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**PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, JUNE 2001-JUNE 2003**

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I. BACKGROUND

1. The Steering Committee of the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas prepared a draft programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2001-2002, which it submitted to the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its first meeting, held at the headquarters of the Commission from 9 to 11 May 2001.
2. The Conference, after considering the draft in all its aspects, and with the amendments and modifications made in connection with the views and statements made by the governments of member countries, approved it with the title "Programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean".
3. The Programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, which is presented below, includes all of the dissemination, coordination, training and technical cooperation activities that are planned, divided into subprogrammes and selected elements.
4. This document is the result of a joint effort by governments, regional and international organizations, and the ECLAC Secretariat.
5. The Programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003 offers the most comprehensive schedule possible of international and regional cooperation activities to be carried out over the biennium by all governments of the member countries of ECLAC and by institutions which are capable of organizing and participating in cooperation activities relating to statistics.
6. An attempt has been made to identify as clearly as possible the institution responsible, the components, and the schedule for implementation for each activity included.

II. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

7. The programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003 has significant features appropriate to the regional and global process of statistical development.

8. With regard to the institutional framework, many of the working methods of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Conference of European Statisticians have been adopted. These are generally flexible institutional forms which make it possible to take advantage of government capacity. For example, the emergence of “city groups” that report to the United Nations Statistical Commission revealed the potential for joint work between governments and international and regional institutions. At the same time, it showed that different forms of organization which are appropriate to the stage of development of statistics in different areas can coexist without problems. Hence, in the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, the biennial programmes make use of the potential for cooperation with organizations and governments by using a variety of institutional arrangements.

9. Among the developing regions, Latin America has the unique characteristic of requiring more qualitative rather than quantitative assistance. For this reason programmes such as the European Union’s programme with Mercosur have great potential for transferring working methods and mechanisms from Europe to Latin America in many areas, without necessarily going through the traditional cooperation projects with which organizations and countries have been accustomed to supporting the region. The cooperation activities of international organizations and developed countries with the region now also have this characteristic of giving priority to qualitative rather than quantitative assistance.

10. The conceptual and methodological content of the work programme aims to promote, support and develop those areas or characteristics that are essential to the statistical process that the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC considers of particular importance and significance in order to go beyond the current stage of regional statistics development. First of all, the approval of 1993 SNA clearly reflects the aim of covering the main trends in national and international economic development. The differences between the new System of National Accounts and the previous versions are indicative of the need to understand the current economy in terms of the new international economic and financial relations, the rapid expansion of modern services and the social transformation and discrepancies which accompany the whole of this process. It is also clear that the new system offers a remarkable challenge for the compilation of basic statistics.

11. Since the last five years of the nineties, the ECLAC secretariat, in collaboration with other international organizations, has concentrated on disseminating the new system, and especially the complementary manuals which have been published. This has involved distributing to the countries, to the extent possible, the most important documents in the Spanish language, organizing meetings to analyse and disseminate their content, and to carry out some cooperation and technical advisory activities when the necessary resources have been available.

12. The ECLAC secretariat is carrying out a continuous in-depth evaluation of the degree of implementation of 1993 SNA. The main objective of this evaluation is to identify the areas of greatest difficulty in order to select those where effective allocation of resources and of international and regional cooperation can be achieved.

13. Environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation are two relatively new areas in the region where there is a large gap between demand and availability as a result of the current high degree of dispersion and the limited technical relationships that the producing organizations have with the respective national statistical systems. As a result, it is planned under this subprogramme that ECLAC, in conjunction with the national statistical institutes in the region, in addition to disseminating the progress achieved at the international level; will initiate basic activities in order to consolidate these areas as integrated subsystems within the respective national statistical systems.

