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

Bogotá, Colombia, 29 and 30 November 2007

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

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* Report prepared by the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic and the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC).

2007-896

1. Background

The activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC) are part of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development; thus, the activities listed in this document may be coordinated by the Working Group, by OSILAC or by both entities working in conjunction or, should the case arise, by another member of the Partnership.

At the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, the following programme of activities for the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies was adopted at the recommendation of the latter:

(a)   To adopt and implement on an annual basis, according to the capacities of each national statistical office, the list of core indicators for ICT access and use in household and business surveys adopted in resolution 38/104 of the United Nations Statistical Commission, which will be updated in accordance with the progress made by the countries.[1]

(b)   To adopt as a methodological reference the compendium of best practices for the inclusion of ICT questions in household and business surveys.[2]

(c)   To request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to manage, through OSILAC and with the support of national statistical offices, the information system on ICT and social, demographic and economic indicators, and to keep the compendium updated.

(d)   To request the countries to send to ECLAC on a regular basis the data from their household and business surveys in relation to key indicators of ICT access and use, and also social, demographic and economic variables, together with their respective methodological manuals, in order to keep the information system and the compendium updated.

2. Programme of activities for 2008

The following programme of activities is proposed for the Working Group on Information and Communications Technology for 2008 to enable it to make headway with the implementation of the initiatives set out above.

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[1]   Core indicators proposal regarding information and communication technologies (ICT). Working group on measuring Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and (OSILAC) (DDR/5).
[2]   Compendium of practices on the implementation of ICT questions in households and businesses surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean (DDR/6).

Activity	Date	Coordinator
Second phase of the OSILAC information system. Information including ICT use in households and processed indicators on infrastructure and ICT capacities and use	January - June 2008	OSILAC
Third phase of the OSILAC information system. Information on ICTs in businesses	June - December 2008	OSILAC
Course on improving the registration of businesses and business surveys (Andean Centre for Higher Studies (CANDANE) – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC))	10-14 December 2007	UNCTAD (Working Group on Training in ICT of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development)
Fourth Workshop on Measuring the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	11-12 February 2008	OSILAC and the Working Group on ICTs
Workshop for the Development of Harmonized Indicators for the Social Use of ICTs in Educational Institutions. These should be based on the Suggested Basic Core Indicators for ICTs in Education formulated for educational institutions by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the key questions agreed by OSILAC and the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development	March 2008	OSILAC and the Working Group on ICTs
Seminar on the validity of sampling in business surveys for estimating statistics on ICT use, methodologies for calculating indicators and data processing	April 2008	Working Group on ICTs
Virtual forum for sharing methodologies on surveys designed to provide basic information on ICT satellite accounts taking into consideration recent experiences such as the Chilean experience	May 2008	Working Group on ICTs
Case studies on ICT use for data collection in censuses and surveys	August - December 2007	OSILAC
Virtual forum on free software applications for information collection and mapping. Using this medium, national statistical offices that are familiar with such applications can introduce them to the other members of the group	June 2008	Working Group on ICTs
Virtual forum for the development of indicators on the social use of ICTs in accordance with proposals put forward by Cuba; improving harmonization of indicators on ICT use and access in health institutions, cultural centres, sports centres and public ICT access centres	July 2008	Working Group on ICTs
Virtual forum on experiences in measuring ICT use and access in public administration	August 2008	Working Group on ICTs