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**REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE
OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 5-7 November 2013

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of meeting

1. The seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago from 5 to 7 November 2013.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.
3. Representatives of the following associate members of the Commission were also present: British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Puerto Rico and Turks and Caicos Islands.
4. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Management.
5. Also present at the Conference were representatives of the following United Nations entities: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
6. Also represented were the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Bank, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
7. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) and International Organization for Migration (IOM).
8. Representatives of non-governmental organizations, other civil society entities, and the business and academic world also attended.

¹ See the list of participants [online] <http://www.cepal.org/deype/noticias/noticias/5/50665/CEA7-Participantes-Participantes.pdf>.

Organization of work

9. The work of the Conference was conducted in four seminars at which the following substantive issues were analysed: (a) the post-2015 development agenda and the challenges for the national statistical systems of Latin America and the Caribbean; (b) development of basic economic statistics in the framework of the System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) for Latin America and the Caribbean; (c) advances and challenges for incorporation of the gender focus for statistical production in national statistical systems, and (d) institution-building of the national statistical offices and systems for promoting the quality and credibility of official statistics. The biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2012-2013 and the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015 were also presented and discussed.

B. AGENDA

10. The Chair submitted for consideration the draft provisional agenda, which was adopted without modification.

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues:
 - (a) The post-2015 development agenda and challenges for national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (b) Development of basic economic statistics in the framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (c) Progress and challenges regarding gender mainstreaming in producing statistics within national statistical systems
 - (d) Pro-quality institutional strengthening of national statistical offices and systems
3. Report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2012-2013.
4. Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015.
 - (a) Review and adoption of the proposed operational guidelines for the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - (b) Biennial programme of the working groups
 - Institution-building
 - Gender statistics
 - Environmental statistics

- Censuses
- National accounts
- Information and communications technologies
- Harmonization of statistics on income poverty and public transfers
- International classifications
- Agricultural statistics
- Labour-market indicators
- Household surveys
- Statistics on childhood and adolescence
- Statistics on public security and justice
- Programme of activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network

(c) Promoting international coordination and cooperation in the region

- Statistical challenges in quantifying South-South cooperation
- International Comparison Programme
- Regional public goods projects: “Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments” and “Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean”
- Subregional coordination initiatives

(d) Other matters

5. Adoption of agreements.
6. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015.
7. Closing session.

C. OPENING SESSION

11. At the opening session, statements were made by María Elizabeth Barrios Kuck, Director-General of the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC) of Paraguay, in her capacity as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Pascual Gerstenfeld, Director of the Statistical Division of ECLAC, and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC.

12. The Chair of the Conference recalled the objectives of the subsidiary body of ECLAC, which included the following: to promote the development of national statistics and work to ensure that they are comparable internationally; to promote the use of good practices and to channel technical support and training towards national statistical offices. After highlighting the most significant advances made by the working groups in carrying out the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for the biennium 2012-2013, she pointed out that there remained many pending tasks such as the reorganization of the working groups in order to capitalize on the experiences acquired, focus the

technical efforts and promote synergies. She said that the countries had to contend with constraints of varying degrees in the field of statistics, the most notable being the scarcity of financial and human resources. She also stressed the need to continue training technical staff in that area, to support institution-building and to foster coordination between national statistical entities as well as interregional and international cooperation.

13. The Director of the Statistical Division of ECLAC then took the floor. He said that statistics had become national, regional and global public goods and were fundamental for democratic coexistence and for development with equality. After reviewing briefly the historical development of the discipline of statistics, he said that, in recent years, a change of epoch had been occurring, and that the information revolution was having a far-reaching impact on statistics. The analysis of big data was leading to a paradigm shift and the main challenge was to adapt creatively to the methodological design in view of the new sources of data and to maintain the ineluctable commitment to quality control, honesty and transparency in the production and dissemination process so that statistics would continue to be a public good that is fundamental for peaceful coexistence within a democracy and for development with equality.

14. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the way forward for achieving equality in the region was to implement structural change, driven by more effective State action; social covenants must be based on the recognition that individuals are autonomous subjects and rights-holders. The challenge was to ensure that all members of society had access to certain social goods, including statistical systems and data. The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC had become a very effective tool for promoting initiatives and showing the need to establish not just national statistical offices but also national statistical systems. National statistical institutes, like central banks, must be independent, and must uphold State policy. She expressed concern that the work of the Conference should be understood also in the rest of the world and urged members to step up cooperation with other international forums without losing sight of the regional perspective. She concluded by saying that statistics would set the factual frontiers of political expectations and that the statistical institutes of the countries of the region must be strengthened.

D. PROCEEDINGS

Presentation and discussion of substantive issues (agenda item 2)

15. Substantive seminars were then held on the following topics: the post-2015 development agenda and challenges for national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean; development of basic economic statistics in the framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) in Latin America and the Caribbean; progress and challenges regarding gender mainstreaming in producing statistics within national statistical systems; and pro-quality institutional strengthening of national statistical offices and systems.

16. The purpose of the seminar on the post-2015 development agenda and challenges for national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean was to reflect with the directors and staff of the national statistical offices of the region and other statistical agencies on the advances relating to the international and regional proposals for the post-2015 development agenda and the implications they would have for statistics and to understand the challenges and opportunities posed by that scenario for national statistical systems.

17. The seminar comprised three sessions. In the first, entitled “Bases for the discussion of a post-2015 development agenda: processes and proposals within the United Nations system,” the Executive Secretary of ECLAC examined the global and regional processes under way and outlined the Commission’s approach to the new agenda. The main conclusions of the processes were then reviewed along with the key documentation published to date, including the proposals that had arisen since the Rio+20 Conference; a study was then presented on the situation of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in relation to the implementation of economic and environmental accounts and guidelines for a regional strategy.

18. Statements were then made by the representatives of the United Nations Statistics Division, the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (by video-conference) and the Statistics Division of ECLAC.

19. At the second meeting, “Implications for national statistical systems”, the Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean highlighted the difficulties faced by the Caribbean countries with respect to statistical production and referred to information gaps in important areas, such as the environment and climate change, the informal sector, security, persons with disabilities and migration. She also mentioned the fragmentation of statistical production; the need to establish common protocols for gathering information, to standardize concepts and definitions and to increase the capacity for dissemination of statistics in the countries of the subregion. She said that all those challenges called for stronger national statistical systems, improved cooperation between stakeholders, enhanced awareness by policymakers, more qualified staff for the national statistical offices and for continuation of the technical and financial assistance provided to countries in recent years.

