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

Bogotá, 29 and 30 November 2007

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## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **Place and date of the meeting**

1. The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) held its seventh meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, on 29 and 30 November 2007.

### **Attendance**

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries of ECLAC which serve on the Executive Committee: Bahamas, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Honduras, Mexico and Paraguay.

3. Representatives of the following member countries of the Conference were also present: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Panama, Republic of Korea, Spain, United States of America and Uruguay.

4. Representatives of the following associate members of ECLAC were also present: Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

5. Also present were representatives of the following United Nations funds, bodies and programmes: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

6. Representatives of the following United Nations specialized agencies were also present: World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

7. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations were also present: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-PARIS 21, Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI).

### **Chairperson**

8. Héctor Maldonado, Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia, chaired the meeting in his capacity as Chairperson of the Executive Committee, while the representative of the Dominican Republic acted as Rapporteur.

## B. AGENDA

9. The Committee adopted the following agenda:
  1. Adoption of the agenda
  2. Adoption of measures for implementing the resolution emanating from the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
    - (a) Approval of the final version of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009
    - (b) Programme of work of the Knowledge Transfer Network
    - (c) Programme of activities of the new Working Group on Gender Statistics
    - (d) Technological and methodological cooperation for the conduct of the 2010 round of censuses
    - (e) The 2010 round of censuses
    - (f) Monitoring progress towards fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals
    - (g) Report of activities of the Working Group on National Accounts
    - (h) Report of activities of the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies
  3. Status report on the projects being conducted under the Programme on Regional Public Goods
    - (a) Project on integration and harmonization of instruments for social statistics (INAES)
    - (b) Project for update of the poverty measurement methodology used in Latin America and the Caribbean
    - (c) Project on dissemination and assessment of harmonized census statistics for social programmes for sustainable development in MERCOSUR, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico
    - (d) Project on migration and the pattern of remittances to Central American countries
  4. Consideration of regional and international cooperation initiatives
    - (a) Initiative of ECLAC and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) relating to the European Statistics Code of Practice
    - (b) Proposal for an integrated programme of statistical activities
    - (c) Other regional and international cooperation initiatives
  5. Other matters
  6. Agreements

### C. PROCEEDINGS

10. At the opening session, statements were made by Héctor Maldonado, Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia (DANE), and Osvaldo Kacef, Officer-in-Charge, Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC.

11. Welcoming the participants, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee said that the meeting was an exceptional opportunity for the integration of the countries and, above all, for monitoring the implementation of agreements which were essential in order to consolidate results in the interests of the region. The adoption of the final version of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities was vitally important, since it covered the statistical activities of ECLAC, of the working groups and of a number of international organizations and bodies; furthermore, it was in line with the goals of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015.

12. The speaker drew attention to the success of the working groups system. In adopting the programme of activities of the new Working Group on Gender Statistics and reviewing the progress report of the project on migration and the pattern of remittances to Central American countries, the Committee was dealing with two issues which were attracting particular attention for the implementation of regional agreements. Also to be discussed were two other issues which had become important for national statistical offices and institutes: measurement of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the 2010 round of censuses.

13. Human resources training was crucial for all the activities, hence the importance of the Knowledge Transfer Network, whose work programme would be reviewed during the meeting. Of great significance for Colombia was the mandate received from the United Nations Statistical Commission to request international bodies to ensure that consultation with countries took place prior to dissemination of international Millennium Development Goals figures. DANE was providing leadership for initiatives to strengthen statistical production in the countries of the region and promote the independence and credibility of national statistical institutes.

14. The Officer-in-Charge of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC presented greetings from the Executive Secretary and said that the meeting of the Executive Committee was a significant landmark on the path to providing the Conference with institutions, mechanisms and working practices to enable it to fulfil its original mandate and to discuss and adopt the measures necessary for the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Statistical Conference at its fourth meeting.

15. He noted that the Committee had a demanding agenda before it, with items including the approval of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009, discussing the programmes of work of the Knowledge Transfer Network and of the new Working Group on Gender Statistics, and progress in the implementation of the programmes of other working groups established by the Conference and the projects being conducted under the Programme on Regional Public Goods, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). He added that he was confident that the agreements reached during the meeting would help to ensure that good quality statistics were available to the countries for the design and implementation of public policies. Having expressed his gratitude to the Government of Colombia and DANE for their hospitality, he declared open the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee.

