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**REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 3–4 October 2018



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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in Santiago, on 3 and 4 October 2018.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States serving as members of the Executive Committee: Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Conference: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Japan, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

4. A representative of Curaçao, an associate member of ECLAC, was also present.

5. The following United Nations funds and programmes were also represented: the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

6. Representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations also attended: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO)–Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

7. Also present at the meeting were representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

¹ See the complete list of participants in annex 2.

Chair

8. The Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile chaired the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

B. AGENDA

9. The Executive Committee adopted the following agenda:
1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in relation to follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals.
 3. Review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2018-2019, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 - (a) Report of the working groups of the Conference.
 - (b) Information regarding subregional and international cooperation activities.
 4. Other matters.
 5. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

C. PROCEEDINGS

10. At the opening session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Guillermo Pattillo Álvarez, Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, and Pascual Gerstenfeld, Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC.

11. After welcoming the participants, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the first five years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development would be evaluated at the meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July and September 2019. It was therefore imperative to define clearly the main challenges related to measuring and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) before those meetings. She listed some of the achievements of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA), including, its contribution to the definition of the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level, the identification of institutional and methodological challenges faced by national statistical systems in the region, and the creation of 16 working groups to seek solutions to those challenges. She also stressed the importance of States supporting their national statistical offices. To accomplish the task entrusted to the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of SCA, a process had been carried out to review and

select a subset of indicators prioritized from the global framework of the SDG indicators, which would be useful for the development of national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean and the shaping of a regional vision. Lastly, she recalled the Caribbean First commitment of ECLAC and asked the members of the Executive Committee to help find how support could best be provided to the countries of that subregion.

12. The Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, said that the objective of the meeting was to review the progress made in the different working groups of SCA and to define what still needed to be done. He listed some of the most important challenges faced by statistical entities, such as the generation of open data, the incorporation of new types of data, and the production of data that were truly meaningful and useful for society and were also profitable. He expressed confidence that the Executive Committee would carry out fruitful work that would allow the progress made by the working groups to be analysed objectively, and the long-term future of the Conference to be reshaped. Lastly, he invited the participants to present sound proposals for undertaking the Conference's work in 2019 and laying the groundwork for the medium term.

13. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC expressed his satisfaction that 28 of the 33 member States had attended the meeting. He said that the SCA members were a community with a common language—that of statistics—and formed an institutional matrix that was relatively common in the region. Statistics faced a sea change, in which three very important phenomena were emerging. The first was related to the role of statistics, which was no longer simply about government accountability, but also involved the development of indicators that would allow better evidence-based public policies to be designed in order to contribute to national development. The second concerned statistical systems' ability to evolve, to change their working systems and to replace experience with vision, to be able to look to the future. Lastly, as more information becomes available, it is increasingly important to help users—decision makers and citizens—focus on the most relevant data for making choices.

Activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in relation to follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals (agenda item 2)

14. A round table was held on the SDG indicators framework for the Caribbean, with the participation of representatives from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Jamaica and Curaçao.

15. The representative of CARICOM described the process undertaken to select a key set of prioritized indicators for the Caribbean. The set consisted of 125 indicators that were expected to respond to the main challenges faced by the subregion, including its exposure to natural disasters as a result of climate change, its limited resource base and its high vulnerability to external economic and financial shocks.

16. The representatives of Jamaica and Curaçao spoke about the process carried out in their countries to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, referring to institutional arrangements, the alignment of the Agenda with the national vision and its links with the national budget, as well as the involvement of their national statistical offices in the mechanisms at the regional and global levels to address statistical aspects of the SDGs. They drew attention to the main challenges to following up the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda, in particular the fact that there was not a permanent team to coordinate SDG information at the national level; the national statistical systems' limited budget and lack of institutional framework; the ineffective communication of the statistics generated and statistical illiteracy; and specific deficiencies in the production of environmental statistics.

17. The Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean presented a report on the development of a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the SDGs, pursuant to the resolution adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference.² The representative of ECLAC, in its capacity as the technical secretariat of the Group, described the process carried out to define a set of prioritized indicators for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda from a regional perspective.³ That process, supported by the regional statistical coordination mechanism of the agencies of the United Nations system, sought to define a core set of indicators that reflected regional specificities; to prioritize measurement tasks and coordinate horizontal, regional and international cooperation efforts effectively to narrow statistical capacity gaps; and to prepare a report on the progress made by the countries of the region towards achieving the SDG targets. The outcome of that process was a prioritized set of 154 indicators, based on the regional importance of the indicator, its inclusion in other monitoring frameworks and whether the countries could feasibly produce it.

18. In addition to the presentation, the technical secretariat of the Conference recalled that the process of prioritizing indicators had been carried out pursuant to the request made by the countries at the ninth meeting of the Conference. Attention was also drawn to the great commitment of the countries and the representatives of the regional organizations, funds and programmes to building a regional framework that would focus on issues that were specific and relevant to the region.

19. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives welcomed the process carried out by the Statistical Coordination Group. There was agreement on the need to broaden the discussion on the methodological aspects of the prioritized indicators and the construction of regional aggregates. Speakers also called for a discussion on the flow of data needed to prepare the report on indicators. They reflected on how to monitor changes in priorities over time and how to address statistical capacity building needs to track regional indicators. They also said that the regional framework must be flexible.

Review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2018-2019, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (agenda item 3)

20. Under this agenda item, a proposal was presented for the reorganization of the Knowledge Transmission Network and dissemination of outputs of the working groups.⁴

21. The Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia took the floor, drawing attention to the achievements of the Knowledge Transmission Network during the biennium and reported on why ECLAC had asked DANE to coordinate the Network.

22. The representative of ECLAC presented the proposal for the reorganization of the Knowledge Transmission Network, which included the creation of a steering committee that comprised the coordinating bodies of the working groups, with support provided by DANE during the transition phase. Regional and international cooperation organizations that wished to be involved would also take part. He also presented the new Network website being developed by ECLAC, which would disseminate the outputs of and information about the activities carried out by the working groups and facilitate the monitoring of their work and follow-up on exchanges among experts.

² See resolution 10(IX), para. 11.

³ See the *Report on the prioritization of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CE.17/3).

⁴ LC/CE.17/6.

23. In the ensuing discussion, representatives asked whether the new website would include interaction services such as WebEx and virtual forums. They also said that coordinators must be part of the Network. In response, the representative of ECLAC said that the technologies and tools already available to the Commission would be used to host virtual forums and other similar activities, and, through them, support would be given to those countries that did not have the infrastructure to participate in virtual meetings.

24. The countries coordinating the working groups reported on the progress of their activities.

Working Group on Institution-building

25. The representative of Colombia said that the Group sought to help strengthen the national statistical systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, through the implementation and follow-up of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. The region needed stronger national statistical systems in order to improve statistical activities in the face of the new challenges and international commitments that those systems had address. In that connection, the first regional workshop on legal frameworks for the production of official statistics had been held and country profiles developed, based on responses to questionnaires circulated by the Group in 2013 and 2017, which revealed the status of implementation of the principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. Meanwhile, the Group was preparing a set of indicators, in conjunction with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21) and the technical secretariat, to measure the situation in the region with regard to the implementation of the principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. Lastly, the Group was also working on generating self-assessment matrices for the countries to gauge the degree of progress that they had made since the overall assessments. A workshop on national strategic plans for statistical development (PENDES) was expected to be held in 2019.