14. The social discrepancies which have traditionally characterized the region were accentuated by the crisis of the eighties. As a result, the problems of employment, poverty, income distribution and the vulnerability of some social groups have been acquiring greater political importance. The region has succeeded in launching the programme to improve surveys on living conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI) and other regional cooperation programmes to strengthen the capacity of the national statistical offices for compiling and improving social statistics. The experience acquired has made it possible to identify operational activities for the biennium that are much more specific than those carried out in previous years.

15. Technical progress has brought rapid development in the area of dissemination in many countries. The majority of statistical offices are adopting modern dissemination methods, which has made it possible to establish many cooperation links between them. In view of this dynamic progress and the current favourable environment for initiating bilateral and multilateral cooperation activities, the subprogramme has concentrated on a small number of priority activities in order not to divert resources from other areas where they are more limited.

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)

Introduction

16. The objective of this subprogramme is to plan, coordinate and implement activities to assist countries in using the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA), while maintaining continuity with the progress made to date in adapting and compiling the basic statistics required by the system. This subprogramme includes all activities relating to the national, quarterly, regional and satellite accounts.

17. These activities are divided into five elements, which include activities such as translation of technical documents, and providing access to those documents for those responsible for implementation of 1993 SNA and the producers of basic statistics; to support the countries of the region in adopting the recommended international concepts, definitions and classifications relating to the compilation and organization of basic statistics; training experts in the area of national accounts and the compilation of basic statistics, and the improvement, extension and harmonization of basic statistics, prices and macrostatistical schemes.

18. Taking into account the achievement of the three previous bienniums, and the objectives of the Conference, details are given below of the programme of activities to expand and continue that line of work.

Elements of the subprogramme

Element 1.1: Providing access to technical documentation for those responsible for 1993 SNA in its annual, quarterly and regional versions, and for producers of basic statistics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

19. ECLAC proposes to distribute the following manuals, as the Spanish language versions become available, to those responsible for preparing basic statistics and national accounts, with the collaboration of the International Monetary Fund, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the United Nations Statistics Division:

- (a) Handbook on regional accounts, vols. 1, 2 and 3 (Eurostat);
- (b) System of National Accounts, 1993 - Glossary (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development);
- (c) Handbook of National Accounting: Input/Output Tables - Compilation and Analysis (United Nations Statistics Division);
- (d) Handbook on Household Accounting (United Nations Statistics Division);
- (e) Handbook on Links between Business Accounting and National Accounting (United Nations Statistics Division);
- (f) Handbook on a Systems Approach to National Accounts Compilation (United Nations Statistics Division);

- (g) Tourism Satellite Accounts: Recommended Methodological Framework (Working group constituted by the United Nations Statistical Division, with the participation of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the statistical offices of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Tourism Organization (WTO))
- (h) Terminology used in the translation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA) (ECLAC);
- (i) Manual of Environmental Statistics and Indicators (United Nations Statistics Division);
- (j) Central product classification (CPC), Version 1.0 (United Nations Statistics Division);
- (k) Classifications of Expenditure According to Purpose: Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG); Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) Classification of the Purposes of Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (COPNI) Classification of the Outlays of Producers According to Purpose (COPP) (United Nations Statistics Division);
- (l) A Manual on Government Finance Statistics (International Monetary Fund).

20. In addition, ECLAC will continue to disseminate the Spanish language version of the System of National Accounts 1993, via the Internet and on CD-ROM, and will take steps to obtain the contribution of cooperation funds from the government of France for the translation into Spanish of the manual “Construire Les Comptes de la Nation” (Construction of national accounts), produced by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of France and Eurostat.

21. ECLAC will also continue distributing by printed and electronic media the technical material available on quarterly national accounts, together with the relevant technical guidelines for implementation that were adopted by the countries of the region.

22. ECLAC will continue to improve and expand the page on its Web site that makes the documents produced at technical meetings available to users within and outside the region (<http://www.eclac.cl/deype/documentos/>). It will also continue to disseminate, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI) of Mexico, the Spanish language version of SNA News and Notes (<http://www.eclac.cl/deype/publicaciones/>), and will begin dissemination of the Classifications Newsletter.