Adoption of measures for implementing the resolution emanating from the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 2)

- (a) Approval of the final version of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009

16. A representative of the secretariat, introducing the final version of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2007-2009,<sup>1</sup> drew attention to each of the paragraphs where changes had been made in relation to the document considered at the fourth meeting of the Conference. The changes related to paragraph 37, which described the objective of the working group on the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; paragraph 38, which stated that the project for updating methodology for measuring poverty in the region is rooted in ECLAC; paragraph 45, which established the working group on gender statistics, chaired by Mexico; paragraph 60, which created the working group on migration and trends in remittances; and paragraph 64, concerning measures to promote technological cooperation for the taking of censuses and surveys.

17. The representative of Mexico said that the biennial programme must make the distinction between the activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the work of ECLAC, in which the countries had little or no representation in areas such as economic projections. He suggested adding a new paragraph on the programme of activities of the Working Group on Gender Statistics, since in the current version the activities relating to those statistics were included in different paragraphs, in particular under the heading of the Millennium Development Goals; measuring the contribution of unpaid domestic work could be included in a paragraph on gender, rather than in the framework of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA).

18. The representative of Cuba suggested that more recent events should be included, such as the meeting on the Millennium Development Goals which had preceded the current meeting. The representative of Chile said that, in relation to emerging issues in census questionnaires, there should be a single initiative by the working group and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC, combining all the aspects in order to avoid duplication. The representative of Colombia said that, in relation to measuring and assigning a value to unpaid domestic work, the latter could be placed under the heading of satellite accounts without having to modify the central part of the paragraph. It was appropriate and desirable to include the subject of economic projections in support of the countries.

19. The representative of UNEP, recalling that the Conference at its fourth meeting had considered the development of environmental statistics to be essential, noted that a working group existed in the framework of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and said that the Conference could use it as an additional group. The Chairperson undertook to consider the issue in greater depth so that it could be considered at the next meeting of the Conference. The representative of Mexico said that the absence of the issue from the agenda of the current meeting was a major omission, and proposed that it should be included immediately. The secretariat noted that the creation of working groups should follow a methodology already approved by the Conference, so that the groups would have clear mandates and terms of reference. To that end, an initiative group could be formed, to present a programme of work at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

- (b) Programme of work of the Knowledge Transfer Network

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<sup>1</sup> LC/L.2814.

20. The representative of Spain, presenting the work carried out by the Network since the fourth meeting of the Conference, said that its objective was to promote knowledge transfer and the sharing of experiences at intermediate and advanced levels. All member countries of ECLAC were members of the Network, but the beneficiaries were the Latin American and Caribbean countries, and the organizing country undertook to coordinate and provide selection criteria. Of a total of 50 proposals submitted, 23 courses had been selected, but many of the proposals had no funding for the participants. He emphasized that the Network was a regional public good, and it was hoped that funding could be obtained from donor countries and institutions.

21. During the discussion which followed the presentation, delegations expressed their approval of the report and all agreed that funding for training activities should be increased. The representative of Mexico, while supporting the approval of the programme, said that it should be open-ended so that the list could be extended as new courses were set up in the coming months. In fact, there were already courses which did not appear only because they had not yet been able to join the list, and courses run by other international bodies had yet to be included. The representative of Paraguay recalled the offer of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support the countries in their activities relating to the 2010 round of censuses, and the representative of UNFPA immediately reiterated that offer. The representative of Brazil said that priority should be given to courses relating to the topics of the working groups of the Conference. Other delegations said that the length and number of courses should be increased, programmes should be made more flexible and consideration should be given to online courses. The representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) offered to include health issues and integrate its courses into the Network, either online or with the dissemination of best practices.

(c) Programme of activities of the new Working Group on Gender Statistics

22. The representative of Mexico, the country heading the Working Group on Gender Statistics, described the varied activities that the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI), the National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) and the UNIFEM regional office for Mexico, Central America, Cuba and the Dominican Republic had been conducting for a number of years in the area of gender statistics and those that the Working Group had been carrying out since its establishment as part of its regular programme. Those activities included the International Meeting on Gender Statistics for Public Policies, held in eight successive years in Aguascalientes, Mexico; two workshops on mainstreaming a gender perspective in statistics in general; and five meetings to give in-depth consideration to the methodology of time-use surveys. Taking into account proposals submitted during those meetings by the representatives of statistical offices in the region, the programme for the future activities of the new Working Group had been structured with four thematic areas: promoting awareness of unpaid work, promoting awareness of violence against women, the Millennium Development Goals and promotion of gender statistics.