20. The representative of Paraguay described the situation regarding the indicators for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in her country, the implications of the new agenda for the generation of indicators based on administrative records and surveys and the advances and challenges relating to the application of the System of National Accounts for building indicators from a rights-based perspective.

21. The representative of Argentina then referred to the challenge of monitoring the Millennium Development Goals with the current rights-based approach, which would lead to a reformulation of income poverty measures with the priority on a more effective approach to poverty in the interests of human rights, equality and social inclusion. Such a reformulation would require a greater harmonization and breakdown of information in order to monitor, and ultimately reduce, territorial and socioeconomic gaps. She affirmed the need to diversify economic statistics with emphasis on competitiveness and investment in technology with a view to achieving sustainable development; she added that further work was needed on an integrated information system.

22. The delegation of Colombia discussed the interagency coordination necessary for defining and monitoring sustainable development goals in the country and the new functions and challenges that the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) would need to address.

23. At the third session, which was devoted to regional statistics for the post-2015 development agenda, the representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations presented the work carried out by the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

24. The representative of Brazil then said that the Millennium Development Goals monitoring process could serve to improve coordination in the production of country statistics and to enhance their quality. She drew attention to the central issues contained in the United Nations document entitled *Statistics and indicators for the post-2015 development agenda*² and made recommendations for addressing inequality measures, integration of population dynamics within the existing targets, sustainability measures, new monetary and trade aggregates and indicators relating to governance, the rule of law and security. She believed that composite indicators were hardly relevant and stressed the need to include subjective indicators and to harness new technologies for gathering information.

25. The representative of Mexico described the Millennium Development Goal monitoring system in his country and the horizontal cooperation capacity-building work being undertaken by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). He also discussed the statistical challenges of the post-2015 development agenda, stressing the need to produce statistics on emerging issues, prepare disaggregated information on existing gaps, improve administrative records and strengthen national statistical systems.

26. The seminar entitled “Development of basic economic statistics in the framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) in Latin America and the Caribbean” was then held. The first speaker was the representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru, who provided an overview of the System of National Accounts and an explanation of the compilation methodology used and the role of basic economic statistics as inputs.

27. The representatives of Mexico and Colombia then described their experiences with the implementation of SNA 2008. The former based his presentation on the outputs of the systems, the changes in the base year of the national accounts, the sources of basic data and the calculation methods applied.

28. After a brief description of the methods and sources used, the representative of Colombia discussed the role of surveys and registers of business establishments in the cross-classification by institutional sector and economic activity.

29. The System of National Accounts as a frame of reference for basic economic statistics was the focus of the presentation of the representative of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), while the representative of the Central Bank of Uruguay drew attention to the fundamental role of national accounts in the adoption of policy decisions as summed up in the recent debate on initiatives “Looking beyond GDP”.

30. The final presentation was made by an ECLAC representative, who reported on the status of implementation of SNA 2008 in the region, the basic elements of the regional plan of action for the future development of the System and the importance of having a coordinated strategy for enhancing basic data sources.

31. In presenting the conclusions of the seminar, the representative of Statistics Canada, in his capacity as Chair of the seminar, reiterated the importance of SNA for the adoption of informed policy decisions and the need for an integrated economic statistics system. He also said that further in-depth work was needed in the region for the development of a regional plan of action designed to improve basic annual and quarterly data sources as inputs for the System.

² See [online] http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/UNTT_MonitoringReport_WEB.pdf.

32. The seminar entitled “Progress and challenges regarding gender mainstreaming in producing statistics within national statistical systems” then took place. It comprised two sessions consisting, respectively, of conceptual and methodological presentations and reports on experiences with the production of gender-sensitive economic statistics.

33. At the first session, the ECLAC representative outlined the progress with the preparation of a manual for placing an economic value on unpaid work for the calculation of the satellite accounts on the unpaid work of households in the region.

34. The Executive Manager of the National Statistical Institute of Guatemala presented the economic valuation methodology and discussed the challenges and the progress achieved in the process, in which the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) and the Central Bank of Guatemala were participating.

35. The session was closed by the representative of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, who referred to the Care Economy Act that had been adopted in Colombia, on the basis of which the Department had been commissioned to prepare a satellite account on the contribution of women to the Colombian economy. The presentation of the calculations was scheduled for 5 December 2013 at a seminar to be organized by DANE with support from ECLAC.

36. At the second session, the Executive Director of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador presented the statistics that his institute had produced for the analysis of gender issues. Emphasis was placed especially on the potential of the economic census, since all the information gathered in that count was disaggregated by sex.

37. The Vice-President of INEGI of Mexico then highlighted the need to strengthen the links between producers and users of statistical data, in particular, the machineries for the advancement of women. That position was shared by the representative of UN-Women and the representative of Costa Rica; the latter encouraged statistical institutes to take the lead in coordinating with women’s entities. She also said that it was important to disseminate the gender statistics produced by the different offices.

38. The Director of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC said that that was one of the challenges facing the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, an entity that could cooperate to a great extent in disseminating statistics and in pushing forward the debate on enhanced statistics for measuring the economic autonomy of women.

39. The representative of Nicaragua referred to a recent study on rural women conducted in his country, while the representative of El Salvador stressed the need to ensure technical support for the production of gender statistics.

40. At the seminar entitled “Pro-quality institutional strengthening of national statistical offices and systems”, three countries of the region reported on their experiences in the legal, organizational, technical and operational spheres for boosting the quality and credibility of official statistics with a view to establishing minimum conditions for an institutional framework for statistics.

41. In his report, the representative of Mexico described the constitutional and legal framework of the process of autonomy of INEGI and the provisions adopted by the Institute to guarantee the production of credible official statistics in the context of the National Statistical and Geographical Information System (SNIEG). He explained the main organizational challenges facing INEGI and the System: establishing an area for the technical evaluation of projects in order to provide the government committee with the best

possible tools for decision-making; to improve instruments for accountability; to promote budgetary autonomy; to guarantee that the government committee remains at arm's length from the operations of INEGI; to define clearly the functions of the internal controller's office to ensure that proper supervision is maintained for the efficient and effective use of resources; and to promote the renewal of the Institute's human capital.