Element 1.2: Follow-up and support of the 1993 SNA implementation process and of efforts to improve the production of basic statistics

23. ECLAC, which is acting as the focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean in the process of implementing the System of National Accounts 1993 and its complementary systems (quarterly accounts, regional accounts and satellite accounts) will continue to evaluate progress in this area. For this purpose, it will review its survey in order to incorporate one module for quarterly accounts and another for regional accounts, both modules being intended for those responsible for the relevant calculations. The annual report will continue to be produced on progress in the implementation of SNA in its annual, quarterly and regional presentations. The report identifies the relevant parts of the systems which are complete or awaiting completion, the needs for technical cooperation and training, and efforts made to improve basic statistics.

24. ECLAC will continue to evaluate the current organization and production of basic statistics associated with the national accounts of the national statistical institutes.

25. ECLAC will update the directories of experts in national accounts, foreign trade and consumer prices, and will make them available by Internet through its Web page. Member countries shall review these and other directories produced in order to guarantee the qualification of the professionals included.

Element 1.3: Sharing of experience and training of national accounts experts and producers of basic statistics related to 1993 SNA

26. ECLAC will continue to act as a clearing house for requests for advisory services, locating experts who can provide the required collaboration. It will also continue to manage horizontal technical cooperation activities among countries of the region in order to send national technical experts from a requesting country to a country with greater experience of specific subjects in the areas of basic statistics, national accounts, prices, and processing and dissemination of data.

27. ECLAC, in conjunction with the Central Bank of Chile and with collaboration from the United Nations Statistics Division, will organize from 19 to 23 November 2001 a regional seminar on the use of national accounts.

28. The National Statistical Institute of Bolivia, with assistance from ECLAC, will organize in the second half of 2001 a regional seminar on incorporating the classifications and definitions recommended by the System of National Accounts 1993 into the production of basic statistics.

29. The National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru, with the joint assistance of ECLAC and the United Nations Statistics Division, will organize in 2001 a regional seminar on the 2000 economic censuses, definitions and coverage, classifications, observation units and directories of firms and other establishments.

30. During 2001 and 2002, the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies will organize courses and seminars on national accounts, balance of payments and monetary and financial statistics that have been requested by the central banks and statistical institutes of the countries of the region. Many of these activities are taking place in close collaboration with the International Monetary Fund, in the framework of its technical assistance and training programme. For 2001 the Centre has scheduled the following activities:

NAME OF SEMINAR, COURSE OR WORKSHOP	PLACE	INSTITUTION	DATE
Seminar: risk analysis	Guatemala	Central Bank of Guatemala and CEMLA	7-9 February
Course: National Accounts	Aguascalientes, Mexico	INEGI, SIECA and CEMLA	19-23 February
Course: Financial Analysis	Suriname	Central Bank of Suriname and CEMLA	26 February-5 March
Course: The modern central bank "An integrated approach"	Mexico City	CEMLA	26 February-6 March
Seminar on external debt statistics	Mexico City	International Monetary Fund and CEMLA	5-9 March
Course: Financial Analysis	Paramaribo, Suriname	Central Bank of Suriname and CEMLA	5-9 March
Seminar: management of international reserves	San José, Costa Rica	Central Bank of Costa Rica and CEMLA	4 April
Seminar-Workshop: Balance of payments methodology, fifth manual	San José, Costa Rica	Central Bank of Costa Rica and CEMLA	23 April-4 May
Seminar: derivatives and electronic banking	Mexico City	FSI and CEMLA	23-27 April
Course-Workshop: The Central Bank, analysis of the financial system and risk analysis	Caracas, Venezuela	Central Bank of Venezuela and CEMLA	8-12 May
Course: Methodology for Orderly and Troubled Entity Management	Paramaribo, Suriname	Central Bank of Suriname and CEMLA	8-12 March
Seminar: monetary sovereignty	Mexico City	Bank for International Settlements and CEMLA	28 May-1 June
Course-Workshop: open market operations	Caracas, Venezuela	Central Bank of Venezuela and CEMLA	25-29 June
Course: Several Topics on Banking Supervision	Paramaribo, Suriname	Central Bank of Suriname and CEMLA	26-30 June
Seminar-Workshop: monetary policy and open market operations	Mexico City	CEMLA	20-31 August
Seminar: money laundering and off-shore banking	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Central Bank of Brazil and CEMLA	27-31 August
Fourth meeting on management of international reserves	Mexico City	CEMLA	5-7 September
Seminar: monetary sovereignty	Mexico City	Bank for International Settlements, MOCOMILA and CEMLA	4-5 October
Seminar: Central Bank and derivatives	Mexico City	Bank for International Settlements and CEMLA	8-12 October
Twenty-ninth meeting on central bank systematization	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Central Bank of the Argentine Republic and CEMLA	24-26 October
Sixth meeting of central bank internal auditors	Santiago, Chile	Central Bank of Chile and CEMLA	7-9 November
Seminar: Credit Risk Mitigation/The New Capital Accord	Mexico City	CEMLA	12-16 November
Sixth meeting of central bank internal auditors	Mexico City	Central Bank of Mexico and CEMLA	14-16 November
Course: monetary and financial statistics	Mexico City	International Monetary Fund and CEMLA	19 November-7 December
Meeting of the Central Bank accounting and budget committee	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	CEMLA	26-30 November

