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Bogota, 10 - 13 August 2009

**ACTIVITIES REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MIGRATION AND
TRENDS IN REMITTANCES ***

* Report prepared by the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances coordinated by Honduras.

2009-357

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A. BACKGROUND

The purpose of the region's national statistical offices is to generate basic and specialized information to support decision-making and the design of development policies, programmes and projects.

Migration is a highly significant topic that affects nearly every economy in the world, including those of Latin America and the Caribbean. Closely tied to migration is the increasingly large flow of remittances from migrant workers. Governments therefore need information on the migration process and its repercussions on family incomes and the production base in order to estimate the proportion of these resources dedicated to the sustainability and growth of national economies.

The significant impact that international migration and remittance volumes have on the countries of the region has prompted Central America to promote the project on migration and trends in remittances in the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, in response to the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which was approved by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), in the framework of the Programme on Regional Public Goods at the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, held on 14 and 15 November 2005 in Mexico City (see annex 1).

In order for this project to be continued, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC adopted a resolution on the establishment of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances, with Honduras as the designated coordinator of activities at its fourth meeting, held from 25 to 27 July 2007 in Santiago.

Subsequently, a proposed work plan for the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances was presented and approved at the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference, held on 29 and 30 November 2007, in Bogota.

On 9 and 10 October 2008, the third and final meeting of the project on migration and trends in remittances in the countries of Central America and the Caribbean was held in Tegucigalpa, with the countries sharing their experiences in data collection and processing and their findings on migration. The meeting provided an opportunity to convene the Working Group of the Statistical Conference and define and unify a conceptual framework on the topics being studied in order to draft a work proposal for Latin America. The most significant aspect was the findings of each research project and the possibility of identifying a first set of indicators to be worked on by the liaison officers of the countries represented on the coordination panel of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances.

The eighth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference took place from 22 to 24 October 2008, in Santo Domingo. On that occasion, a report was submitted on the progress of the project in Latin America. In December 2008, a seminar-workshop was held in Santiago on the 2010 census round and internal and international migration and other forms of spatial mobility. The findings of the Central American project and the achievements made through the coordinating mechanism of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances were presented, in order to influence decision-making and incorporate basic questions into the upcoming round of population censuses.

On 23 February 2009, the National Statistical Institute (INE) of Honduras took part in the informal meeting of the Executive Committee, held in New York, along with other members of the

Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. At that meeting, the progress and challenges seen thus far in the project were made known.

B. DESCRIPTION

This document reports on the follow-up and monitoring of the activities performed by the National Statistical Institute of Honduras, through the Department of Social Statistics and Demography, with regard to the Working Group on Migration and Remittances from Central America and the progress in the work plan approved by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at the meeting held in November 2007.

C. WORK PLAN

1. Member countries

At the time of writing, the members of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances are: Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras (coordinator), Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.

2. Fulfilment of the work plan

Activities	Date	Fulfillment
1. Definition of the member countries that will make up the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances	September 2007- January 2008	100%
2. Request that the member countries of the working group designate an institutional liaison officer to monitor and follow up on activities	November 2007- January 2008	100%
3. Request the appointment of an expert to provide technical assistance and systemize the experience for the Statistical Conference of the Americas	November 2007	100%
4. Definition of the communication process with countries' institutional liaison officers:		
Face-to-face meetings		100%
5. Organization of activities for 2007-2009		35%
(a) Technical meetings to carry out preparatory work and formulate guidelines for the working group: First meeting to exchange experiences, which will provide an opportunity to learn about the difficulties and positive experiences of the Central American countries in performing studies and to incorporate the migration and remittance variables since the module was implemented. The concepts, criteria and definitions used by the member countries of the working group will be examined with a view to putting together a proposal for regional indicators for internal and international migration and remittances		1. One meeting 2. Exchange of experiences with the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas 3. (21) Indicators defined 4. The activities listed starting with item (c) will be initiated in 2010