42. The representative of Chile listed the challenges and constraints to the autonomy of the statistical institute from the legal perspective and explained how those challenges were being addressed in the bill being discussed in the parliament of Chile on the new national statistical system and the establishment of the National Statistical Institute as an autonomous agency. He also explained that the new act sought to ensure that statistical information was credible, that it would not be biased by political intervention and that it would be relevant for public policy formulation and evaluation. In that way, the statistics would be kept in line with the country's economic and social development and once the functions of policymaking and implementation were separated from that of impact assessment, there would be fewer criticisms as to the real impact of public policies.

43. The representative of Colombia then reported on the experience with the evaluation of the quality of the statistical output of DANE and of the other institutions in the national statistical system. He also affirmed that the concept of quality on which the Department's work was based was understood as a set of systematic actions geared to guaranteeing technical rigour in the production of statistics, in the light of sound international practices, the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics promulgated by the United Nations and the national code of good practices and to achieving credibility, trustworthiness, comparability and transparency in the production of statistical information. Along those same lines, he advocated that the model that was used as a guide for ensuring quality should incorporate the components of the Regional Code of Good Practice, the standard production process and quality requirements.

44. At the seminar, several representatives highlighted the importance of having autonomous statistical institutes that would have specific budgetary allocations that were independent of the national and international economic context. Participants reiterated concern at the fact that some international organizations failed to use official national statistics. It was also stated that the national statistical institutes must have mechanisms for strengthening their role as governing bodies for the statistical system. Such mechanisms included the statistical act and the processes for ensuring the quality of the statistics produced by all the entities that were part of the statistical system.

Report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2012-2013 (agenda item 3)

45. Under the above-mentioned agenda item, the report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional cooperation activities during the biennium 2012-2013 was presented and adopted. It was pointed out that 13 working groups were already fully functional as was the Knowledge Transfer Network, a mechanism that had been extremely useful for mobilizing international and horizontal cooperation. In addition, an initiative committee had been established to set up the working group on public security and justice, which would be submitted to the Conference for its approval. During the period 2012-2013, three regional projects had also been incorporated into the biennial programme: the International Comparison Programme, the Regional statistical framework for the directory of businesses and establishments and the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015 (agenda item 4)

46. The ECLAC representative then presented proposed guidelines for the functioning of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. Those guidelines were adopted after incorporating the relevant modifications, namely, the specification that the coordinator of each working group was responsible for disseminating information on the activities and the results between the member countries of the Conference and the expansion of the scope and objectives of the groups to include all areas of the strategic plan in order to encompass the new issues that would be incorporated. He said that the document presented was designed to make good the inadequacies that had been detected in the functioning of the working groups: the unequal participation of countries and the need to target the agenda and priorities of the group more accurately and to define more clearly the role of the technical secretariats and coordinating countries. Thus, in the proposal, the scope and objectives of the working groups were defined and all groups were open-ended, that is any country could become a member. In that regard, it was specified that the member countries of the groups must shoulder their responsibilities. It was also proposed that the type of meetings held by the Executive Committee should be modified and it was recalled that the working groups should renew their mandate at each meeting of the Conference.

47. The representatives of the coordinating countries of the different working groups then proceeded to present the relevant proposals of the biennial programme for the period 2014-2015.

48. First, the representative of Chile, the coordinator of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators, presented the report of activities and proposed programme for the new biennium. In the ensuing discussions, the representative of Curaçao affirmed the need to deepen the statistical measurements on child labour, which was a serious problem in Latin America and the Caribbean; in that regard, the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) advocated the use of child indicators to measure the incidence of child labour, which was not very visible in the region.

49. The representative of Brazil, after reaffirming the working group's strategic importance for extending the frontiers for measurement of labour indicators, said that it was important to continue to hold face-to-face meetings in addition to the virtual ones, in order to encourage the exchange of experiences and move forward with the tasks. The representative of the Dominican Republic asked that steps should be taken to ensure that the documentation and other end products of the working groups were readily accessible to all member countries and that they were available in English as well as Spanish. Lastly, the ILO representative said that his organization would be willing to assist in the work of coordination of the working group.

50. Following the presentation by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the coordinator of the Working Group on Censuses, the representative of Ecuador suggested that participants should turn their attention to the 2020 round of censuses in order to explore less costly alternatives than the traditional censuses. The representative of Brazil and the representative of Ecuador were both in favour of that proposal, while the representative of Argentina doubted that it would be feasible, partly because of the speed with which the technological scenario could change. Doubts were expressed as to whether it was appropriate to start to plan the 2020 censuses before studying the problems that had arisen with those of 2010 in some countries, where, for example, the omission rate had been higher than expected.

51. Several participants stressed that the information collected should be exploited and that work should be done on the sampling frames derived from the censuses. The representative of Brazil

underscored the widespread demand in the region for advanced technologies for conducting censuses and proposed that equipment should be purchased with international aid and shared by the different countries.

52. The Caribbean countries were urged once again to participate more extensively in the activities of the Working Group on Censuses. The representative of Chile proposed that cooperation among the countries should be strengthened in order to improve the measurement of intraregional migration through the census, while the representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC explained that the census databases records were already becoming available and the lessons learned were being systematized with a view to providing assistance to those countries that would be holding censuses in 2015 and 2017, which would be the last of the decade.

53. The report of activities of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals for the period 2012-2013 and the Group's draft programme for 2014-2015 were presented by two representatives of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, the coordinating country of the Group.

54. The representative of Brazil commended the Working Group on its work relating to the definition of the post-2015 development agenda and pointed out that the tasks should be geared towards greater synergy with other groups on cross-cutting issues. The ECLAC representative recommended promoting the platform for the virtual exchange as proposed by the coordinating country and highlighted the coordination achieved for the dissemination of products of the Working Group. Lastly, the Chair drew attention to the efforts made by all the countries of the region to promoting the appropriate use of the tools that had been developed for that purpose.

55. The representative of Uruguay presented the activities report and draft programme relating to the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers. The ECLAC representative then presented a proposal for the creation of a task force to deal with challenges relating to multidimensional poverty measurement.

