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

Santiago, Chile, 25-27 July 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is a subsidiary body of the Commission established pursuant to resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which assigned the Conference the following objectives: to promote the development and improvement of national statistics and work to ensure that they are comparable internationally, bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations; to promote international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies; and to draw up a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the demands of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources.

The current Executive Committee was elected at the third meeting of the Conference (held in Santiago, Chile in June 2005) and is chaired by Mexico. It held two meetings: the fifth meeting, in Mexico City on 14 and 15 November 2005, and the sixth meeting, in Madrid, Spain, on 25 and 26 September 2006. At the second of these meetings, the Executive Committee set the date and venue for the fourth meeting of the Conference, adopted a provisional agenda and agreed to examine the following substantive issues in depth:

- (a) The Millennium Development Goals
- (b) The 2010 census round
- (c) Institution-building in national statistical offices: credibility and autonomy

At the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, member States will have before them a report on the activities carried under the Programme of Regional Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007, and the report on the activities of the working groups created by the Conference at its third meeting, which also covers the projects related to the regional public goods initiative. They will also adopt the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2007-2009, elect the members of the Executive Committee of the Conference for the 2007-2009 term and adopt the strategic plan 2005-2015.

B. CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONFERENCE

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

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC will have before it the following provisional agenda (LC/L.2713(CEA.4/1) for its adoption or modification:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
2. Report on the activities carried out under the Programme of Regional Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007
3. Adoption of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015
4. Presentation of the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009
5. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues
6. Adoption of agreements
7. Report of the Rapporteur
8. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2007-2009

2. Report on the activities carried out under the Programme of Regional Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007

The Executive Committee, at its fifth meeting, had before it for discussion a revised version of the programme of regional statistical work prepared by the Secretariat. In accordance with the agreement adopted at the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, this document consolidated the two documents submitted to the third meeting of the Conference: one on the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2294(CEA.2005/4)) and the other on the draft programme of statistical work of the ECLAC system (LC/L.2316(CEA.2005/6)).

At its sixth meeting, the Executive Committee also had before it for discussion the Progress report on the activities of the Programme of Regional Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007 (LC/L. 2588). The report contains a description of the main advances in relation to regional cooperation activities which are organized or coordinated directly by any part of the statistical system of ECLAC. They are presented in an order reflecting the four strategic objectives contained in the strategic plan 2005-2015: institution-building, human resources and training, development of statistical capacities and strengthening of international cooperation.

The Conference also had before it for discussion the report on the activities of the working groups created at the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2595).

On this occasion, the Conference will have before it two documents to consider the progress of cooperation activities in the region.

- (a) Report on the activities of the Programme of Regional Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2716(CEA.4/4)). This report provides an update as at June 2007 on the activities included in the progress report considered by the Executive Committee at its sixth meeting in September 2006 in Madrid, Spain. The intention is not to provide an exhaustive analysis of all the statistical cooperation activities in the region but rather to review briefly the activities carried out in the period under consideration, as a complement to the information available to member countries in the multilateral projects database (BADEPRO) which is available on the Conference website. This database constitutes a support mechanism for the member countries of the Conference; it contains the information provided by participating institutions on current projects: definition, activities, topics, period of execution, objectives and the results foreseen in terms of outputs.
- (b) Report on the operation and results of the working groups created at the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2718(CEA.4/6)): (i) population censuses; (ii) human resources and training; (iii) institution-building; (iv) information and communication technologies (ICT); (v) national accounts; and (vi) monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. This document contains a description of the progress made in the projects related to the regional public goods initiative financed by the Inter-American Development Bank; the main activities carried out by each group; and the proposed actions and recommendations submitted to the fourth meeting of the Conference.

Reference documents:

- Report of the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2651)
- Report of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2505)
- Report on the activities of the working groups created at the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2595)

3. Adoption of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015

At its third meeting, the Conference approved the Executive Committee's proposal to prepare a strategic plan for the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (resolution 3(III)), and instructed the Executive Committee to prepare, in consultation with the other members of the Conference, a new version of the document and to submit, for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Conference, a revised draft strategic plan (resolution 3(III), paragraphs 4 and 5).

In accordance with the above agreements, the Executive Committee, at its fifth and sixth meetings, considered, discussed and approved a final draft strategic plan 2005-2015 which will be submitted to the Conference for adoption (LC/L.2715(CEA.4/3)).

Reference documents:

- Final draft strategic plan 2005-2015 (LC/L.2575/Rev.1)
- Revised draft strategic plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas 2005-2015 (LC/L.2388)
- Strategic plan 2005-2015 (LC/L.2293(CEA.2005/3))

4. Presentation of the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009

As stated in resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, one of the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC is "to draw up a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, to meet the demands of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources".

The strategic plan 2005-2015 of the Conference is intended to serve as a frame of reference for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation. This long-term vision will enable the Conference to optimize the contribution that the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities will make to the effective fulfillment of the four strategic goals of the plan.

This programme will sum up the specific goals for a two-year period, which should be consistent with one or more of the four strategic goals of the plan and facilitate progress towards its implementation. Furthermore, the biennial programme should contain clear guidelines to provide direction and stimulate concrete action by countries, international and subregional organizations and the different coordination and cooperation bodies created for these purposes (for example, the working groups and committees of experts).

At its sixth meeting, the Executive Committee approved the proposed guidelines for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2600), and urged the members of the regional and international statistical community to collaborate with the Chairperson and the secretariat to provide content for the new format for presentation of the biennial programme (agreement 8). In pursuance of that agreement, the Secretariat shall submit to the Conference for consideration the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2717(CEA.4/5)), according to the new approved format. The Programme identifies specific

goals and the associated lines of action for each of the four strategic goals, and indicates which of the various institutional actors participate in the cooperation activities.

Reference document:

- Proposed guidelines for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009 (LC/L.2600)

5. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, at its sixth meeting, decided that the Conference, at its fourth meeting, would consider the following substantive issues (agreement 10):

- (a) The Millennium Development Goals
- (b) The 2010 census round
- (c) Institution-building in national statistical offices: credibility and autonomy, and that its agenda should set aside the amount of time necessary for their due consideration.

The countries responsible for presentation of the issues are the leaders of the working groups: Argentina, Chile and Mexico, respectively.

6. Adoption of agreements

The Conference will adopt the agreements it deems appropriate.

7. Report of the Rapporteur

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

8. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2007-2009

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

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