26. In the discussion that followed the presentation, speakers drew attention to the direct and indirect benefits of implementing the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, and said that it must be revised in order to further refine the compliance criteria, in particular those relating to the use of alternative information sources to produce statistics. A methodological approach to the development of national statistical systems must be sought, not only by the statistical offices, but also by other producers of official statistics.

Working Group on International Classifications

27. The representative of Mexico described the activities carried out during the first half of 2018, drawing particular attention to the outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Working Group, held in August, and the official translations into Spanish of the documents “Best practice guidelines for developing international statistical classifications”⁵ and “Revision of the high-technology sector and product classification”.⁶ The Group had supported the review of the translation of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-08) submitted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Statistics Division had presented the first video on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), prepared on the basis of document “Proposed structure of content for developing videos on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic

⁵ See A. Hancock, “Best practice guidelines for developing international statistical classifications”, United Nations Statistics Division, 2013 [online] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/classifications/bestpractices/Best_practice_Nov_2013.pdf.

⁶ See T. Hatzichronoglou, “Revision of the high-technology sector and product classification”, OECD Science, Technology and Industry Working Papers, No. 1997/02, Paris, OECD Publishing, 1997 [online] <https://doi.org/10.1787/134337307632>.

Activities (ISIC)”, drafted by Mexico. With regard to horizontal cooperation activities, he drew attention to the advisory work undertaken by Paraguay and Colombia for other countries of the Group, a course taught by Mexico and an internship organized for Cuban officials in Mexico. The Group had been collaborating with the United Nations Statistics Division to finalize the list of equivalences for agricultural products corresponding to the Central Product Classification (CPC). Lastly, he said that it would be beneficial for the Working Group on International Classifiers to continue its activities, as it generated tangible results, which were not only the fruit of international cooperation among various statistical offices, but were also useful to them. Moreover, its objectives had been exceeded.

28. In the discussion that followed, the representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Group, noted that the Group’s lack of financial resources was an ongoing problem. There was also a risk of losing the technical and financial support of the United Nations Statistics Division following its restructuring, as instead of having a classification unit, international classifications were now categorized according to subject area.

Working Group on Censuses

29. The representative of Chile began by explaining the characteristics of the Working Group and the objectives that had guided it over the course of the biennium, especially with regard to preparing countries for the 2020 census round. In that connection, he said that one of the challenges facing the region was that censuses could provide ever more information, and countries were being urged to produce that data. There were now opportunities for innovation in terms of tools, processes and technologies, which should start to be used to improve census coverage and information quality. The Group had four subgroups on the following topics: census content, integration of sources, cartography and technology. Some of the main activities carried out during the biennium included: the report of the seminar on experiences, good practices and challenges for the National Statistical Systems of Latin American countries in the light of the 2020 Population and Housing Census round, held in 2017; the 2018 workshop on population estimates and projections; a regional survey on the use of technology in censuses; a virtual seminar to review the measurement of disability in the 2020 round; and analysis of the situation with regard to strategic aspects of institutional mapping for different purposes. Lastly, experiences and lessons learned in the framework of South-South cooperation had been exchanged.

30. In the discussion that followed, there was consensus among the speakers on the need to share the positive and negative experiences of those countries that had conducted their censuses, in order to avoid making similar mistakes. They said that the information produced by the Working Group must be made available in a timely manner to the countries that were developing their censuses, so that they could exploit it fully. They noted the lack of discussion on de facto and de jure censuses within the subgroups and the important role played by the media and social networks in census processes. Meanwhile, the representative of Cuba referred to the reality of Central American and Caribbean countries, whose exposure to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, made it difficult to update information, and noted the potential of tools such as georeferencing and tablets. The representative of ECLAC asked whether the four subgroups had facilitated the work of the Group, to which the representative of Chile responded that it had, to the extent that members had been able to distribute tasks, but that coordination among them needed to be improved. Lastly, the representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, which served as the technical secretariat of the Group, said that demographic issues had been addressed in order to provide feedback to the censuses and that current funding problems had led to the adoption of strategies to make the Group’s activities compatible with the demands and priorities of various stakeholders.

Working Group on National Accounts

31. The representative of Peru set out the characteristics and objectives of the Working Group, which had two subgroups on quarterly accounts and measurement of the informal sector. He said that there was a high turnover among focus groups, so members must join forces to update them. Good coordination among countries was essential for carrying out the activities and he asked the technical secretariat of the Group to provide greater support in order to generate feedback. In that connection, he suggested that the National Accounts Seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean, organized every year by ECLAC, should support the Group's work. To date, 16% of the biennial programme had been carried out, and a web page had been developed for the Group as a communication channel and a tool for implementing programmed activities. Future activities included a seminar-workshop on quarterly accounts of institutional sectors, planned for August 2019. The survey on SDG indicators related to national accounts was also expected to be relaunched, and the surveys on supply and demand for horizontal cooperation and on the measurement of the informal sector would be carried out.

32. In the discussions that followed, the speakers said that countries must be informed of base year changes and the experiences of other countries that would soon have to deal with those changes. In that regard, the representative of El Salvador said that authorities in his country had begun work on the dissemination information a year ago by holding discussions with the main political, economic and academic stakeholders, and suggested that other countries could do the same. Meanwhile, the representative of ECLAC, as the technical secretariat of the Group, reiterated that the Commission would continue to offer its support for the attainment of the proposed objectives, and expressed concern that so little of the programme had been implemented and about the lack of activities undertaken by the task force on the measurement of the informal sector. He also welcomed the request to use the National Accounts Seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean to raise awareness of the Group's activities.

Working Group on Administrative Records

33. The representative of the Dominican Republic presented the activities carried out by the Working Group. She said that the objectives of the programme revolved around strengthening statistics based on the administrative records of the countries of the region that allowed measurement of the SDG indicators, and that there were four subgroups. Administrative records were important, as they were the source of a high percentage of the SDG indicators. With regard to activities that were underway, she drew attention to the hiring of a consultant to prepare a manual on the use of administrative records in the region, the development of a toolbox for the same purpose, and the compilation and exchange of experiences and good practices among the countries of the Group and with other working groups. She said that 40% of the programme had been implemented and that the deadlines and scope of activities had been adjusted for 2018 owing to budgetary constraints. Lastly, she thanked the Group's technical secretariat and UNFPA for their ongoing support in the development and implementation of activities.

34. In the discussion that followed, the representative ECLAC, as technical secretariat of the Group, said that the activities presented varied from those that had been approved in the programme of work because the Group had focused on what could be feasibly done in the biennium. Meanwhile, the representative of Costa Rica said that it was important to differentiate between the Group's production of recommendations and their implementation, since that required more time and not all the members of the Group could put them into effect.

