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

Bogota, 10 - 13 August 2009

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is a subsidiary body of the Commission established pursuant to resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which 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, subject to the availability of resources.

The current Executive Committee was elected at the fourth meeting of the Conference (held in Santiago in July 2007) and is chaired by Colombia. It held two meetings: the seventh meeting, in Bogota on 29 and 30 November 2007, and the eighth meeting, in Santo Domingo, from 22 to 24 October 2008. At the second of these meetings, the Executive Committee set the date and venue for the fifth meeting of the Conference (Bogota, 10-13 August 2009) and adopted a provisional agenda. At its eighth meeting, the Executive Committee also agreed to examine the following substantive issues: strengthening of national statistical systems: the 2010 census round; and the use of administrative records for statistical purposes.

At this fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, member States of ECLAC will examine the Report on the implementation of the 2007-2009 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, discuss and adopt the proposed 2009-2011 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and elect the Executive Committee of the Conference for 2009-2011.

B. CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONFERENCE

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

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC will have before it the following provisional agenda (LC/L.3041(CEA.5/1)/Rev.1) for its adoption or modification:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues
 - (a) Seminar on the development of national statistical systems: recent experiences, learning and assessment
 - (b) Seminar on the 2010 census round
 - (c) Seminar on the use of administrative records for statistical purposes
3. Examination of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - 3.1 Report on the implementation of the 2007-2009 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - 3.2 Presentation of the proposed 2009-2011 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - (a) Institution-building
 - (i) Working Group on Institution-building
 - (ii) Programme for the development and adoption of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (b) Promotion of human resource training
 - (i) Training programme on the knowledge transfer network and aspect of its implementation
 - (c) Promotion of the development of technical and methodological capacities to generate high-quality statistical information in the region
 - (i) Working Group on Gender Statistics
 - (ii) Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances
 - (iii) Working Group on Censuses
 - (iv) Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals
 - (v) Working Group on National Accounts
 - (vi) Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies
 - (vii) Report on the project to update the methodology used to measure poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (viii) Creation of the working group on environmental statistics

- (d) Promotion of coordination and cooperation between member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and international agencies
 - (i) Examination of subregional coordination initiatives
 - (ii) 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme
 - (iii) Integrated presentation of cooperation activities between international organizations and agencies and the member countries of the Conference
 - (iv) Project carried out under the Regional Public Goods Program of the Inter-American Development Bank on statistics on establishments
- 4. Other matters
- 5. Report of the Rapporteur
- 6. Adoption of agreements
- 7. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2009-2011

2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, at its eighth meeting, recommended that the following substantive issues be examined during the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas:

(a) Seminar on the development of national statistical systems: recent experiences, learning and assessment

This seminar is coordinated by Mexico and has two central themes for discussion: development of national statistical systems and public policy and official statistics. The seminar will approach these two central themes by means of two panels, with participation by authorities from national statistical offices and distinguished international experts.

(b) Seminar on the 2010 census round

This seminar is coordinated by Chile. The central themes are as follows: experience and recommendations on census mapping, coverage, ethnic perspective and migration. The seminar will approach these two central themes by means of two panels, with participation by authorities from national statistical offices and distinguished international experts.

Reference document:

- Recomendaciones para los censos de 2010 sobre cartografía censal, migraciones, enfoque étnico y cobertura censal (DDR/3)

(c) Seminar on the use of administrative records for statistical purposes

This seminar is coordinated by Colombia and will involve two panels. The first of these is dedicated to the subject of use of administrative records by national statistical institutes. The second is dedicated to the subject of the management of administrative records and the relationship between national statistical institutes and the public body which keeps the records. The contributing countries will be represented by experts from statistical offices and national and international bodies related to the subject matter of the seminar.

3. Examination of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

3.1 Report on the implementation of the 2007-2009 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

On this occasion, the Conference will have before it a report on the implementation of the 2007-2009 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities prepared by the secretariat, as well as the reports of the working groups of the Conference on the specific areas of their interest.