(b) Monitoring and follow-up of the work carried out by each country in the process to define and design regional indicators in accordance with defined topic areas		
(c) Preparation of national reports on the selected indicators with their respective metadata		
(d) Receipt of national reports by the coordinating country of the working group		
(e) Meeting to present progress reports and results and define to the extent possible a standard format for countries to present their updates and for the coordinating country to present a consolidated report	November 2007 – December 2009	The dates are subject to change depending on the decision reached by the countries that are members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas
(f) Preparation of a regional Latin American document with a compendium on migration and remittances		
(g) Presentation of results to the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC		
6. Preparation of a timetable of activities for the abovementioned period. This timetable must be agreed by the members of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC at its first technical meeting	2007-2009	As a result of the third meeting of the group on migration and remittances, a draft timetable will be prepared and sent to the countries that are members of the coordination panel of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances ^a
7. Application for technical and financial assistance from the cooperating countries	November 2007-2009	An application to the IDB is being processed
8. Preparation of a progress report on the project on migration and remittances in the countries of Central America and the Caribbean for the consultancy period	November 2008	100%
9. Follow-up of the activities relating to the sustainability of information on migration and remittances in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	Starting in 2009	An application to the IDB is being processed

^a This activity is still at the preparatory stage pending the agreement of the remaining countries.

D. GUIDELINES FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2011

Preparation of a proposal on indicators to be used throughout the region, based on information available in the respective statistical offices.

Preparation of a regional report based on the indicators supplied by each country's institutional liaison officer.

Design of a proposal on the conceptual framework and the thematic and geographical scope, and definition of the research indicators.

Drafting of a proposal on the contents of the work plan on migration and remittances to be implemented by the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. The plan should take

into account the conclusions of the third meeting of the project on migration and remittances. The proposal will include:

- The strategy to be implemented to generate statistical information based on data from the different countries' statistical offices as well as administrative records;
- Consolidated Latin American statistics on migration and remittances;
- A set of minimum questions for inclusion in the 2010 census round that may serve as the basis for studying migration, and the impact of the economic recession on migration flows and, hence, on the countries of the region;
- Measures to be carried out to enhance the administrative records.

E. OUTPUTS

1. Definition of the set of indicators (see annex 1).
2. Preparation of the indicator data sheets (see annex 2).
3. Regional Report on Migration and Remittances in the countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic (see annex 3).
4. Publication of the reports on the Central American project on the web page of the National Statistical Institute of Honduras (see [online] <http://www.inehn.org>; e-mail: info@inehn.org), Social section/coordinating mechanism of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.
5. Technical assistance from IDB for the Working Group on Migration and Remittances.

Annex 1

SET OF CORE INDICATORS TO BE DEVELOPED**MIGRATION INDICATORS:****Specifically on immigrants**

1. Percentage of the population born abroad
2. Percentage of households with international immigrants

Specifically on emigrants

1. Proportion of the population habitually residing abroad and with ties to the household where they lived in their country of origin
2. Percentage of households of which one or more members reside abroad

For immigrants and emigrants

1. Classified by age
2. Classified by sex
3. Classified by type of relationship with the head of household
4. Current educational level
5. Breakdown of the population by previous and current country of residence
6. Length of residence in the host country
7. Breakdown of the principal activities of the population habitually residing abroad

REMITTANCE INDICATORS:

1. Percentage of households that received or sent money from or to other countries in the last 12 months, for the use of the household or of relatives or friends
2. Frequency with which households receive or send money from or to other countries
3. Breakdown of individual amounts received from or sent to other countries
4. Country of origin and destination of the money received
5. Percentage of money received from or sent or to other countries through formal channels, for the use of the household or of relatives or friends
6. Total amount received from or sent to other countries over the last 12 months
7. Breakdown of the money received from abroad by category of use (only for inflows of remittances)

INDICATORS OF GOODS RECEIVED AND SENT

1. Percentage of households that either receive goods from, or send goods to, relatives or friends in other countries
2. Breakdown of amounts received, by type of goods, from abroad from relatives or friends
3. Of received remittances, the amount that is transferred to other households

Annex 2

DATA SHEET	
Name of the indicator:	
Definition:	
Unit of measure:	
Type of indicator	
Source:	
Categories:	
Limitations:	
Method of calculation:	
Periodicity	
Data	
Description	