23. In the discussion that followed, the participants approved the programme of work of the Working Group and agreed on the need to set priorities, taking account of the two-year calendar and funding constraints. The representative of Paraguay recommended that the work should be limited to requests for information, which differed significantly within the region, and that the criteria for requests and countries' specific needs should be set out in the programme of work. The representative of Cuba suggested carrying out an analysis of gender statistics and indicators produced in the region when preparing the Working Group's programme of activities. The representative of Spain explained that under the law establishing equality between men and women, the National Statistical Institute must adopt

measures to produce information for the programme in question. It was pointed out that many of the operations carried out by INEGI came under different State agencies, so that the demand for many of the gender statistics could be satisfied with just slight improvements in record-keeping and in the work carried out with sectoral agencies. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela proposed that the programme of work should include the issue of gender-sensitive public budgeting, since some thought should be given to the type of information required for preparing policies based on that approach. Lastly, the representative of Mexico said that the Working Group on Gender Statistics proposed making use of the Executive Committee's collaborative site and underscored the importance of having statistical information to meet the future demands of the equality observatory agreed on in the Quito Consensus.

(d) Technological and methodological cooperation for the conduct of the 2010 round of censuses

24. The representative of Colombia, presenting the report on proposed technological and methodological cooperation for the conduct of the 2010 round of censuses, referred to the synergies which had been encountered in the region and the progress achieved in many countries in relation to processes of data capture and technology use. Brazil, Colombia and Mexico had acquired equipment for population and agricultural censuses. The representative of the United States, which used CSPro (Census and Survey Processing System), briefly described the uses of the tool and other programs, but emphasized that it would be a major challenge to see how equipment could be transferred from one country to another.

25. The participating countries generally recognized that technology use in field work was highly useful, but that the sharing of equipment involved some difficulties. It was agreed that the tools had considerable advantages for the timely delivery of data, but that they involved high costs which not all countries could afford. It was suggested that support should be sought from international bodies in order to finance the purchases or obtain discounts from manufacturers of personal digital assistants (PDAs).

26. The representative of Chile suggested that the relevant working group, working in close coordination with the working group on censuses, should organize a seminar on issues including technology transfer and equipment procurement, software and Internet use, and census cartography. The representative of Honduras said that equipment exchange could be achieved in the Central American countries, and an agreement for that purpose could be concluded among their presidents. The representative of Ecuador said that the project should emphasize knowledge transfer and dissemination. A number of delegations agreed to broaden the focus of the group to include the sharing of experience in the introduction of the new technology.

(e) The 2010 round of censuses

27. The representative of Chile, the country heading the working group on censuses, presented the report on the group's activities. The Director of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, supplementing the information provided in document DDR/3, described a number of activities relating to specific issues such as ethnic groups and Afrodescendants.

28. The countries approved the report on the activities of the working group, but noted that the problem of the time lag between countries must be taken into account, since some of them had already conducted censuses and others had not yet done so, so they had different needs. They also noted that many of the activities had begun in the MERCOSUR area and that initiatives were needed to involve the other countries of the region, particularly the Caribbean countries. The representative of Paraguay



suggested that an analysis should be made of the stages that the censuses had reached in the countries, and that perhaps they should be divided into groups so that their specific needs could be addressed.

29. The representative of Brazil expressed her support for Paraguay, adding that the mandate of the working group was very diversified and the realities of the countries were highly varied. A greater number of countries should be included so that they could cooperate with Chile on the tasks of the working group. A number of other countries also expressed support for Paraguay. The representative of Bahamas noted that the activities described in the document were concentrated in the MERCOSUR countries and that none were targeted at the Caribbean, despite the fact that migration and disability were major factors in the subregion's censuses. The representative of Spain recalled that the council of the Knowledge Transfer Network should be informed of the seminars and other activities which took place, so that the Network could carry out its function of coordinating the overall supply of training in the region.