Working document:

- Report on the implementation of the 2007-2009 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3065(CEA.5/10))

Reference documents:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2814/Rev.1)
- Progress report on the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2933(CE.8/3))

3.2 Presentation of the proposed 2009-2011 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

The delegations of the participating countries will have before them, for the consideration of this agenda item, a report by the secretariat on the proposed 2009-2011 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities. The discussion of the proposed programme will focus on the four objectives of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Conference: institution-building, promotion of human resource training, promotion of the development of technical and methodological capacities and promotion of coordination and international cooperation. Also before the participants will be the reports prepared by the working groups of the Conference on their specific areas of work.

Working document:

- 2009-2011 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3072(CEA.5/12))

Reference document:

- Strategic Plan 2005-2015 (LC/L.2715(CEA.4/3)/Rev.1)

(a) Institution-building

Discussions under this item will focus on activities to strengthen the organization and strategic and operational management practices of national statistical offices and national statistical systems designed to ensure output quality and user satisfaction.

(i) Working Group on Institution-building

The working group will give a presentation on the principal results of the project on integration and harmonization of instruments for social statistics (INAES) and will submit to delegations a proposal for the subsequent development of harmonization efforts in the area of social statistics, with particular attention to the roles, mandates and activities of international bodies working in this area.

Working documents:

- Report of the Working Group on Institution-building (LC/L.3083(CEA.5/18))
- Final report on the project on integration and harmonization of instruments for social statistics (INAES) (LC/L.3061(CEA.5/7))

(ii) Programme for the development and adoption of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean

Delegations will have before them a document prepared by the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and ECLAC, including a proposal to create a working group to carry forward tasks with a view to preparing a draft Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be presented for discussion and approval during the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference in 2011.

Working document:

- Report on the development and adoption of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3075(CEA.5/13))

(b) Promotion of human resource training

Discussed under this item will be activities designed to promote training of human resources competent in the production of quality statistical data and in the management of national statistical systems and research on areas of statistical methodology.

(i) Training programme on the Knowledge Transfer Network and aspect of its implementation

Under this agenda item, delegations will have the opportunity to review a document on activities conducted for the implementation of the Knowledge Transfer Network and its training programme for the 2009-2011 biennium, prepared by the Council of the Network. Delegations will decide on the termination of the activities of the Working Group on Human Resource Education and Training, the Network's training programme and the election of the Council members for 2009-2011.

Working document:

- Report on activities related to the Knowledge Transfer Network and proposed training programme for the 2009-2011 biennium (LC/L.3062(CEA.5/8))

(c) Promotion of the development of technical and methodological capacities to generate high-quality statistical information in the region

Discussed under this agenda item will be activities to promote the development of technical and methodological capacities to generate high-quality statistical information in the region.

(i) Working Group on Gender Statistics

Delegates will have before them a document prepared by the working group, detailing activities to ensure the development and implementation of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, to give priority to the realization of time-use surveys in the countries, to promoting the measurement and collection of the set of indicators to measure violence against women as recommended at the forty-first session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, and to support work for the monitoring of progress in the production and dissemination of gender statistics in the region through the preparation of an annual report.

Working document:

- Report of the Working Group on Gender Statistics (LC/L.3050(CEA.5/3))

(ii) Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances

Delegations will have before them the final report on the project on migration and trends in remittances in the countries of Central America and the Caribbean and a document incorporating a programme for the subsequent development of the Group's activities for the elaboration of proposed indicators on migration and remittances relevant to the countries of the region, based in information available from the statistical offices.

Working documents:

- Final report on the project on migration and trends in remittances in the countries of Central America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3053(CEA.5/6))
- Activities report of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances (LC/L.3052(CEA.5/5))

(iii) Working Group on Censuses

Delegations will have before them a document on the final results of the project on dissemination and assessment of harmonized census statistics for social programmes for sustainable development in MERCOSUR, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico, under the Regional Public Goods initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank. The document will also provide guidance for the Group's continuing activities focusing on the promotion of and support for the realization of the 2010 census round in the countries of the region.

Working document:

- Activities report of the Working Group on Censuses (LC/L.3071(CEA.5/11))

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

The Working Group will present a document on progress in the statistical reconciliation activities designed to resolve differences between data reported in national reports and those existing in the databases of international bodies.

