisticians that could be of particular interest for the work of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

The secretariat will propose, subject to the Committee's approval, that the next plenary meeting of the Conference be held from 1 to 3 June 2005 and that an inter-agency coordination meeting be held on 31 May 2005.

**4. Substantive preparations for the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC: review and discussion of progress in preparing for the deliberations on the substantive issues to be dealt with at the third meeting of the Conference**

Pursuant to the discussions that took place at the third meeting of the Executive Committee, the members will review the progress made in preparing for the deliberations on the substantive issues that were selected:

- (i) Human resources training and education: towards a strategic vision
- (ii) Development of national statistical systems and the responsibilities of national statistical offices
- (iii) Follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals: challenges and opportunities for national statistical systems

The countries responsible for preparing for the deliberations on these items will report on the work carried out thus far. Then the floor will be opened for discussion with a view to enhancing the substantive analysis of the documents to be presented at the third regular meeting of the Conference.

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<sup>1</sup> The Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003-June 2005 (LC/L.1903/Rev.1), was adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its second meeting, held from 18 to 20 June 2003 in Santiago, Chile (resolution 2(II)).

**5. Other matters**

Under this item, the delegations will consider any other issues they may wish to raise.

**6. Agreements and decisions**

The Executive Committee will take decisions on the agenda items set out above.