Working Group on Household Surveys

35. The representative of Chile highlighted the progress made with respect to the Group's work plan. Headway had been made on its three basic objectives: methodological development; the exchange of experiences among countries; and assistance among countries. He said that, according to the 2018 work plan, the Group would focus on the different stages of the process of producing household expenditure and income surveys and that an online consultation had been designed and carried out in the Group's member countries, the results of which had served as a basis for the discussions at the workshop on challenges and recent innovations with regard to expenditure and income surveys, organized with the countries of the Group in August. The report on the workshop was expected to be submitted by the end of 2018 and a wide-ranging document, summarizing the experiences of the countries of the region on that topic, would be prepared by the middle of 2019. He calculated that 35% of the work plan had been implemented. Lastly, he presented an overview of the main activities envisaged in the 2019 work plan, the main topic of which was measuring the impact of changes in the sampling frame on the estimators derived from household surveys.

Working Group on Labour Market Indicators

36. The representative of Chile presented a brief overview of the Working Group's achievements. He said that its efforts had focused on developing labour statistics systems by identifying and narrowing harmonization gaps; introducing harmonized informality indicators; sharing country experiences; adopting and disseminating a regional position before the International Conference of Labour Statisticians; and adopting methodologies by consensus to calculate decent work indicators to follow up the SDGs, among other activities. Some of those objectives had been achieved within the framework of the Regional Public Goods initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as part of which cognitive and field tests had been carried out in different countries to test harmonized measurement instruments and thanks to which the national statistical offices of some countries had begun to apply those techniques. He then noted the progress made in the implementation of the workplan, including the drafting of the methodological guides for incorporating harmonized indicators, which were intended to help other countries to interpret and replicate them. Future challenges included generating synergies with the Working Group on Household Surveys, obtaining funding for a new face-to-face meeting, and the Group's proposal for the next round of the Regional Public Goods initiative.

37. In the discussion that followed, speakers said that the overlap among working groups on the same topic in different international spheres was a cause for concern for national statistical offices, as it was difficult to make technicians available to participate in all groups at the same time. They also stressed the need to study the effects of economic growth without jobs on the labour market, and the challenges posed by recent immigration on labour market estimates based on surveys. Lastly, they said that administrative records must be used more, harmonization gaps among countries closed, strategies for communicating measurement changes improved and financial resources for implementing them increased.

Working Group on Gender Statistics

38. The representative of Mexico gave a brief overview of the Working Group's objectives and the activities planned for the biennium. He drew particular attention to the progress made in the four thematic areas: developing methodological tools for conducting time-use surveys; strengthening the production and dissemination of statistics on violence against women and femicides; mainstreaming the gender perspective into the SDG monitoring indicators; and building the capacity to construct gender statistics and indicators and to promote dissemination strategies. Future challenges included the need to strengthen methodological work and harmonization, partnerships between producers and users, and expanding the use and understanding of statistics.

39. In the discussion that followed, the representative of the technical secretariat of the Group noted the importance of the closeness between the producers and users of gender statistics and the support that the different entities of the United Nations system had given to the Group's work. In addition, steps must be taken to improve coordination with other groups, such as the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators, in order to measure phenomena such as unpaid work in households.

Working Group on Poverty Statistics

40. The representative of Colombia began his presentation by listing the Group's main areas of work, which were detecting and disseminating good practices, exchanging knowledge and establishing common standards in the countries of the region. With regard to the biennium activities, the Group was engaged in systematizing countries' practices on the aspects of multidimensional poverty that were not routinely measured and in studying how countries collected information on current income, through surveys sent to national statistical offices. Lastly, he said that in 2019 there would be a single regional workshop on measuring poverty in all its forms, rather than various events, as stated in the programme of work.

41. In the ensuing discussion, speakers noted the challenge of ensuring synergies and cross-fertilization between the Group's work and that of the other working groups, in particular those dealing with household surveys and population censuses, and the importance of avoiding duplication and overlap. With regard to income poverty, they said that the measurement of different income streams must be improved and the inclusion of income in kind for the measurement of poverty should be analysed. On the matter of multidimensional poverty, it was proposed that the Group should devote its efforts to drawing up recommendations for the 2020 census round. The representative of UNDP referred to a study on integrating environmental variables into national multidimensional poverty indices.

Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence

42. The representative of Costa Rica began by describing the Working Group's characteristics and objectives, which were to produce statistics and indicators on children and adolescents to contribute to the development of public policies aimed at that population group. She said that there were 50 SDG indicators related to children and adolescents and that information gaps existed among countries with regard to data disaggregation by topic, especially issues such as violence against children, early childhood development and multidimensional poverty. The Group's success in implementing its workplan varied, with an average of 30% of the objectives met. Completed activities included an inventory of statistical availability and capacities for priority SDG indicators for children, a web seminar for exchanging experiences of disseminating and visualizing statistical information on children and adolescents, and advocacy for incorporating priority indicators on children into the regional monitoring framework. There was also a task force on access to water, sanitation and hygiene that sought to promote the generation of statistics related to SDG indicators 6.1.1 and 6.2.1, and was working on an assessment of the availability of data and instruments to cover the indicators and on holding a regional workshop in 2019.

43. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of UNICEF, which served as the technical secretariat of the Group, thanked the Group for its work and noted that it was difficult to find countries that would like to lead some areas of work. That was why resources had been used to pay for consultants and thus obtain the expected results.

Working Group on Disability Measurement

44. The representative of Mexico presented the Group's programme of work, the objectives of which to strengthen countries' capacities to measure and process information on disability. With regard to compliance with the programme, he said that a consensus-based technical note on implementing the recommendations on disability in the 2020 census round was in process of being prepared. A videoconference had been held with the Working Group on Censuses to agree on the contents of the technical note. He also highlighted an activity not included in the programme of work, specifically the translation of reports of seminars held in 2016 and 2017. With regard to the progress made overall, he estimated that 50% of the programme had been implemented, given that several activities would begin in 2019. The workshop on the use and application of the International Classification of Functioning of Disability and Health (ICF) scheduled for that year had been postponed to 2019 due to a lack of funding.

45. In the discussion that followed the presentation, the representative of ECLAC, as technical secretariat of the Group, said that a good relationship had been established with the Working Group on Censuses. Efforts had also been made to establish links with UNFPA and other agencies to seek funding.

Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies

46. The representative of the Dominican Republic presented the Group's programme of work, which sought to help develop capacities and methodologies for measuring information and communication technologies (ICT). One of the main activities had been a virtual meeting on measuring ICTs, in which participants had split into groups to examine the topics of implementing e-government and measuring ICTs in education, households and businesses. She also noted the Group's collaboration with the Working Group on Gender Statistics to include of gender indicators in ICT surveys. With regard to the implementation of the programme, she said that ICT indicators in education were expected to be measured in 2018, while ICTs in households and businesses were scheduled to be measured in 2019. A survey on ICT use in statistical offices had been conducted and would be shared with the Working Group on Institution-building. The list of relevant indicators was also expected to be shared with the Working Group on Gender Statistics. There were plans to merge the workshop on coordinating the collaborative agenda and the seminar on the integration of digital technologies as tools for sustainable development into a single activity, to be held in Colombia in 2019. And the Group was examining the possibility of organizing the training workshop for Caribbean countries as a webinar. Overall, 27% of the programme of work had been implemented and it was hoped that figure would be 50% by the end of 2018.