31. The European Training Centre for Economic Statisticians of Developing Countries in Madrid (CESD-Madrid) in conjunction with the National Statistical Office (INE) of Spain shall provide in January 2002 a list of courses and seminars that will take place in Spain and in the region, as part of the ongoing programme for statisticians in the Latin American region. Prior to this, the various countries concerned shall be asked for their views as to what subjects should be dealt with in such courses and seminars, in order to draw up a draft programme to be submitted to the General Assembly of the CESD in Madrid. In 2001 the following activities are planned:

Courses and seminars in Spain

NAME OF COURSE OR SEMINAR	LOCATION	DATE
Seminar on nomenclatures and statistical records of companies	Madrid, Spain	5-9 March
Course on surveys of companies	Madrid, Spain	12-30 March
Twenty-third course on sampling as applied to household surveys	Madrid, Spain	7-25 May
Seminar on social indicators	Madrid, Spain	28 May-1 June
Twenty-third course on an introduction to national accounting: SCN-93/SEC-95	Madrid, Spain	1-19 October
Seminar on financial accounts	Madrid, Spain	22-26 October

Courses and seminars in the Latin American region

NAME OF SEMINAR	LOCATION	DATE
Seminar on statistics on education, training and employment	Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia	12-16 March
Seminar on quarterly accounts	Lima, Peru	16-20 April
Seminar on advanced systems for Internet dissemination	Antigua, Guatemala	11-15 June
Seminar on services statistics	Quito, Ecuador	16-20 July
Seminar on consumer price indices and the extended national consumer price index	Cartagena de Indias, Colombia	27-31 August
Seminar on the organization and functioning of national statistical offices	Aguascalientes, Mexico	15-19 October

32. The National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia (DANE) shall hold in August 2001 a seminar entitled "Methodologies for Construction Statistics", details of which shall be sent to all the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

33. ECLAC will assist in the organization and implementation of local training courses and workshops on national accounts and basic statistics in cooperation with national bodies that have the necessary financial resources and request such assistance.

Element 1.4: Improvement, extension and harmonization of the production of basic statistics, and macrostatistical prices and schemes

34. Using the annual survey on progress made in implementing 1993 SNA, ECLAC will continue to cooperate with the countries in defining international and regional technical assistance programmes and establishing priorities for improving their basic statistics.

35. ECLAC, in cooperation with the National Institute of Statistics of Chile, will disseminate at the regional level the experience of the countries of Mercosur, Chile and Bolivia in the harmonization of consumer price indices, and the implementation of European Union/Mercosur projects on statistical standardization.