56. Several delegations agreed that the existing approaches did not reflect the multidimensionality of poverty and that a discussion based on a sound theoretical base would be a necessary step forward in that regard, since new measurements would need to be introduced to determine the degree of well-being of the population. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank highlighted the difficulties in harmonizing a multidimensional measurement and recommended considering earlier experiences such as the measurement of unmet basic needs.

57. The representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and El Salvador argued in favour of maintaining measurements relating to income as they enhanced comparability, an aspect that was also underscored by the representative of Brazil, who, furthermore, proposed that the first activity of the new task force should be to consult countries on their interests and strategies regarding the new poverty measurements and to determine the action to be taken with respect to the post-2015 development agenda. The technical secretariat proposed that ECLAC, with support from Colombia and Mexico, should present a proposal in that respect.

58. The representative of Mexico presented the report of activities and draft programme of activities of the Working Group on International Classifications. After setting out the objectives of the Group, which are geared ultimately to the development in the different countries of official statistics that are internationally comparable, he described the advances in regional and subregion cooperation for strengthening the capacities of member countries in processes of adoption or adaptation of the most recent

international classifications, as well as the various technical assistance activities, translation of reference documents and exchange of experiences and good practices for implementation of classifications. Lastly, he said that for the biennium 2014-2015, the proposal was to promote the creation of an inter-agency platform for collaboration and to continue to identify spheres of cooperation between countries.

59. The representative of Brazil, the coordinating country of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics, explained the objectives of that Group, the activities it had carried out during the 2012-2013 biennium and the scheduled activities for the period 2014-2015. The representative of Saint Lucia suggested that it might be appropriate to combine the agricultural and population censuses. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said that it might be particularly relevant for the small States of the Caribbean, bearing in mind that the needs relating to agricultural statistics varied significantly in the different subregions. The representative of Ecuador considered that the sampling frames were out of sync, owing mainly to budgetary constraints affecting the agricultural censuses, and that innovative alternative methodologies should be developed for agricultural surveys.

60. The representative of Mexico, the coordinating country of the Working Group on Gender Statistics, presented the report of activities of the Working Group during the period 2012-2013 and the programme of activities for the biennium 2014-2015. The representative of Uruguay thanked the Group for its work and for the initiatives to foster South-South cooperation in that field and especially in relation to the surveys on violence against women. The representative of the United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) highlighted the initiatives taken by countries such as Mexico to strengthen horizontal cooperation through collaboration agreements between statistical organizations and various mechanisms for the advancement of women. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC recalled the importance of disseminating training and coordination activities organized by the different countries and requested support in that endeavour from the participating national entities.

61. The representative of Ecuador, the coordinating country of the Working Group on Household Surveys, then presented the report of activities of that body and its draft programme for the next biennium. The representative of Brazil requested more institutional support for continuing to develop that type of survey, bearing in mind also the need for information relating to the targets of the post-2015 development agenda. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank said that consideration should be given to a second generation of household surveys, given developments in the regional economy and suggested strengthening coordination with other working groups and deepening the statistical work relating to administrative records. The representative of Argentina pointed to the huge disparities between countries in the region in terms of household surveys and also called for additional help for the group's activities, including systematization of experiences, which ought to be treated as a priority.

62. The representative of Peru, the coordinating country of the Working Group on National Accounts, reported on the activities carried out in the biennium 2012-2013 and presented the draft programme for 2014-2015. He recalled that the Working Group was open to all member countries and encouraged those from underrepresented subregions to participate. The representative of Colombia explained that many of the Group's activities, including the advanced training workshops, had been conducted in the Andean Community and pointed out that, as things stood, that type of process should be transferred to ECLAC. The representative of the Central Bank of Chile recommended that the central banks and national statistical institutes work more closely to coordinate their national account statistics. The representative of Curaçao suggested that it might be useful to disseminate across the region national experiences acquired in implementing the 1993 System of National Accounts for use in applying the 2008 version.

63. The representative of the Dominican Republic, the coordinating country of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), described the activities carried out in the period 2012-2013 and presented the draft programme of the Working Group for the following biennium. He referred specifically to a module on surveys relating to ICTs in businesses, which had been organized with support from ECLAC and from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). He also explained that work had been started on the update of the compendium of practices for implementation and adaptation of the ICT survey for ministries and institutions. With respect to the period 2014-2015, he said that the implementation would be continued along with the collection and processing of data from the ICT survey and that various training workshops, some targeting the Caribbean subregion specifically, would be held on that and other planned modules relating to health, government and gender indicators.

64. The representative of Colombia, the coordinating country of the Working Group on Institution-building, presented the main achievements during the period 2012-2013 and the goals and activities for the next biennium, in particular the implementation of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and the proposal for the creation of a bank of good practices for regional statistical activity. Several delegations sought details on how the code would be implemented in practice and on the indicators of compliance. The representative of the technical secretariat of the Group explained that five comprehensive assessments would be undertaken to identify the weaknesses and strengths of each country in relation to the Code and that the policy should be in keeping with each country's pace. The representative of Colombia added that, although the tools were available, the most important point in their effort to move forward was that all the countries should participate.

65. Following the presentation by the representative of Mexico on the activities carried out by the Working Group on Environmental Statistics during 2013 and the plan of action proposed for the next biennium, delegations advocated drawing up a proposal indicating how to incorporate georeferencing into the programme of work of the Conference and whether it would be a cross-cutting issue or one that was specific to the Working Group. Irrespective of the approach adopted, the representative of the United Nations Statistics Division offered his support in that matter.

66. Some delegations pointed out that the manual of environmental accounts should be coordinated with the manual of national accounts. It was also stated that ECLAC itself would need to assign more human resources to the study of environmental statistics and that the central banks should participate in the Group's activities.

67. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said that his organization would place at the Group's disposal the results of the work it had been carrying out on environmental statistics. The representative of the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic requested that that agency should appear as a member, since it had participated in the Working Group.

68. The representative of Colombia stated that in order for the countries to start to implement the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), it was important to ensure coordination with the teams responsible with a view to the implementation of SNA 2008. He also pointed to the need for institution-building with human capital, not just within ECLAC but in all organizations. He reported that there was a Geospatial Expert Group within the United Nations Statistical Commission and suggested that the Conference consider adding that issue to its agenda.