47. In the following discussion, the representative of Curaçao expressed interest in participating in the Group.

Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice

48. The representative of Mexico began his presentation by pointing to the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean was the region with the highest crime rates in the world, which was why it was so surprising that little information was available on the topic. He said that steps had been taken to raise awareness of the need for national statistical offices to measure that phenomenon, as if it was done by another body it could lead to a conflict of interest and it might not have the same knowledge or technical capacity. It was important to link what was being done in the region to what the rest of the world was doing. The Group's activities for the biennium had focused primarily on generating statistical information on the indicators for SDG 16. Among the activities carried out, he drew attention to the adoption of an information-gathering instrument and of the methodology for victimization surveys put forward by UNODC; efforts to include crime and

criminal justice statistical information in national statistical programmes; and participation in a workshop on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes for the production of official statistics. Lastly, 60% of the programme of work had been implemented.

49. In the discussion that followed, speakers referred to the importance of linking statistics on violence with the formation of social capital in the countries, as it could be said that violence affected the processes of social capital formation. The representative of UNDP said that a project on illicit flows was underway and that UNDP was interested in working with the Group. The representative of UNFPA said that, together with the Working Group on Censuses, the Fund was evaluating the possibility of including, among the questions of death, one on whether the death had occurred in a context of violence, in order to obtain demographic data about homicides and to construct models with relevant factors. The Fund would therefore be interested in working together with the Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice and generating greater synergy. The representative of UN-Women also said that it was important to link the work in the area of gender-based violence by the Working Group on Gender Statistics with that of other groups and to have better administrative records on violence. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said that a report was being prepared on illegal mining, which could be linked to the topic of organized crime and the Group's activities. He asked whether the Group could offer recommendations on processing data on domestic violence, as it differed from the other types of violence. The representative of Mexico said that the Group's recommendation was to carry out separate surveys, as they were separate issues. In his country, only highly trained women were hired to conduct surveys and they normally visited the respondents when they were alone, to facilitate the interview.

Working Group on Environmental Statistics

50. The representative of Brazil discussed the activities carried out during December 2017 and the first eight months of 2018, which included a regional seminar-workshop held in Brazil for training on environmental indicators for the SDGs, attended by representatives of 70 national statistics institutes and ministries of the environment from 22 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean; a training workshop on energy and environmental indicators in Guatemala; the second meeting of experts on environmental statistics and indicators of Latin America and the Caribbean in Argentina; a webinar on forest resources in environmental accounts; and the launch of the platform of the regional network of environmental statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean (message group, web page and mailing list), in which professionals from across the region were participating. He said that 60% of the programme of work had been implemented. Upcoming activities included a regional workshop on Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, to be held in Brazil in November 2018.

51. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, as technical secretariat of the Group, followed the report with the presentation of the website of the regional network of environmental statistics and its focus groups.⁷ She said that the Group's work sought to incorporate into environmental statistics, metrics for climate change and disasters focused in particular on the Caribbean.

52. In the discussion that followed, the representative of UNEP expressed interest in joining the Working Group and facilitating coordination between UNEP activities and the ministries of environment, in particular through the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The representatives of UNDP and UN-Women referred to the relationship between environment statistics and other issues, such as gender statistics. They expressed interest in joining the Working Group, since moving

⁷ See [online] <https://comunidades.cepal.org/estadisticas-ambientales/es>.

forward with the measurement of the impact of climate change and disasters with a gender focus was crucial and there were opportunities to promote synergies with the Working Group on Administrative Records. Speakers noted the higher demand for environmental information in relation to three areas: national environmental policies, OECD requirements and the SDGs. It was suggested that, during training programmes, greater emphasis should be placed on sharing methodologies for calculating the environmental indicators of the SDGs and on how to close the gaps in those methodologies. Attention was also drawn to the importance of continuing to strengthen regional efforts to address transboundary environmental problems, such as climate change and disasters. They said that inter-agency coordination mechanisms were needed to produce environmental statistics, with the particular involvement of the ministries of environment, and therefore called for the current practice of including various actors in all training programmes to be continued. The representative of Chile reported on the Working Group's application for funds from the IDB Regional Public Goods initiative, which had not been successful and would be resubmitted in 2019.

Working Group on Measuring and Recording Indicators related to Disaster Risk Reduction

53. The representative of Peru listed the activities carried out during the first part of 2018, including the first face-to-face meeting of the Working Group held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in June 2018, in which all members of the Group had participated. He said that activities were being carried out such as establishing links with specialized initiatives in the field of statistics for disaster risk reduction (DRR) at the global level; coordinating, at the country level, with institutions specializing in the prospective and corrective management of DRR; assessing gaps and needs; and coordinating the exchange and transfer of technology and scientific innovation and DRR capacity building among member countries of international programmes and initiatives. He estimated that 20% of the programme of work had been implemented. The next steps to be taken included hiring a technical consultant for the Group, holding national courses-workshops to test methodologies and producing indicators for the Sendai Framework.

54. In the discussion following the presentation, the representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the technical secretariat of the Group, thanked Paraguay and Peru for their leadership and the Economic and Environmental Statistics Unit of ECLAC for its support, and called for more countries, especially from the Caribbean, to join the Group. He briefly explained the next stages of the report to monitor progress on achieving the targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, stressing the need to provide not only civil protection data, but also official country statistics. The representative ECLAC described the work carried out in conjunction with German cooperation agencies to assess the availability of information and institutional arrangements in the area of disasters and disaster risk reduction, and to produce a statistically operational definition of the concept of resilience, which would be discussed at the Group's second face-to-face meeting. Exploratory technical assistance would also be carried out in the pilot country, the Dominican Republic. The representative of UNEP expressed interest in joining the Working Group. He said that a workshop had been held for English-speaking Caribbean countries in September 2018, which had included a session on disaster communication, in which representatives of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and UNISDR had participated.

Working Group on Agricultural Statistics

55. The representative of Brazil presented the activities carried out during the first part of 2018, drawing particular attention to courses on topics such as on using satellite images, systematizing the gathering of data from key respondents and the gender perspective. He also described how the web page developed for the Regional Public Goods Initiative of IDB facilitated communication among the members

of the Group. With regard to the implementation of the programme of work, he said that it was around 85% complete. The Group's future activities included holding a workshop on integrating geospatial information into agricultural statistics and a seminar on aligning national agricultural surveys with the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS) methodology. The fulfilment of future activities would depend on the outcome of efforts to mobilize resources, as the IDB Regional Public Goods Initiative was coming to an end. Lastly, he suggested that some changes should be made to ensure the smooth running of the meetings of the Executive Committee, such as reducing the time allocated to the reports of the Working Groups and giving more time to strategic matters.