Working document:

- Report on the activities of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (LC/L.3076(CEA.5/14))

(v) Working Group on National Accounts

Delegations will have before them a working document containing an analysis of the situation of economic statistics and national accounts in the region, and a proposed strategy for furthering their development. To be analysed under this agenda item is the subject of how to promote the implementation of the Luxembourg Recommendations on Global Implementation and Outreach for the System of National Accounts in the region.

Working document:

- Report on the activities of the Working Group on National Accounts (LC/L.3077(CEA.5/15))

Reference document:

- Developing a programme of work on manufacturing statistics for endorsement by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (DDR/4)

(vi) *Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies*

Delegations will have before them a working document containing guidelines for continuing activities in the period 2009-2011, focusing on the development and dissemination of new indicators for ICT access and use by individuals, households, enterprises, governments, as well as in key sectors such as education and health care, proposed by the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC). OSILAC will also present a document on results obtained to date in the process of harmonizing ICT indicators for the region.

Working documents:

- Report of activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies (LC/L.3064(CEA.5/9))
- Analysis of methodological issues and new ICT indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3078(CEA.5/16))

(vii) *Project to update the methodology used to measure poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean*

Delegations will have before them a working document describing progress in the updating of methodological parameters for the construction of poverty lines in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean—as used by ECLAC—as an input for improved design, monitoring and assessment of social policies, including pending challenges. The document will include a proposal for consideration by delegations on guidelines for the continuation of this process during a second stage, through the creation of a working group for the purpose of moving forward with the harmonization of the methodology of measuring poverty by income in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Working document:

- Report on the project to update the methodology used to measure poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3051(CEA.5/4))

(viii) *Creation of the working group on environmental statistics*

The initiative group of the working group on environmental statistics will present the terms of reference and the work proposal of the working group on environmental statistics, which received preliminary approval at the eighth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference. Delegations are requested to take a decision on the proposal for the creation of this working group and to appoint Mexico to coordinate it.

Working document:

- Proposal by the initiative group for the creation of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics (LC/L.3082(CEA.5/17))

Reference document:

- Activities report of the initiative group of the working group on environmental statistics (LC/L.2948(CE.8/18))

(d) Promotion of coordination and cooperation between member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and international agencies

To be discussed under this item are activities to promote coordination and cooperation between member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and international agencies.

(i) Examination of subregional coordination initiatives

To be discussed under this agenda item are the various existing coordination mechanisms in the Caribbean, Central America, the Andean Community and MERCOSUR. Delegations will be informed of developments relating to advances and challenges on the coordination of statistical activities in their respective areas.

Reference documents:

- Apuntes sobre la creación de la Comisión Centroamericana de Estadística (CENTROESTAD) del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA) (DDR/1)
- Desarrollo de las estadísticas en el ámbito del MERCOSUR (DDR/2)

(ii) 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme

The ECLAC secretariat will report to delegations on the stage of progress of preliminary activities for the new round of the International Comparison Programme.

(iii) Integrated presentation of cooperation activities between international organizations and agencies and the member countries of the Conference

The ECLAC secretariat will present a report on the stage of progress of the initiative to construct a database of the statistical activities of international bodies and on a proposal for the Executive Committee to make an annual examination of the database of the integrated presentation and issue a report on improvements to the coordination of statistical activities.

- (iv) *Project carried out under the Regional Public Goods Program of the Inter-American Development Bank on statistics on establishments*

The Chair of the Executive Committee and a representative of IDB will report on the situation of the project carried out under the Regional Public Goods Program of the Inter-American Development Bank on statistics on establishments.

4. Other matters

5. Report of the Rapporteur

One of the members of the Executive Committee, acting as Rapporteur, will give an oral summary of the proceedings and the main agreements adopted. The report of the meeting will be drafted by the secretariat and sent out to participating delegations so that they may submit their observations.

6. Adoption of agreements

The Conference will adopt the agreements it deems appropriate.

7. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2009-2011

In accordance with resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Conference will elect an Executive Committee consisting of a Chairperson and six members, and will pay special attention to ensuring that all the subregions are represented.

The members of the Executive Committee may be re-elected for three successive terms. The Chairperson may not be re-elected in that office for a second consecutive term, but may be elected as a member of the Committee. Anyone who has been a member of the Committee for three successive terms may be elected again after two years have elapsed since the end of that person's last term of office.