69. Lastly, the representative of the United Nations Statistics Division offered his support in that regard and recalled that two important complementary tools already existed for the development of environmental statistics, namely, the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.

70. The representative of the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence then presented the Group's report on the activities for the period 2012-2013 and those scheduled for 2014-2015. Mention was made in particular of the creation of a set of minimum priority indicators for monitoring and evaluating respect for the rights of the child. The representative of Argentina said proactive policies needed to be established to assist the population groups that were neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs), who, however, devoted themselves to highly productive activities such as care for their children. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stressed that efforts must be made to improve the status of children, since in a matter of a few years they would be shaping the future of the countries.

71. In his capacity as coordinator of the initiative group for the formation of the working group on public security and justice statistics, the representative of Mexico presented the plan of work for the period 2014-2015. Having explained the composition of the new group, which was to be approved by the Conference, he said that its main objective would be to coordinate the efforts of generating, preparing and standardizing the statistical information on crimes and criminal justice in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The representative of Peru added that efforts were being made, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to establish a standard nomenclature for that crime. The representative of Guatemala stressed the importance of the indicators of the rule of law and statistics relating to violence, given that insecurity made it exceedingly difficult to collect statistics, since individuals and firms were prevented from providing useful information.

72. The representative of Colombia, the country that would be assuming the coordination of the basic unit of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the period 2014-2015, presented the draft programme of activities for the next biennium and said that they were in the process of transferring the technological platform from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico to the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia. He invited the working groups to participate actively in the Network and said that a proposal would be sent to the group coordinators indicating the basic information that should be included in the platform.

Promoting international coordination and cooperation in the region

(i) Statistical challenges in quantifying South-South cooperation

73. The representative of the ECLAC secretariat reported that with South-South cooperation gaining momentum in recent years and given that despite the special features of the latter, there was no specific method for measuring it, several countries had asked ECLAC to present a technical note on the feasibility of developing indicators of South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

74. Several delegations expressed their willingness to set up an ad hoc working group to deal with the issue. It was pointed out that measurements of that kind were complex and parameters for South-South cooperation would first have to be defined. Advances in that area might be achieved at the forthcoming meeting of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The delegation of Colombia emphasized the importance of ensuring that this work was coordinated national statistical institutes and national cooperation agencies or entities that fulfilled these functions.

(ii) *Regional public goods projects: “Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments”*

75. The representative of Brazil reported on progress with the Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments in Latin America and the Caribbean, explaining that the main purpose of the project was to improve the quality of the relevant statistics and ensure that they were internationally comparable. Among other activities, the directories existing in the countries had been examined and a regional plan of action drawn up for the preparation, implementation and management of directories of businesses and establishments. She also said that technical recommendations had been drafted in order to define best practices and minimum requirements and various training activities had been carried out. In conclusion, she said that the project, which had received support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), ECLAC and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), provided concrete results of relevance to all participating countries.

(iii) *Promoting the measurement of disability in the countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC*

76. An ECLAC representative then took the floor. She discussed the international mandates on the measurement of disability contained in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the recommendations emanating from the Expert meeting to define strategic priorities for the regional agenda regarding the situation of persons with disabilities, held in Santiago in May 2013, and the resolution adopted at the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on Disability and Development.

77. Following that presentation, another ECLAC representative reviewed the questions included in the censuses of the 2010 round relating to disabilities, underscoring the fact that several countries in the region had adopted a new approach that was concerned with the practical difficulties or constraints faced by persons in their daily life rather than with measuring deficiencies. She said that the shift in approach had facilitated identification of persons with disabilities in the censuses, hence the conclusion that it would be appropriate to continue to include specific questions on disabilities in that and other data sources in accordance with the new proposals put forward at the international level.

78. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commented on the fact that some concepts relating to disabilities were difficult to measure and maintained that more appropriate sources than the census should be sought for formulating public policies on disabilities. The representative of Mexico said that measures were being undertaken through the census of schools, teachers and students and proposed a discussion on that type of initiative at the regional level. The representative of the Dominican Republic considered that it was relevant to seek alternatives to the use of the population census, while the representatives of Brazil and Ecuador agreed on the importance of the census tool, although they recommended supplementing it with others, such as administrative records. The representative of Argentina agreed that such records could be a useful tool and stressed the need to avoid duplication of efforts with the work undertaken by other international bodies.

79. Following the above discussions, the participants agreed to create a task force to prepare a regional report and communicate with the member countries of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.

(iv) *Subregional coordination initiatives*

80. With respect to the subregional coordination initiatives, the different coordination agencies existing in the Andean Community, the Caribbean Community, Central America and MERCOSUR reported on their programmes of work and their contribution to the preparation and implementation of the biennial programme of international and regional cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

81. Speaking on behalf of the Andean Statistical Committee, the representative of Peru reported that the subregional integration scheme was being reengineered and that plans for training and horizontal cooperation in the field of statistics in the subregion could be affected by the suspension of activities that that process entailed.

82. The representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) mentioned various statistical harmonization initiatives based on international classifiers that had been implemented in the subregion, the preparation of a guide for implementation of a subregional statistical programme, the systematization of best practices in statistical matters and institutional support for updating national legislations. She said that regional institutions had been asked to help with the analysis and dissemination of census data and that several countries were interested in participating in training activities, in particular on the use of information and communications technologies for data collection. She also stressed the need to consider specific development goals for the Caribbean.

83. The representative of Costa Rica referred to the activities of the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System (CENTROESTAD), which was currently under the chairmanship of Panama with membership by all the countries in the subregion, including Belize. She explained that its task was closely linked to the subregional development strategy, one of its fundamental activities being to provide training in statistics to the population with immediate needs.

84. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that the members of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) had been upgrading the procedures for improving the quality of statistical products and had progressed also in terms of technical and professional resources. He also alluded to the interaction with key social groups on issues of special interest such as the alleviation of extreme poverty. The representative of Argentina explained that a number of efforts were under way with a view to the harmonized production of official statistics.

(v) *International Comparison Programme*

85. The ECLAC representative gave an updated progress report on the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean as analysed at the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

86. The CARICOM representative, after referring to the financial difficulties posed by participation in the round, placed at the disposal of the Conference the Community's complete documentation on the subject and proposed sharing the views put forward by the countries of the subregion for the more effective implementation of the International Comparison Programme in the future.