56. In the discussion that followed, the representative of FAO, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Group, expressed appreciation for Brazil's leadership and the Group's intensive work, supported by resources from the IDB Regional Public Goods Initiative. She noted that countries in the region were finding it difficult to carry out agricultural censuses, which was why the use of satellite images and integrated agricultural censuses was being encouraged. The representative of UNFPA raised the possibility of systematizing countries' experiences of merging agricultural censuses and housing censuses into one in order to move towards producing a recommendation on that subject. The representative of UN-Women highlighted the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in all Working Groups, including the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics. Several participants expressed agreement with the proposal on facilitating the Executive Committee meetings. The representative of the technical secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas welcomed the proposal and said that it was in line with the thoughts of the Executive Committee and the Secretariat on how to make those meetings as effective as possible.

Information regarding subregional and international cooperation activities

57. The representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) outlined the Community's subregional and international cooperation activities, which were mainly related to the creation of the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) and the demands of the 2030 Agenda and the 2020 census round. She said that, in 2017, the CARICOM statistical system had been evaluated and a strategic planning workshop held and, in early 2018, the RSDS strategic framework had been developed. With regard to the SDGs, the CARICOM technical working group had defined 109 core indicators, which had been submitted to the thirty-fourth meeting of the CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) and approved, together with 16 other indicators. The availability of data within the countries was now being assessed. She also reported on activities related to the 2020 census round, which included a workshop on disability statistics held in 2017 to develop comparable census questions on that topic, and a common census questionnaire prepared by the CARICOM countries to report on national census processes, covering matters such as the SDGs and the CARICOM integration agenda. Lastly, she acknowledged the support provided to CARICOM member States by Canada, through the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC), and by other entities such as PARIS 21, UN-Women and the National Statistical Institute (ISTAT) of Italy.

58. The representative of Statistics Canada (STATCAN) presented the cooperation activities that had been carried out through PRASC. She said that the project comprised 14 CARICOM member States and was expected to run through to March 2022. Technical assistance had been provided in four areas: national accounts; business survey infrastructure; household survey infrastructure; and communication and dissemination of information. Project highlights included improving surveys' methodology; registering businesses in various member States; creating websites for several member States; focusing on administrative data; holding a workshop and support activities on censuses; and organizing a leadership workshop. She also referred to an innovative project, that sought to examine buildings' characteristics by

mainstreaming the use of geographic information systems, remote sensors, GPS and supervised machine learning techniques. Lastly, she stressed the importance of the census round, which would be one of the agency's main areas of work in the years to come.

59. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) outlined the Bank's cooperation activities, which had focused on issues such as the environment, the labour market, agricultural activities, censuses in the Caribbean and administrative records. He said that, over the last four years, US\$ 4 million had been allocated for those activities, with the Regional Public Goods Initiative as the main source of those resources. The Bank intended to continue supporting political economy projects, as well as those related to legal frameworks and communication. In that connection, a seminar on communication would be held in mid-2019. Communication was understood to refer not only to the dissemination of data, but also to strategies in specific projects on issues such as censuses and in the face of the widespread use of social networks. Lastly, migration and remittances were also important topics for IDB.

60. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) highlighted in her presentation the activities carried out within FAO. She said that two pilot studies had been prepared on incorporating the food security module and adapting household survey questionnaires for indigenous communities in El Salvador and Panama, although the pilot study in the indigenous community in Panama had not been carried out yet. A webinar on measuring food loss and a subregional workshop on the SDG indicators for which FAO was the custodian agency had also been organized. In 2019, virtual working groups on the aforementioned SDG indicators were planned, as was a workshop for the Caribbean subregion on indicator 2.1.2. With regard to technical assistance activities, they had focused on developing strategic plans for agricultural statistics, carrying out agricultural censuses and surveys, producing food security indicators and the SDG indicators for which FAO was the custodian agency, and institution-building.

61. The representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) began by stressing the importance of migration and remittances in the region. He said that the Organization's attention was focused on target 10.7 and indicator 10.7.2 of the 2030 Agenda. However, the wording of that indicator did not clarify some concepts, such as migration governance, so the Organization had been working to develop a definition, a process in which progress had been made, especially, with the Dominican Republic. He drew particular attention to two projects among the main activities carried out by IOM. The first sought to help the countries of Mesoamerica implement the SDGs, in the light of problems related to the disaggregation of data, and the issues were worked on with ministries and offices that did not necessarily have links with the planning offices. The second project aimed to strengthen the capacities of the countries of the region to produce and analyse regional information on migration, particularly in relation to administrative records. Lastly, he said that IOM was developing non-traditional data sources, including the MigrantApp application, which provided information supplied by the users themselves.

62. The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) presented the main statistical cooperation activities in the region. She said that the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators had been held in the period 2017–2018, at which some countries had been helped with regard to technical content, logistics and financing. She mentioned the support provided to implement the regulatory changes of resolution I of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, directly in the cases of Peru and Ecuador; the different capacity-building activities and workshops within the framework of the IDB Regional Public Goods Initiative; the development of algorithms for measuring informal employment in accordance with the guidelines of the seventeenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, within the framework of the ILO Labour Analysis and Information System in Latin America and the Caribbean (SIALC); and the technical assistance activities for various Central American countries. She also said that several activities were scheduled for the last quarter of 2018 and the first half

of 2019, linked to the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, the measurement of informality, child labour, the SDG indicators for which the ILO was the custodian agency and the statistical measurement of work relationships, among other matters.

63. The representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) reported on the cooperation activities that had been carried out, which included the Sustainable Health Agenda for the Americas 2018–2030, a methodological tool that comprised 11 goals, one of which referred to information systems for health. He said that efforts had been made to align that Agenda with the SDGs. He also drew attention to the PAHO initiative, Information Systems for Health (IS4H), a mechanism for managing interoperable systems with open data that came from different sources and that was used ethically by means of ICTs, to the work done to develop the Health Situation Analysis (ASIS) instrument in the region, and to the Plan of Action for the Strengthening of Vital Statistics 2017–2022, which was intended to strengthen national vital statistics subsystems within the framework of health information systems. Lastly, he said that the Organization was in the process of making different global actions compatible with achieving the SDGs.

64. The representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) set out the main activities. She said that OECD had recently signed an agreement with the European Union and ECLAC to carry out the collaborative project, the Regional Facility for Development in Transition. The concept of "development in transition" addressed multidimensional rather than purely economic issues. In the framework of that project, the Statistics and Data Directorate of the OECD and the Statistics Division of ECLAC would collaborate with the statistical offices of the region to develop well-being indicators in Latin America. The project was fully compatible with the work of monitoring the SDGs and was intended to go beyond conceptual and technical discussions to explore how indicators were used in policymaking. Lastly, a final report was expected to be published in 2021 with the presentation of a well-being framework for the region, and workshops and conferences on the topic would be held with statistical and political actors.