(f) Monitoring progress towards fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals

30. The representative of Argentina, which is heading the working group on the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, presented the revised programme of work of the group, in light of the agreements concluded at the fourth meeting of the Conference. Recalling the three objectives of the working group, he said that strategies must be found to prevent overlapping between work on family budget surveys and the activities which were planned in the framework of the project on updating of poverty measurement methodology.

31. The secretariat presented an oral report on progress in current research into differences between the data from national databases and those generated by international bodies, and information on technical capacity-building in the countries for the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals.

32. The representative of Cuba proposed that the wording of objective 3 of the group's work programme<sup>2</sup> should be broadened to include all the Millennium Development Goals, but with emphasis on poverty. He agreed, however, that the group should initially concentrate on comparing national and international sources and on closing gaps, and that it should broaden its scope of action subsequently.

33. Concerning objective 3, the representative of Mexico said that what was being proposed in relation to methodology for poverty measurement was closer to what was being done in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals. Consequently, the project to update methodology for poverty measurement should not fall within the scope of that group. He expressed support for Cuba in terms of the need to avoid giving priority to one of the Goals over the others, but care must be taken not to expand into too many areas, and the work of ECLAC on differences between national and international databases must be used as the starting point.

34. It was also pointed out that the group should coordinate with other groups conducting activities in areas closely related to the Millennium Development Goals.

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<sup>2</sup> LC/L.2818.

## (g) Report of activities of the Working Group on National Accounts

35. The representative of Brazil, presenting the report of activities of the Working Group on National Accounts, said that issues still outstanding for its completion included concluding the analysis of the situation of the economic statistics needed for the preparation of national accounts, structured on the basis of the response matrix from the 15 countries in the region which had taken part in the survey, and deriving from that analysis the main areas of action for the working group. He called for increased involvement by other countries in the activities of the Working Group and underlined the need for financing to make possible their execution. The activities of statistical institutes and central banks must also be better coordinated.

36. A number of delegations expressed support for the request by the Brazilian delegation. The representative of Mexico suggested that priorities should be established in relation to activities in that area. The representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported that its work had taken account of the information collected in the survey conducted by the Working Group on the needs of the countries in the area of economic statistics and national accounts, and reiterated the commitment made at the Committee's previous meeting to support the activities of the Working Group and the objectives of the Conference in general. In 2008, IMF would finance the group's seminar on services statistics. The representative of Ecuador emphasized the need for quality directories of firms and other establishments for the preparation of economic statistics and national accounts.

## (h) Report of activities of the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies

37. The representative of the Dominican Republic, which is heading the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies, presented the report of activities on the implementation of agreements and on progress achieved pursuant to the proposals adopted at the fourth meeting of the Conference.

38. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said that UNFPA was prepared to finance cooperation activities in 2008 and would therefore need to coordinate with the Executive Committee. The representative of Argentina noted that possible areas of cooperation should be listed so that projects could be proposed.

Status report on the projects being conducted under the Programme on Regional Public Goods (agenda item 3)

39. The Executive Committee considered the state of progress on the projects being conducted under the Programme on Regional Public Goods.

## (a) Project on integration and harmonization of instruments for social statistics (INAES)

40. The representative of Colombia, which is coordinating the project, presented a report on the activities planned and results expected for the period 2007-2008.

41. Delegates once again emphasized the need to find mechanisms to involve the Caribbean countries. To that end, it was vital that the group's output should be translated into English. It was suggested that the group's activities should be given priority, since they covered a great number of areas, and that the fields to be dealt with should be limited to health, education and the labour market.

- (b) Project for update of the poverty measurement methodology used in Latin America and the Caribbean

42. The ECLAC secretariat, which is responsible for this project, presented a report on the activities planned and results expected for the period 2007-2008.

43. Questions were raised in relation to a number of issues, such as whether it was true that the project fell within the scope of the Millennium Development Goals, whether it should also deal with the methodological challenges of measuring extreme poverty in terms of the dollar-a-day line, whether the changes would affect the assessment of progress towards the Goals, and to what extent the methodology could take into account public transfers in kind received by households.

44. It was explained that the methodological proposal was relevant in the area of the Millennium Development Goals, since it would complement the dollar-a-day line, it would be drawn up with the participation of national statistical institutes, and the Caribbean countries would be involved. The idea was to modify the frame of reference of ECLAC, not to force the countries to change; it should be seen as something that they could choose whether to adopt. The impact on the situation of poverty would depend on the results.