36. When the Spanish version is available of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services that the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts is developing, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, jointly with the International Trade and Development Finance Division of ECLAC, will obtain support from the statistical office of a developed country with appropriate

experience and from countries of the region which have acquired such experience to organize a regional programme to improve the statistics on international trade in services, which will basically consist of promoting and supporting the application, in all the countries of the region, of the relevant recommendations approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

37. ECLAC, in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization, and the State Secretariat of Commerce, Tourism and of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises and the National Statistical Office of Spain, will initiate a programme to disseminate the relevant international recommendations with a view to ensuring that satellite accounts on tourism are developed in as harmonized a manner as possible in the region. It will also hold two workshops in the biennium, in order to share the practical experience acquired in this field by some countries in the region (Chile, Cuba, Mexico and the Dominican Republic) and the progress made by other countries which have begun to prepare such accounts. The first workshop, on key issues in tourism satellite accounts, will be held from 1 to 3 October 2001 at ECLAC headquarters and the second in the course of 2002.

38. ECLAC and the INEGI of Mexico will organize, during the biennium, a maximum of two regional meetings to share experiences with agricultural censuses. The objectives and the tentative schedule for each meeting are as follows:

- First meeting. Conceptual design: presentation of the general framework for planning agricultural censuses and analysis of the components of the conceptual outline; compiling and processing the information: presentation of inputs and strategies for the construction of a census framework, and design of the operation and the various procedures for information processing (October 2002);
- Second meeting. Census results: presentation of mechanisms for disseminating the results of the agricultural censuses and possible assistance for specialized users; system of inter-censal surveys: presentation of the draft statistical programme and consideration of the expediency of promoting national information systems with coordination at the international level (March 2003).

These meetings will be complemented by "field visits", in order to provide practical experience for the participants.

Statistical coordination between Central American countries and Panama

39. In 2001, the National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala will hold the necessary consultations with its Central American peers and Panama, and possibly with countries of the Caribbean, with a view to creating and institutionalizing, within the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), a special unit for regional statistical coordination and harmonization. The first tasks of statistical harmonization to be proposed relate to the consumer price indices and agricultural censuses. In connection with the latter, a regional activity has already been proposed by the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Regional Council on Agricultural Cooperation in Central America (CORECA), with possible financing from the European Union and technical assistance from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Statistical harmonization between the European Union and Mercosur

40. In the framework of the statistical cooperation project which has been in implementation since 1999, with the aim of harmonizing basic statistics between the countries of the European Union, Mercosur and Chile, the ten working groups formed for this purpose shall continue to hold meetings in the various capitals of the Mercosur countries.

Working groups of the European Union/Mercosur project

- WG.1 Customs and foreign trade statistics;
- WG.2 Investment statistics;
- WG.3 Services statistics;
- WG.4 Macroeconomic indicators;
- WG.5 Statistics on the competitiveness and productivity of enterprises;
- WG.6 Social statistics;
- WG.7 Classifications and nomenclatures;
- WG.8 Dissemination policy;
- WG.9 Main policy lines of statistical information systems;
- WG.10 Transport statistics.

ECLAC shall continue to attend the meetings as an observer and, to the extent requested by those responsible for the project, will provide support for the following working groups:

- WG.1 Customs and foreign trade statistics;
- WG.2 Investment statistics;
- WG.3 Services statistics;
- WG.4 Macroeconomic indicators;
- WG.7 Classifications and nomenclatures;
- WG.10 Transport statistics.