65. The representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) gave a presentation, in which he highlighted the work undertaken in coordination with ECLAC and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES) of Mexico. He also said that gender should be mainstreamed into the SDG indicators besides those related to Goal 5, as there were 54 other indicators that were affected by that issue. The main activities that had been undertaken included supporting gender statistics training programmes; developing a gender atlas; helping countries to carry out analysis and mainstream gender for voluntary national reviews on attaining the SDGs; and generating statistics on economic empowerment or violence, among other matters. He referred to the Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics, which had been created in conjunction with INEGI of Mexico, and gave the floor to the Coordinator of the Centre to describe it briefly. The Coordinator said that, among other things, the Centre's objective was to support national statistical systems to improve the generation, analysis and use of gender-responsive statistics, and that the first Global Conference on Gender Equality and the Measurement of Unpaid Care and Domestic Work had already been held.

66. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) presented the Programme's cooperation activities to strengthen the region's production of environmental data. He said that UNEP was the custodian agency for 26 SDG indicators on environmental issues, and was working to disseminate the methodologies developed in the region, through a technical dialogue with the countries. With regard to capacity building, four webinars had been held in the past year on SDG indicators 8.4.2 and 12.4.2, Earth observation, climate-related expenditure and the MapBiomass platform, and courses that had been carried out around the world on the production of data for SDG indicators such as 6.3.2 were in the process of being translated into Spanish. Work was also underway with remote sensing teams from

countries such as Argentina, Brazil and Peru to create a coordination framework among geospatial information agencies and to hold workshops for countries to report on the subject. Thanks to the work of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), 26 indicators had been prioritized for the region, 11 of which were the same as SDG indicators, 5 were proxies for SDG indicators, and 10 were region-specific indicators developed within the ILAC framework. The Programme had organized two subregional meetings, one in Colombia and one in Mexico, and a subregional meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of ILAC in Jamaica, in which representatives of 12 English-speaking Caribbean countries had participated. Lastly, he announced that the twenty-first meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was scheduled to be held in October and the meeting of the Regional Environmental Information Network of Latin America 2018 would take place in November.

67. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) then took the floor, noting that comprehensive work had been undertaken around five SDG indicators for which the Programme was the custodian agency, and that assistance had been provided in connection with the work on three other indicators to make them applicable to the region. He said that support had been extended to several countries for the production of their voluntary national reviews and SDG reports and for other initiatives, such as the incorporation of environmental variables into multidimensional poverty indices and the gender perspective into environmental measurements. That work fell within the framework of a UNDP project that sought to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, called Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS), as part of which high-level missions would be deployed to support countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Seven missions had been carried out in the region, which had focused on statistical capacity building, improving indicators and data quality, and inter-agency cooperation in particular. The Programme was also working on outlining each country's specific needs, by using data to identify critical points where a multidimensional perspective was needed. Lastly, three regional workshops were scheduled to take place in October and November 2018 on co-creating sustainable solutions, which would also address the need for data to implement development solutions.

68. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported on the Fund's statistical cooperation activities. He said that, within the scope of the 2030 Agenda, the Fund co-chaired both the Sustainable Development Inter-Agency Working Group of the United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Data for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Fund had participated in the MAPS missions on statistical capacity building and in South-South cooperation efforts with INEGI of Mexico on issues related to data platforms, and had supported two Working Groups of the Conference. UNFPA was the custodian agency for two SDG indicators and supported work on 18 others. Technical assistance had been provided to countries in the areas of population and housing censuses, civil registration and vital statistics, and administrative records. The main activities organized by UNFPA in 2018 included training on censuses' contribution to the measurement of the SDGs, on migration issues, on the quality and coverage of vital statistics systems and on how to use censuses to improve the quality of death and birth registration. He also referred to the work done to promote the use of population situation analysis as a tool for designing policies on indicators and understanding existing gaps in the field of vital statistics.

69. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) took the floor and began by noting that the work done in recent years had focused on the 2030 Agenda, since 12 of the 17 SDGs and 50 of their indicators had a direct impact on children and childhood. He said that one of the main themes of the meetings and workshops held during the biennium had been reducing information gaps in the Caribbean. UNICEF had participated in a meeting to identify data sources for the SDGs in the Caribbean, in a workshop held in Barbados on monitoring the SDGs and the design of Multiple Indicator Cluster

Surveys (MICS), in a regional workshop on birth and death statistics in administrative records and in a seminar on measuring disability in children and adolescents. Regarding the type of support provided, many of the technical assistance activities had focused on MICS, but assistance was also provided on vital statistics, administrative records and data visualization. Lastly, work was being done on the methodological development of the SDG indicators, specifically on indicator 4.2.2 on early childhood development—for which a cognitive test had been carried out within the framework of a pilot study in Puebla, Mexico—and those related to violence against children.

70. The representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) reported on the Office's subregional and international cooperation activities. He said that one of its priorities was to attain the seven global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, which were directly related to the SDGs. The Sendai Framework monitoring tool was being developed, as was an online subsystem for disaster loss data using DesInventar software. Support activities at the national and local level were also being organized and technical training workshops and meetings had been held in Bonn, Germany.

71. The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported on the Office's technical assistance and coordination activities. She said that one of its objectives was to collaborate with national statistical offices on producing security and justice data. UNODC was involved in the production of 17 SDG indicators, acting as the custodian agency for 9 of them and working with other agencies on the remaining 8. Those indicators were related to topics that were primarily covered by SDG 16, including violence, illicit trafficking and organized crime, justice, the rule of law and corruption and the treatment of substance abuse. In the area of administrative records, UNODC was working on the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes. Introductory courses had been held on the Classification, workshops had been organized on correspondence table models and training had been provided on how to adopt the Classification. In that regard, he drew attention to the collaborative efforts with the Working Group on International Classifiers. UNODC had also been developing the victimization surveys, as well as a conceptual and methodological framework and a questionnaire on that subject. The Office had also produced a manual on the measurement of corruption through household and business surveys. Lastly, UNODC was collaborating on efforts to measure SDG indicator 16.4.1 on illicit financial flows.

72. The representative of ECLAC noted the commitment made by all participants to move towards closing the information gaps in the measurement of the SDGs, and the prominent role that the new mechanism, the Knowledge Transmission Network, would play in that regard. He said that the Statistics Division was providing technical assistance in the areas of economic, social and environmental statistics, geospatial information and institutional coordination for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. Different meetings and workshops would be held, combining technical assistance and training. The Division stood ready to work with the countries to ensure that they had basic geospatial data infrastructure, which would be useful for carrying out the next censuses. In the last biennium, 22 of the 33 countries of the region had received some type of technical assistance from the Division.

Other matters (agenda item 4)

73. The new subregional grouping criteria for the composition of the Executive Committee was submitted for adoption under this agenda item.⁸ The criteria were adopted without observations.

⁸ LC/CE.17/5/Rev.1.

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 5)

74. The Executive Committee adopted the agreements contained in annex 1.

Closing session

75. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their work and the national statistical institutes for their commitment to the region. He drew attention to the manner in which countries had continued to work side by side despite the institutional changes that had taken place and said that it was an honour to collaborate with that statistical community, which was characterized by emotional commitment and teamwork. He also expressed his willingness to improve the Conference's coordination in order to make it more efficient, to create space for fun in its work and to produce more radical and visionary statistics, in an effort to address modern statistical challenges. Lastly, he urged participants to continue working, either in person or virtually, to develop high quality statistics for the development of better policies and attainment of sustainable development.