Adoption of the agreements (agenda item 5)

87. The Conference adopted the resolution the text of which appears as annex 1 to this report:

Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015 (agenda item 6)

88. In keeping with the provisions of resolution 2000/7 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the Conference elected the Executive Committee for the new biennium 2014-2015. The Committee elected for that period is as follows:

Chair:	Ecuador
Members:	Belize
	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
	Canada
	Costa Rica
	Cuba
	Spain

Closing session (agenda item 7)

89. At the closing session, statements were made by María Elizabeth Barrios Kuck, Director-General of the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC) of Paraguay, in her capacity as outgoing Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC; José Alejandro Rosero, Executive Director of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador, and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

90. The outgoing Chair commended the Executive Committee, the ECLAC secretariat and all the participating countries for their work, expressed her best wishes to the new Chair elect and pledged to give him full support in the coming years.

91. The representative of Ecuador thanked the Conference for electing his country to serve as Chair of the new Executive Committee and declared his commitment to act in that capacity and to make the role of the Conference more innovative and more strategic. He expressed appreciation to the outgoing Chair and the Executive Secretary of ECLAC for their work and to all the members of the Conference and international agencies for their collaboration.

92. Lastly, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC took the floor. She thanked the outgoing Chair and all those present and congratulated the new Chair of the Executive Committee. She expressed satisfaction at the good attendance of the Caribbean countries, stating that their presence was fundamental for the advancement of the region as a whole. Having recalled the main issues addressed during the Conference and underscored the importance of regional and international cooperation, she declared closed the seventh session of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

Annex

**RESOLUTION 8(VII) ADOPTED BY THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE
OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
AT ITS SEVENTH MEETING**

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its seventh meeting, held in Santiago from 5 to 7 November 2013,

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

Bearing in mind also that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee 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,

Having reviewed the report on the implementation of the 2012-2013 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference,

Having reviewed also the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference for the period 2014-2015 and the reports of its working groups,

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

Taking fully into consideration the agreements adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session,

Taking fully into consideration also the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fourth session,

Taking fully into consideration further the views expressed and the contributions put forward by the Governments of the States members of the Conference and by the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations represented at the meeting,

Report on the implementation of the 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 for the biennium 2012-2013

1. *Approves* the Report on the implementation of the 2012-2013 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, welcomes the progress made by the working groups created by the Conference and urges these groups to continue to pursue their fruitful efforts with a view to the complete fulfilment of their terms of reference;

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 for the biennium 2014-2015

2. *Adopts* the guidelines for the functioning of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, incorporating the observations agreed at the meeting concerning use of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the dissemination of documents and reports to all countries, the availability of documents in English and Spanish and the use of a standard format for communicating the results of the reports of the working groups, requests the groups to put these guidelines into practice and urges the Executive Committee to provide them with the necessary follow-up and support in their activities in accordance with the guidelines so as to enable them to optimize their functioning and achieve their objectives;
3. *Adopts also* the 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 for the biennium 2014-2015 and the plan of work of each of the working groups, urges the working groups to build synergies based on their common interests and requests the secretariat to incorporate the suggestions and observations put forth by the representatives and to present a definitive version to the Executive Committee of the Conference at its thirteenth meeting;
4. *Urges* the States members of the Conference, the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other international organizations to make an active contribution to the work to be carried out under the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for the biennium 2014-2015;
5. *Requests* the working groups, bearing in mind the discussion and the challenges of the post-2015 agenda, to incorporate these issues into their programmes of work for the period 2014-2015;

Institution-building

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the planned activities of the Working Group on Institution-building for the period 2014 – 2015 geared to the implementation of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in particular, the comprehensive assessments to be conducted in five countries of the region, and the development of South-South technical cooperation for implementation of the Code and urges all countries to make a firm commitment to take part in the different activities planned;

7. *Requests* the countries interested in participating in the comprehensive assessments or in receiving South-South cooperation in their implementation of the Code to send a formal communication to that effect to the group coordinator;
8. *Thanks* the Inter-American Development Bank for having provided financial support for these activities;
9. *Takes note with concern* of the practice of some international organizations which publish country data such as composite indices and models that do not take into account the official information produced by the national statistical offices and which hire private research firms whose studies are based on inadequate sample designs and methodologies that fail to respect the fundamental principles of official statistics, such as principles of quality and transparency in the use of methodology, sources and programming;
10. *Urges* the international agencies to use the official information produced by the national statistical offices when conducting their studies and programmes and to comply with the technical requirements contained in the fundamental principles of official statistics by applying appropriate sample designs and ensuring that their methodologies, sources and the programming used to calculate their indicators are transparent;

Promoting the training of competent human resources

11. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico for the valuable role it played in creating and consolidating the Knowledge Transfer Network and in coordinating the implementation unit of the Council of the Network and expresses satisfaction at the activities carried out by the Network since its establishment, in particular with a view to developing experience in distance training, enhancing the coordination of training activities in the region and building networks of experts and training centres for horizontal cooperation;
12. *Accepts with thanks* the offer by the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia to assume responsibility for coordination of the basic unit of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the period 2014-2015 and urges countries and international organizations to support it in its role as coordinator of the Network;
13. *Reiterates* that all members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas need to strengthen the Knowledge Transfer Network by contributing resources, boosting the stock of specialized information, introducing additional activities for knowledge transfer and expert support and updating the information in the Network's basic tool in order to improve its efficiency;

Technical capacity-building

Millennium Development Goals

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the advances in statistical reconciliation, statistical capacity-building at the national level and the dissemination of good practices for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of the region and thanks the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the support and collaboration it has provided as technical secretariat of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the

Millennium Development Goals and for its willingness to conduct further analytical studies on the regional situation with a view to formulating regional cooperation measures;

15. *Urges* countries to redouble their efforts to produce the information needed to generate Millennium Development Goal indicators using international standards and regional and national points of reference so as to help to speed up fulfilment of the Goals by 2015, given that that target date is fast approaching;
16. *Reiterates* the need for the national statistical offices to participate actively in the production of national reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in order to ensure that the correct statistical information is used for monitoring advances and urges them to participate more fully in reflections on these issues and in the preparation of a monitoring framework for the United Nations post-2015 development agenda;
17. *Urges* the countries to contact the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals to put forward their suggestions and proposals for the post-2015 development agenda;