In 2001, the working groups will meet twice according to the following schedule:

Meetings of working groups¹

A. First meeting	Location	Date
WG.1 Customs and foreign trade statistics	Rio de Janeiro	12-13 March
WG.2 Investment statistics	Rio de Janeiro	12-13 March
WG.3 Service statistics	Buenos Aires	26-27 March
WG.4 Macroeconomic indicators and national accounts	Montevideo	14-15 March
WG.7 Classifications and nomenclatures	Montevideo	14-15 March
WG.10 Transport statistics	Rio de Janeiro	12-13 March
B. Second meeting		
WG.1 Customs and foreign trade statistics	Buenos Aires	20-21 September
WG.2 Investment statistics	Buenos Aires	20-21 September
WG.3 Service statistics	Rio de Janeiro	20-21 September
WG.4 Macroeconomic indicators and national accounts	Santiago	24-25 September
WG.7 Classifications and nomenclatures	Montevideo	24-25 September
WG.10 Transport statistics	Buenos Aires	20-21 September

¹ Schedule as of 9 May 2001.

It is also planned that the working groups will have at least one meeting in 2002. In connection with these working groups, there are related activities with training modules, with dates and locations as follows:

Schedule of training modules for 2001²

Working group	Location	Institution	Date
Mercosur			
WG.8	Mercosur	National Institute of Statistics, Uruguay	November
WG.9	Santiago, Chile	National Institute of Statistics	19-23 March
Europe			
WG.1	Madrid and Paris	Customs office, Spain Customs office, France	28 May-8 June
WG.2	Lisbon and Madrid	European Central Bank Bank of Portugal Bank of Spain	18-29 June
WG.4	Madrid and Wiesbaden	INE, Spain National Statistical Office, Germany ^a	11-22 June
WG.5	Madrid and Rome	INE, Spain National Institute of Statistics, Italy	9-20 July
WG.6	Madrid and Paris	INE, Spain National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, France	5-16 November
WG.7	Lisbon and Madrid	INE, Spain National Institute of Statistics/CESD, Portugal	28 August- 7 September
WG.10	Rio de Janeiro	IBGE, Brazil	23-27 April

^a In Wiesbaden, Federal State of Hessen.

Training modules for 2002²

Working group	Location	Institution	Date
WG.10	Europe		in 2002
WG.9	Mercosur		in 2002

Harmonization of consumer price indices

41. The countries of Mercosur, Chile and Bolivia have organized a working group which has, since 1998, been developing activities to harmonize their consumer price indices. ECLAC is acting as the technical secretariat of the group, which is planning to prepare in 2001 a set of harmonized indices for the period 1997-2000. For this purpose, its members have agreed as follows:

- (i) The harmonized indices shall be calculated on the basis of the 1999 average;
- (ii) Monthly series shall be developed at the level of the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICAP) for the period 1997-2000;

² Schedule as of 9 May 2001.

- (iii) The results shall be disseminated only when the working group has confirmed their quality and representativeness.

Schedule of activities

- 4 December 2000. Presentation at ECLAC by the participating countries of a comparative framework of national consumer price index (CPI) structures, the set of goods and services selected and the harmonized CPI of Mercosur and the associate countries, derived from the distribution of weightings;
- 26 February 2001. Presentation at ECLAC by the participating countries of the first version of the series of harmonized indices for the period specified;
- Presentation by ECLAC to the members of the working group, by 26 March 2001 at the latest, of a database with indices and weightings corresponding to the participating countries;
- 8 April 2001. Meeting of the working group in La Paz, Bolivia, to analyze the data received and draft a document with the preliminary results for the harmonized CPI, which will be distributed to the national directors for their evaluation and approval;
- The working group has suggested meeting from 23 to 27 August 2001 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, to make a presentation of the preliminary version of the harmonized CPI calculated on the basis of a reduced basket.
- With the submission of the corresponding outputs, this activity, as outlined in the Programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean for June 2001-June 2003, will be deemed to have been completed. It is the intention of the countries involved to continue activities in this subject area within the framework of the Statistical Cooperation Agreement between the Mercosur countries-Chile and the European Community.