76. The Director of the National Statistical Institute (INE) of Chile, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, said that it was important to look back but, if the aim was to make progress, then it would be prudent to look forward. For that reason, the Conference's strategic development and work lines must be clearly defined, and steps taken to ensure that the efforts of the Working Groups were closely connected to those lines and produced measurable, accurate and relevant outputs. Henceforth, processes would be different, as working documents would be disseminated in advance of meetings and time would be allocated to discuss those documents and future strategic lines of work. Those new processes would help to make meetings more productive. Meetings would, above all, allow participants to learn and acquire new knowledge. Lastly, he thanked the participants for their efforts and said that, before the next meeting, the joint work on the issues raised at the current meeting would be resumed.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its seventeenth meeting, held in Santiago from 3 to 4 October 2018,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, in which the Council approved the proposal on the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Bearing in mind also that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee of the Conference shall have the following duties: carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; 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; 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 decide on the documentation required for its meetings,

Taking into account resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, which sets out the commitment of the United Nations Member States to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,

Taking into account also the growing importance of and need for reliable, high-quality and timely public statistics for the exercise of transparency, for the accountability of public authorities and for the assessment of public policy advances, as key elements of institution-building in the region,

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-seventh session, held in Havana from 7 to 11 May 2018,

Taking into consideration also General Assembly resolution 71/313 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/7, adopting the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development prepared by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators that was agreed upon at the forty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, held in New York from 7 to 10 March 2017,

Taking into consideration further resolution 10(IX), adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its ninth meeting and the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2018–2019, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas,

Taking into account the views expressed and the contributions put forward by the Governments of the member States of the Conference and by the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the international organizations represented at the meeting,

Activities of the Conference in relation to follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals

1. *Conveys its thanks* for the work carried out by the member countries of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls upon them to continue to represent the region in the process of defining and applying the global monitoring framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data;

2. *Acknowledges* the work done by the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean in assessing national statistical capacities for producing the Sustainable Development Goal indicators with a view to reporting to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development through the secretariat of the Commission, and requests member States to update relevant information using the mechanisms put in place by the secretariat;

3. *Requests* the member States to update the information on national statistical capacities for the production of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and for the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, using the mechanisms put in place by the respective secretariats;

4. *Notes* the progress made by Caribbean countries in the selection of a set of key indicators for subregional monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals that address the main common challenges, particularly those facing small island developing States;

5. *Endorses the Report on the prioritization of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean,*⁹ prepared pursuant to resolution 10(IX), adopted at the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, by which the Conference requested the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean to prepare a framework of indicators for regional monitoring of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that would enable the prioritization of measurement efforts and the effective coordination of horizontal, regional and international cooperation in order to progress towards closing gaps in statistical capacities;

6. *Requests* the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat, to continue their activities regarding the set of prioritized indicators, including those related to the fine-tuning of methodological aspects, future technical improvements and evaluation of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation needs, with a view to the regional and subregional implementation of the indicators;

7. *Calls for* continued coordination between the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through a joint working mechanism of the technical secretariats of the two Conferences;

⁹ LC/CE.17/3.

8. *Requests* the Chair of the Conference, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, to report on the content of the present agreements at the third meeting of the Forum, which will be held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, in April 2019;

Review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of activities 2018–2019 of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

9. *Takes note* of the *Report on the implementation of the 2018–2019 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*,¹⁰

10. *Urges* the working groups to bear in mind the provisions set forth in the *Operational guidelines for the working groups*,¹¹ adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its eighth meeting, in particular in relation to the operation and duration of the groups;

11. *Requests* the working groups to prioritize their activities to generate outputs that are useful for strengthening statistical capacities in the region and feasible to complete in the course of the 2018–2019 biennium;

12. *Thanks* the international organizations that have provided support for and collaborated in the activities of the working groups, either by acting as technical secretariats or by providing technical assistance, cooperation and financing for the planned activities;

13. *Adopts* the *Proposal for reorganization of the Knowledge Transmission Network and dissemination of outputs of the working groups*,¹² to be implemented by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with the support of the coordinators of the working groups of the Conference;

Working Group on Censuses

14. *Welcomes* the holding of the workshop on population estimates and projections and updating population estimates and projections for the 2020 census round; the organization of activities and preparation of outputs related to the 2020 round of censuses; the report of the seminar “Experiences, good practices and challenges for the national statistical systems of the countries of Latin America in the 2020 population and housing census round”, held in 2017; the conduct of the regional survey on technological infrastructure; as well as progress in the design of a work methodology and prioritization of topics for the 2020 census round with regard to census content, mapping, use of technology and integration of censuses with other data sources;

15. *Calls upon* the Group to implement its programme of work with regard to pilot testing and the preparation of a report on recommendations for the 2020 round of censuses, as well as the identification of the strengths and weaknesses of countries’ technological infrastructure;

¹⁰ LC/CE.17/4.

¹¹ LC/L.4156.

¹² LC/CE.17/6.

Working Group on International Classifications

16. *Welcomes* the establishment of a list of agricultural products that are known by different names in different national statistical offices but which are the same product, with the corresponding scientific names; the progress made in the holding of the online survey on international classifications in Latin America, with regard to the adoption or adaptation of international classifications; as well as the production of the first video on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities;

17. *Calls upon* the Group to hold its annual face-to-face meeting and to continue carrying out the activities set forth in its programme of work;

Working Group on National Accounts

18. *Takes note* of the draft questionnaire for the survey on the region's supply of and demand for horizontal cooperation for preparing national accounts and basic statistics;

19. *Calls upon* the Group to continue with its planned activities and outputs, including a report on the results of the e-forums on improving industrial and services statistics and the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008, and assessments of and in-person courses on national accounts in the region;

Working Group on Household Surveys

20. *Welcomes* the holding of activities related to the status of income and expenditure surveys in the countries of the region, in particular the workshop on such surveys and recent challenges and innovations, held at the Commission's headquarters in Santiago, and the administration of a questionnaire on the status of income and expenditure surveys in the countries of the region;

21. *Calls upon* the Group to implement its programme of work, in particular with regard to the administration of a questionnaire on methodological practices and institutional strategies of the region's countries to measure the impact of a change in the sampling frame on the estimators derived from household surveys;

Working Group on Agricultural Statistics

22. *Welcomes* the conduct of courses on the use of satellite images, on multiple frame sampling, on the use of administrative records for statistical purposes and on data source quality and integration;

23. *Notes* the progress made in relation to the method for identifying indicators and compiling data from a gender perspective, the building of a web page in the framework of the project under the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank, and the holding of the training course on systematizing the compilation of data from key respondents;

24. *Calls upon* the Group to continue to implement the activities programmed, including those relating to the method for integrating statistics and geographical information and the workshop on aligning national agricultural surveys with the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology methodology;

Working Group on Environmental Statistics

25. *Welcomes* at the holding of the regional seminar-workshop on developing and strengthening environmental statistics and indicators in Latin American countries and the shared path of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the regional workshop for Latin America on energy and environment indicators in Guatemala; meetings with leading regional experts; and the launch of the regional network on environmental statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean;