- (c) Project on dissemination and assessment of harmonized census statistics for social programmes for sustainable development in MERCOSUR, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico

45. The representative of Chile, which is heading the working group on censuses, presented a report on the planned activities and the expected results.

46. It was agreed that the project should be reviewed in light of the priorities of the 2010 round of censuses, that any negotiation with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) should include the Caribbean, and that sources of financing other than IDB, such as UNFPA, should be investigated. The representative of Spain proposed that the Executive Committee should specify what proportion of the funds offered by UNFPA could be used to finance some of the Knowledge Transfer Network courses.

- (d) Project on migration and the pattern of remittances to Central American countries

47. The representative of Honduras, the country coordinating the project, presented a report on the planned activities and the expected results. He listed the proposed activities for the working group on migration and the pattern of remittances in the member countries of the Conference for the period 2007-2009, and stated that the following countries were interested in participating in the group: Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama and Uruguay.

48. Members of delegations described the stages that their countries had reached in the design of migration and remittances modules and their inclusion in household surveys. The representative of Mexico said that it would be necessary to work together with the countries from which remittances were sent. The representative of Uruguay said that the statistical universe was unknown since much of the immigration was illegal, and that would present difficulties with measurement.

Consideration of regional and international cooperation initiatives (agenda item 4)

- (a) Initiative of ECLAC and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) relating to the European Statistics Code of Practice

49. The Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and ECLAC presented a programme of work designed to implement the initiative by several countries to promote knowledge and discussion in the region in order to adapt the European Statistics Code of Practice to the situations of the countries. A number of delegations underlined the importance of the project and stated their intention to take part in its activities.

- (b) Proposal for an integrated programme of statistical activities

50. The secretariat gave a presentation on this subject, taking into account the relevant experience of the Conference of European Statisticians.

51. A number of participants emphasized the need to have a tool of this kind, which would contribute greatly to coordinating the activities of the various actors at the regional level. The representative of Mexico proposed that ECLAC should act as coordinator and take the lead in a programme of that type.

- (c) Other regional and international cooperation initiatives

52. The representative of Mexico said that an initiative had been proposed in the context of the OECD Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies", but that his delegation did not see such a project as a priority for the development of statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. No resources should be diverted for a type of measurement which might be more relevant for countries having higher levels of relative development.

53. The representative of UNFPA expressed support for the areas of work defined by the thematic group and his organization's interest in supporting census processes in the 2010 round, in addition to other activities.

Agreements (agenda item 6)

54. At its seventh meeting, held in Bogotá on 29 and 30 November 2007, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the following agreements:

1. *Approves* the definitive version of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009, incorporating the comments formulated by the participants and set out in the report of the meeting;
2. *Approves* the training programme 2008-2009 of the Knowledge Transfer Network and urges international organizations and member countries of the Conference to contribute to its funding as a regional public good; furthermore, instructs the working groups to coordinate their training activities with the Network and requests the Commission to give

the Network a space on the website of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC;

3. *Approves also* the programme of work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics and requests the group to prioritize its activities for the period 2007-2009;
4. *Approves further* the programme of work of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances in the Countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
5. *Takes note of* the activities carried out by Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and the United States in the area of technological cooperation for the conduct of the censuses and encourages countries to pursue their initiatives, coordinating them with the activities of the Working Group on Censuses and broadening the focus to include the transfer of experience and knowledge among countries on the introduction of these new technologies;
6. *Takes note also of* the set of initiatives undertaken by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Statistics Division to strengthen national capacities for implementing the censuses of the 2010 round and requests CELADE and Chile, in its capacity as leader of the Working Group on Censuses, to prepare a programme incorporating all the measures, to serve as an instrument of coordination, thus avoiding duplication and ensuring that the activities correspond to the priorities of the Working Group on Censuses;
7. *Approves* the revision of the Programme of work of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, which focuses its activities initially on the second goal of the current programme of work,<sup>3</sup> and in which the third goal is modified to read as follows: “To broaden and improve sources of statistical data and the methodological bases used in the preparation of indicators for monitoring progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals”; agrees further to eliminate from the Programme of work the project for updating of poverty measurement methodology for Latin America and the Caribbean;
8. *Takes note with satisfaction of* the reports of activities of the working groups on National Accounts, Censuses and Information and Communications Technologies; requests that, within a period of 60 days, the Working Group on National Accounts complete the design of its programme of work 2007-2009 and the Working Group on Censuses prioritize its tasks for the period 2007-2009;
9. *Takes note of* the reports of the projects of the Programme of regional public goods and instructs the Chairperson, with support from the secretariat, to request from the Inter-American Development Bank a status report on the budget performance of the different projects; in addition, requests the coordinating countries of the projects to present within 60 days the programme of activities up to the closure of each project;

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3 LC/L.2818.