Andean Community

42. The member countries of the Andean Community, within the framework of their community statistics programme for 2000-2004, which has its legislative basis in decision 488, adopted by the Commission of that body, and with the support of cooperation funds provided by the Government of France, will implement a work programme in 2001 that includes 22 “statistical actions” which will take place by means of 35 operative procedures of a specified nature and duration.³ These include, inter alia, continuation of two pilot tests in member countries; five international expert missions; seven seminars with international consultants; and eight meetings of governmental experts on different statistical subjects. These include the following:

Pilot tests

- Statistics on the informal sector, Colombia, October;
- Application of the ERETES Module for developing national accounts, Ecuador and Peru, next February.

³ The activities planned for 2002 shall be announced by the General Secretariat of the Andean Community prior to the end of 2001.

Seminars

- Statistics on institutional sectors, Quito, Ecuador, February;
- Social accounting matrices in national accounts;
- Production statistics, Quito, Ecuador, May;
- Agricultural statistics, Lima, Peru, August;
- Statistics on aquatic transport;

- Statistics on land transport;
- Evaluation of the 2000 population and housing census, Lima, Peru, December.

Meetings and workshops of governmental experts

- Meeting of the group on production statistics, Quito, Ecuador, July;
- Workshop on quarterly national accounts, La Paz, Bolivia, September;
- Meeting on tourism statistics, Bogotá, D.C., Colombia, August;
- Workshops on foreign trade statistics:
 - Statistical regimes, Bogotá, D.C, Colombia, March;
 - Statistics on free zones, Caracas, Venezuela, June;
- Meeting on migration statistics, Caracas, Venezuela, March;
- Workshop on statistics on income and living conditions, Quito, Ecuador, April.

43. Another of the “statistical actions” to be continued is harmonizing the preparation and presentation of quarterly national accounts for countries of the Andean Community, in accordance with the following guidelines:

Information characteristics

Coverage:	National
Source of data:	National accounts, national institutes of statistics and central banks
Periodicity:	Quarterly
Deadline:	Three months

Schedule of commitments

Key X:	calculations available
Key 1:	June 2001
Key 2:	December 2001
Key 3:	December 2002
Key 4:	December 2003

Variables and commitments by country

Variables	Bolivia		Colombia		Ecuador ^a		Peru		Venezuela	
	Gross	Adjusted	Gross	Adjusted	Gross	Adjusted	Gross	Adjusted	Gross	Adjusted
1. GDP by economic activity										
According to nomenclature item D										
Current Values	X	2	1	X	1	1	2	2	X	2
Constant Values	X	2	1	X	1	X	X	2	X	2
2. GDP by type of expenditure										
Current Values	X	2	1	X	1	X	X	2	2	2
Constant Values	X	2	1	X	1	X	X	2	X	2
Final consumption	X			X		X	X		X	
Public	X			X		X	X		X	
Private	X			X		X	X		X	
Gross capital formation	X			X		X	X		X	
Gross fixed capital formation	X			X		X	X		X	
Construction	X			X		X	2		X	
Machinery and equipment	X			X		X	2		X	
Stock variation	X			X		X	X		X	
Exports	X			X		X	X		X	
Goods	X			X		X	X		X	
Services	X			X		X	X		X	
Imports	X			X		X	X		X	
Goods	X			X		X	X		X	
Services	X			X		X	X		X	
3. Quarterly accounts by institutional sectors^b										
Financial corporations	3		3		3		3		3	
General government ^b	3		3		3		3		3	
Rest of the world	1		1		1		1		1	
Non financial corporations + Households + Public non-profit institutions serving households	3		3		3		3		3	
4. Quarterly supply and demand matrices										
For internal consistency, not for publication	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2 ^c	2 ^c
5. Uniform method of seasonal adjustment		4		4		4		4		4

^a The calculation of the quarterly accounts for institutional sectors in Ecuador is dependent on the internal policy of the Central Bank on the numbers of staff members.

^b The calculation in Venezuela will be evaluated at the meeting in 2001.

^c The amount will be incorporated into the quarterly calculations, after completing the change of base year.