26. *Calls upon* the Group to continue to implement the remainder of its programme, including the workshops and activities concerning environmental Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

Working Group on Gender Statistics

27. *Welcomes* the implementation of activities such as the Nineteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics in Aguascalientes (Mexico), the Sixteenth International Meeting on Time-Use and Unpaid Work Statistics, and the training workshop on the processing and analysis of time-use data for building Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

28. *Notes* the progress made in the production of a correspondence table between the Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics, in the preparation of gender atlases, and in a methodological document on time-use surveys in the region;

29. *Calls upon* the Group to continue to implement the activities planned in its programme of work, including technical assistance and cooperation activities, the drafting of a methodological document on the economic valuation of unpaid work and the development of the satellite account on unpaid work in households, the holding of e-forums on building indicators on violence against women and the preparation of a preliminary document to develop a classification of types of violence against women;

Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence

30. *Welcomes* the preparation of a report with an inventory of statistical capacities for producing priority child-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the conduct of webinars during which experiences and methods on statistical information on childhood and adolescence were shared;

31. *Notes* the progress made in carrying out activities related to the methodology for sampling techniques used in surveys that generate data on the situation of children; the study of indicators on childhood and adolescence in censuses; the availability of data and tools to cover the Sustainable Development Goal indicators on access to water and sanitation in the region (Goal 6); and data on multidimensional child poverty, among other issues;

32. *Calls upon* the Group to fully implement its programme, which includes, in addition to aforementioned activities, webinars on sampling methodologies and on experiences in the improvement and use of administrative records as a source for official statistics on childhood-related indicators, as well as assessment and methodological documents;

Working Group on Poverty Statistics

33. *Notes* the progress made in drafting a questionnaire aimed at systematizing the measurement of dimensions not usually included in the measurement of multidimensional poverty;

34. *Calls upon* the Group to begin the remaining activities planned for the 2018–2019 biennium, including the preparation of a working paper that examines conceptual and methodological aspects of measuring income on the basis of household surveys and a regional workshop on the measurement of income and of the dimensions still needed to conduct a broader measurement of poverty;

Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice

35. *Welcomes* the preparation of a document containing recommendations for the standardization of variables for reporting on Sustainable Development Goals with regard to violence, security and justice, as well as workshops on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and the preparation of methodological documents and victim surveys;

36. *Calls upon* the Group to continue to implement the remaining activities in its programme of work, which include the incorporation of statistical information on violence, security and justice in national statistical programmes, as well as the use of the Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative and the production of videos on good practices in the framework of participation in the regular meetings of that Initiative;

Working Group on Institution-building

37. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the regional workshop on legal frameworks for the production of official statistics and its report containing key findings and recommendations, as well as the launch of the regional bank of good statistical practices for Latin America and the Caribbean;

38. *Notes* the progress made in the preparation of a proposal on the minimum content for statistical legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean and of a technical paper assessing the current status of the countries of the region in relation to statistical plans and legislation;

39. *Calls upon* the Group to continue to fully implement its programme of work, including the preparation of documents, reports and methodological tools for measuring and evaluating compliance with the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

40. *Also calls upon* the Group and its secretariat to consider updating the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, incorporating the use of data from non-traditional sources for the production of statistics;

Working Group on Labour Market Indicators

41. *Welcomes* the holding of working sessions and meetings to share countries' experiences in measurement of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93) and the document synthesizing the regional position on updating ICSE-93;

42. *Notes* the progress in the preparation of methodological tools such as questionnaires and guides for the harmonization of surveys and for measuring different types of work; as well as the synthesis document compiling the experiences of the Working Group member countries in the dissemination, analysis and calculation of labour underutilization indicators (LU1 to LU4); and the summary of the methodological discussions on the criteria, questions and challenges involved in the measurement of labour statistics related to Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

43. *Calls upon* the Group to carry out these activities and others outstanding in its programme of work, including the preparation of methodological documents and assessments on such themes as the implementation of the new International Classification of Status in Employment, the updating of sampling frames, and the evaluation of Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to labour statistics;

Working Group on Disability Measurement

44. *Welcomes* the videoconferences held with the Working Group on Censuses to agree upon the content of the technical note on the inclusion of questions in the population census and to share experiences on disability measurement in tests conducted during 2017 and 2018;

45. *Notes* the progress on the preparation of a technical note on implementing the recommendations on disability in the 2020 census round, jointly with the Working Group on Censuses;

46. *Calls upon* the Group to implement the rest of its programme of work, which includes holding a workshop on the use and application of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, preparing a proposed methodology for measuring disability in different statistical instruments, and compiling two directories, one of officials responsible for disability offices and another of international bodies that have developed or are involved in developing disability measurement methodologies;

Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies

47. *Welcomes* the holding of the virtual meeting on measuring information and communications technologies (ICTs) and implementing e-government, and the preparation of a report containing the meeting's main conclusions;

48. *Notes* the progress made on the preparation of a report on the outcomes of the work carried out in conjunction with the Working Group on Institution-building and on the holding of three virtual meetings on measuring ICT use in education, households and firms;

49. *Calls upon* the Group to continue implementing these activities and others outstanding in its programme of work, which include producing a list of ICT indicators with a gender perspective and convening training workshops and seminars;

Working Group on Measuring and Recording Indicators Related to Disaster Risk Reduction

50. *Welcomes* the convening of the first meeting of the Working Group in the framework of the Sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, in Cartagena, Colombia;

51. *Calls upon* the Group to continue its work on creating a directory of national disaster risk reduction specialists, producing a theoretical framework on the role of statistics and national statistical offices in recording data related to disaster risk reduction, identifying data gaps and needs, and preparing recommendations on measuring disaster risk reduction indicators in official statistics;

Working Group on Administrative Records

52. *Notes* the progress made in the preparation of a directory of administrative records that are useful for statistical purposes, and of the related Sustainable Development Goal indicators for each topic, as well as a toolkit for the use of administrative records;

53. *Calls upon* the Group to complete the aforementioned activities and carry out the remaining activities planned for the 2018–2019 biennium, which include the compilation and exchange of experiences and good practices among countries in the Group and with other working groups, and the preparation of the manual for the use of administrative records in the region;

Subregional and international cooperation

54. *Notes* the subregional cooperation activities of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians of the Caribbean Community, as well as the international cooperation activities carried out in the region by Statistics Canada, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

55. *Calls upon* the international community to channel resources towards strengthening national statistical systems on the basis of cooperation, technical assistance and financial support, affording particular attention to demands arising from the prioritization of indicators for regional follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to contribute in a coordinated manner to closing gaps in national statistical capacities;

Other matters

56. *Endorses* the *Criteria for the formation of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC as from 2020*¹³ and decides that these will take effect at the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, when the term of the current Executive Committee will end;

57. *Notes* the information regarding audits of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by member countries of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS).

¹³ LC/CE.17/5.

Annex 2

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**C. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies**

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN- Women)

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Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

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Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

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Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito (UNODC)/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

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Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres (UNISDR)/United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

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