10. *Takes note also of* the joint report prepared by the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the Commission in response to the Conference's mandate at its fourth meeting for the promotion of knowledge and discussion in the region with a view to adapting the European Statistics Code of Practice to the situation of the countries in the region and approves the proposed programme of work;
11. *Welcomes* the initiative for an integrated presentation of regional statistical work in order to contribute to coordination and to the timely information of countries on the different statistical activities being carried out in the region, encourage the participation of the latter in such activities, avoid duplication of efforts and foster regional and international cooperation; also approves the establishment of an initiative group, coordinated by the secretariat, which will present a status report and a draft programme of work at the next meeting of the Executive Committee;
12. *Requests* the Chairperson, with support from the secretariat, to hold consultations with the countries in order to identify the substantive issues for discussion at the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the countries responsible for their preparation; the latter are expected to present a status report at the next meeting of the Executive Committee;
13. *Approves* the creation of an initiative group composed of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Environment Programme and invites the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas interested in participating in this group to indicate their interest to the Chairperson for the purpose of establishing the terms of reference and mandate of a future working group on environmental statistics for consideration and approval at the next meeting of the Executive Committee;
14. *Considers* that the project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development "Measuring the Progress of Societies" is not a priority for the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009, which was approved at the present meeting;
15. *Thanks* the Government of Colombia and, in particular, the Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics for the excellent organization of the meeting and the warm hospitality extended to participants.

Annex 1

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión  
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États membres de la Commission**

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## **COLOMBIA**

### Representante/Representative:

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## **COSTA RICA**

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## **MÉXICO/MEXICO**

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## **REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE VENEZUELA/BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

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## **B. Miembros asociados Associate members**

## **ANTILLAS NEERLANDESAS/NETHERLANDS ANTILLES**

### Representante/Representative:

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### Representante/Representative:

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## **PUERTO RICO**

### Representante/Representative:

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### **C. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas United Nations bodies Organisations rattachées à l'Organisation des Nations Unies**

#### **Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)/Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Population (UNFPA)**

- Carlos Ellis, Especialista en Datos de Población y Divulgación de Información, mail: ellis@unfpa.org
- Diego Palacios, Representante del UNFPA en Colombia, mail: palacios@unfpa.org

#### **Fondo de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer (UNIFEM)/United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)/Fonds de développement des Nations Unies pour la femme (UNIFEM)**

- M. Paz López B., UNIFEM Región Centroamericana, Cuba y República Dominicana, mail: p.lopez@unifem.org.mx

#### **Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/ Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE)**

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### **D. Organismos especializados Specialized agencies Institutions spécialisées**

#### **Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)-Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/World Health Organization (WHO)-Panamerican Health Organization(PAHO)/Organisation mondiale de la santé - Organisation panaméricaine de la Santé (OPS)**

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- Roberto Sempértégui, Consultor internacional, Organización Panamericana de la Salud, mail: rsempert@paho.org

**Banco Mundial – Banco Internacional de Reconstrucción y Fomento (BIRF)/World Bank – International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)/Banque mondiale – Banque internationale pour la reconstruction et le développement (BIRD)**

- José Molinas-Vega, Coordinator, Team Statistical Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, mail: jmolinasvega@worldbank.org
- Mónica Peñuela, Consultora, mail: mpenuela@worldbank.org

**Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI)/International Monetary Fund (IMF)/Fonds monétaire international (FMI)**

- Edgar Ayales, Director Adjunto, Departamento de Estadística, mail: eayales@imf.org

**E. Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales  
Other intergovernmental organizations  
Autres organisations intergouvernementales**

**Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE)/Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques (OCDE)**

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**Oficina de Estadística de la Comisión Europea (EUROSTAT)/Statistical Office of the European Commission (EUROSTAT)**

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**Instituto Interamericano de Estadística (IASI)/Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)**

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**F. Secretaría  
Secretariat  
Secrétariat**

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