Gender statistics

18. *Welcomes* the holding of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which came to a successful conclusion in the Dominican Republic on 18 October 2013 and ratifies the agreements established in the Santo Domingo Consensus relating to the improvement of national and regional gender statistics, with a view to contributing to the discussion and the preparation of public policies to enhance the physical and economic autonomy and autonomy in decision-making of women in the region, with special reference to paragraphs 55 and 56 of the abovementioned Consensus relating to time-use surveys and the compilation of satellite accounts on households' unpaid work;
19. *Reaffirms* the targets established in the work plan of the Working Group on Gender Statistics with a view to continuing to improve time-use statistics, the satellite account on households' unpaid work, statistics on violence against women, poverty measurement from the gender perspective and the debate on indicators to be included in the United Nations post-2015 development agenda and urges countries to redouble their efforts to generate gender statistics;
20. *Reaffirms also* the effective commitment of the national statistical institutes and offices at their highest hierarchical level to continue to work to improve the production and dissemination of gender statistics;
21. *Requests* the coordinating country and the technical secretariat of the Working Group on Gender Statistics to improve communication, to step up South-South cooperation exchanges in this area and to strengthen strategies for coordinating and disseminating activities in this field as well as mechanisms for providing training in gender statistics;

Harmonization of statistics relating to income poverty and public transfers

22. *Expresses satisfaction* at the systematization and analytical activities carried out in relation to the similarities and differences in income and poverty measurement in the region and thanks the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers for the activities it carried out during the biennium;
23. *Takes note* of the interest demonstrated by countries in redefining the terms of reference of the group, in such a way as to encompass alternative conceptual formulations for poverty-measurement with a view to the post-2015 agenda and requests the Commission, Colombia and Mexico to present a proposal in that regard to the Executive Committee;
24. *Takes note also of* the need to encourage discussion on alternative, non-traditional measures that take into account the well-being of individuals;

Censuses

25. *Commends* the countries and territories that have already conducted their population and housing censuses for the 2010 round, encourages them to facilitate access to those census data and to promote their use, analysis and dissemination as is fitting and reiterates that it is important for those countries that have not yet conducted their census to consult and, to the extent possible, incorporate into their forthcoming census exercise the lessons learned and the recommendations emerging from the discussion process and from the consensuses reached within the framework of the Conference's activities;
26. *Urges* countries to continue to systematize the experiences deriving from the exercises of the 2010 round of censuses as well as the preparatory methodological tasks for the next census round contained in the plan;
27. *Commends* the United Nations Population Fund and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of the Commission on the conduct of a new version of the intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications between August and December 2013, calls on them to arrange other similar courses, subject to the availability of resources, and encourages other specialized agencies in the United Nations system and other international cooperation entities to support these activities;
28. *Welcomes* the holding of the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and encourages the Working Group on Censuses to continue to attend the sessions of that body and to participate in the relevant discussions and tasks;

National Accounts

29. *Takes note* of the activities proposed for 2014-2015, aimed at supporting the countries in the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 and promoting closer integration between the production of basic economic statistics and national accounts, and underscores the importance of incorporating the recommendations emanating from the Substantive Seminar on National Accounts into the activities of the Working Group on National Accounts, particularly with regard to improving basic statistics as the main input for national accounts, making the

system more useful, and encouraging the implementation of the system of national accounts in the region;

30. *Requests* the working group to promote continuity in the development of new modules for the advanced course on national accounts, with support from countries, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Statistics Division, as well as in the execution of national and regional plans for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008;
31. *Calls* for redoubled efforts to support countries in the development of basic economic statistics, and to coordinate the activities of the Working Group closely with those of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics for the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;
32. *Reiterates* the need to promote the participation of representatives from more countries, and especially representatives of central banks, in the Working Group, leading to closer collaboration with national statistical offices with a view to improving economic statistics and national accounts;
33. *Requests* the Working Group on National Accounts to prepare a development project on basic statistics and on strengthening integration of the latter with the System of National Accounts in order to mobilize resources of the member States of the international donor agencies and to present this project for discussion and approval at the annual seminar on national accounts, and exhorts the countries to draw up strategic declarations and plans of action for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the framework of the global strategy;

Statistics on information and communications technologies

34. *Takes note* of the challenges associated with the generation of statistics on information and communications technologies which will result, on the one hand, from the 10-year review process of the World Summit on the Information Society and the High-level Event to be held in 2014, which will take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit and establish the agenda beyond 2015 and, on the other, from the final monitoring plan for the Plan of Action on the Information and Knowledge Society for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015);
35. *Agrees* to collaborate, through the programme of activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies for the period 2014-2015 by boosting the technical capacity of national statistical systems to respond to the needs for statistical data production and compilation on the basis of indicators of compliance with the Summit targets and to support also the final monitoring plan for eLAC2015, in order to review the region's advances towards the targets and to assess the gaps in access to and use of information and communications technologies;
36. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the adoption of resolution 672(XXXIV) establishing the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, which is expected to contribute to the progress of science, technology and innovation policies and activities in the countries of the region, and urges the working group to attend the meetings of that Conference and take part in its discussions and activities;

37. *Reaffirms* the agreements adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the need to generate statistics relating to information and communications technologies and gender in order to establish a methodology for measuring household indicators and administrative records that reflect the gender digital divide in keeping with regional and international agreements;

Environmental statistics

38. *Notes with satisfaction* the results achieved at the workshop to launch the project “Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean”, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, and requests the Executive Committee of this project to take the measures needed to ensure its implementation;
39. *Notes* that, in the context of discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015 and the challenges that it poses for national statistical systems, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 is an international standard that provides tools for measuring the progress of countries towards achieving sustainable development;
40. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the development of a proposed regional strategy on implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012, takes note of the regional consultation that is under way, for which countries have been invited to submit their comments, and recommends that the Commission present the final results of this process to the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in 2014;
41. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to take measures to strengthen its human, technical and coordination capacities in the field of economic environmental accounts in order to be able to proceed with the regional strategy for strengthening environmental statistics, and to respond to the growing number of requests by the countries for assistance in this matter;

International classifications

42. *Takes note of* the activities scheduled for the period 2014-2015, which will continue to be geared to analyzing, discussing, agreeing and implementing classification proposals that reflect appropriately the requirements of the countries of the region, and urges all the interested countries to participate actively in the activities listed in the work plan;
43. *Underscores* the importance of the work of the Working Group on International Classifications in formulating the project entitled “Latin American Cluster for the Promotion of Standard Information and Classification Systems”, and expresses support for the request for financing for its execution from the Inter-American Development Bank under the Regional Public Goods initiative and for the effort to secure financial resources from other international organizations that may be prepared to support the activities of the programme of work of the Working Group;

Agricultural statistics

44. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico for the significant role it has fulfilled in translating and digitizing the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistical system;
45. *Urges* the national statistical institutes to coordinate with their respective ministries of agriculture and to fill out thoroughly the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistical system, with a view to obtaining a diagnostic assessment of the status of statistics in the countries;
46. *Urges also* the countries of the region to collaborate in implementing the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially through South-South cooperation strategies;
47. *Reiterates* the invitation extended to the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean to join the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics, since at present no country from that subregion is represented in the Group;

Labour-market indicators

48. *Takes note of* the proposed activities for the period 2014-2015 for advancing in harmonization of the measurement of labour informality and assessing the impact on the countries of the region of the new guidelines issued at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians relating to the measurement of types of work, the labour force, and employment and underemployment of the labour force;
49. *Exhorts* the member countries of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators to continue with their commitment and the momentum towards the stated objectives and appeals to the countries that are not members to participate also in the consultations of the group and to respond to the questionnaires on practices used in compiling labour statistics in order to help to obtain a more comprehensive regional assessment;

Household surveys

50. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Working Group on Household Surveys to conclude in the period 2014-2015 its assessment of integrated household survey systems in the countries of the region and to focus future work on sampling methods and estimates from panel and cross-sectional surveys, and invites countries to participate actively in the activities under its work plan;

Statistics on childhood and adolescence

51. *Takes note of* the proposed plan of activities of the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence for the biennium 2014-2015, which reflects the challenges faced by the countries of the region in relation to developing and improving the statistics on childhood and adolescence needed to evaluate and implement policies and to drawing up programmes to meet the commitments made on the rights of the child in all countries of the region;
52. *Urges* the members of the working group to promote joint activities and the use of the results obtained by the other working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas that have analysed indicators and statistics on childhood and adolescence, in order to establish synergies

between the work plans of the groups and, avoid duplication of efforts, an initiative that should be supported by the Executive Committee, which will promote the sharing of the different work plans and results achieved among the different working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

Statistics on public security and justice

53. *Endorses* the creation of the Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice, which shall comprise Mexico as the coordinating country and Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama and Peru as members and the Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the technical secretariat, and commissions it to coordinate efforts to generate, develop and standardize statistical information on crime and criminal justice in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on international and regional projects, initiatives and mandates concerning relevant statistical information in order to generate better data to support evidence-based public-policy design and decision-making targeting problems in this field;

Geospatial information

54. *Takes note of* the countries' keen interest in the development and management of geospatial information, requests Brazil and Mexico to prepare a proposal for incorporating this issue into the Conference's programme of work and invites interested countries and agencies to cooperate with these countries on this task;

Promotion of coordination and cooperation between member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and international agencies

International Comparison Programme

55. *Thanks* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean which successfully participated in the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme, welcomes the increase in the number of countries from the region participating in the 2005 round and stresses the importance of the results obtained for drawing up and monitoring public policies, as well as carrying out a comparative analysis at the international level;
56. *Reiterates* its gratitude to the World Bank and the regional and subregional organizations for the financial and technical support without which it would not have been possible to implement this major global project involving some 190 countries and coordinated at the regional level by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community, the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank;

Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments

57. *Congratulates* the countries participating in the project of the Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments on having brought it to a successful conclusion and

urges the other countries to take account of and use the results of the project in line with their needs and circumstances;

58. *Welcomes* the Compendium of technical recommendations and best practices for preparing directories of enterprises and establishments drawn up as part of the project and agrees to disseminate the Compendium and promote its use in the region;
59. *Thanks* the Inter-American Development Bank for the financial support that made the project possible and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its unwavering support in implementing all stages of the project;

Disability measurement

60. *Reiterates* the recommendations of Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) concerning the collection and dissemination of data and statistics on the status of persons with disabilities as well as the recommendations of the Expert meeting to define strategic priorities for the regional agenda regarding the status of persons with disabilities (Santiago, 14 and 15 May 2013) on the implementation of a single system of information and identification for the population with disabilities that serves to determine appropriate policy actions and services;
61. *Congratulates* the countries in the region which have conducted specific surveys on disability and those which have made progress in including questions for persons with disabilities in their censuses and calls on them to draw on the lessons learned from this experience when drafting questions for the next round of censuses;
62. *Approves* the establishment of a task force comprising representatives from Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic to coordinate the drafting of a regional report on the statistical information available in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the difficulties encountered in assessing the status of persons with disabilities, for submission at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, in 2014;
63. *Calls* on the task force to liaise with the member countries of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization to look into avenues for collaboration and into the possibility of holding two subregional training workshops at national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the next round of censuses;

Statistical challenges for quantifying South-South cooperation

64. *Agrees* to set up a task force, made up of Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru and supported by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, charged with developing and proposing a methodological design and a road map for the measurement of South-South cooperation;

Subregional coordination

65. *Takes cognizance of* the suspension of statistical activities in the framework of the Andean Community, owing to the reengineering process now under way and the lack of clarity among the member countries of the Andean Statistical Committee, namely, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Plurinational State of Bolivia, concerning the future of this regional mechanism and expresses concern that the subregional statistical committee with the longest track record in the field of statistics should be at a standstill and cease to conduct the activities of statistical harmonization between its member countries, or the education and training plans and programmes, horizontal cooperation projects and discussion forums, workshops and seminars scheduled for the coming years;
66. *Thanks* the following subregional statistical committees for their interesting and informative presentations on their goals and on the status of their activities: the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians of the Caribbean Community, the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System, the Andean Statistical Committee of the Andean Community and the Specialized Statistical Meeting of the Southern Common Market.