Nomenclature of harmonized economic activities for the Andean Community

QA ^a	ISIC Rev. 3	Categories of Economic Activities
1	A	Agriculture, hunting and forestry
2	B	Fishing
3	C exc 11	Mining and quarrying
4	C 11	Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas
5	D 15+16	Manufacture of food products, beverages and tobacco products
6	D 17+18+19	Manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel and leather
7	D 20	Manufacture of wood and products of wood and cork
8	D 21+22	Manufacture of paper and paper products, and publishing and printing activities
9	D 23	Manufacture of refined petroleum products
10	D 24+25	Manufacture of chemical products, and rubber and plastic products
11	D 26+27+28	Metallic and non-metallic mineral products and fabricated products
12	D 29-35	Office, electrical, radio, medical and automotive machinery and equipment
13	E	Electricity, gas and water supply
14	F	Construction
15	G	Wholesale and retail trade
16	H	Hotels and restaurants
17	I	Transport, storage and communications
18	J	Financial intermediation
19	L	Public administration and defense
20	K,M,N,O,P,Q	Other services

^a Nomenclature of quarterly accounts.

Note: In the case of Bolivia, the “Fishing” category (2) will be included under “Agriculture” (1).

Regional harmonization of quarterly accounts

44. In connection with the agreements adopted at the Latin American workshop on quarterly national accounts, organized jointly by the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) and ECLAC, and held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 24 November 2000, 17 countries from the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) have devised a harmonized programme for the implementation of the quarterly estimates for 1993 SNA. This programme contains a set of guidelines and technical directions to harmonize procedures and a tentative schedule for the presentation of variables and accounts, which is gradually being reconfirmed or modified by the national institutions which are responsible for these calculations and were represented in the above workshop. The following table contains the responses of the Central Bank of Uruguay, the Statistics and Census Office of Panama, the Central Bank of Chile, the Central Bank of Costa Rica, the Central Bank of Paraguay, the Central Bank of Venezuela, and the INEI of Peru, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina, and the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY RESULTS

	Argentina	Bolivia	Brazil	Chile	Colombia	Costa Rica	Cuba	Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala	Mexico	Panama	Paraguay	Peru	Dominican Republic	Uruguay	Venezuela
GDP by activity																	
Constants, 1 digit																	
Historical series																	
Basic values	Jun-01	Jan-01	Dec-00		Dec-01	Mar-01	Dec-01		Jun-01	Dec-03	Dec-00	Jun-01		Dec-01	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-01
Producer prices				Mar-01				Dec-01					Dec-00			Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series																	
Basic values	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00		Dec-00	Mar-01	Dec-01		Dec-00	Jun-04	Dec-00	Jun-01		Dec-01	Dec-01	Mar-04	Jun-02
Producer prices				Mar-01				Dec-00					Dec-01			Dec-00	
Flows, 1 digit																	
Historical series																	
Basic values	Jun-01	Jan-01	Dec-00		Dec-01	GDP Mar-01	Dec-01		Jun-01	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-02	Dec-04	Dec-01	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02
Producer prices				Mar-01		a		Dec-01									Mar-01
Seasonally-adjusted series																	
Basic values	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00		Dec-00	GDP Mar-01	Dec-01		Dec-00	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-02	Dec-04	Dec-01	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02
Producer prices				Mar-01		a		Jun-01									
Consumption of households and public non-profit institutions serving households																	
Constants																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan -01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02
Flows																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Collective consumption																	
Constants																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02

	Argentina	Bolivia	Brazil	Chile	Colombia	Costa Rica	Cuba	Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala	Mexico	Panama	Paraguay	Peru	Dominican Republic	Uruguay	Venezuela
Flows																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Fixed capital formation																	
Constants																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-03	IBI 12-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03	IBI 12-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02
Flows																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-03	IBI 12-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03	IBI 12-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Construction																	
Constants																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Dec-00	Mar-02	Dec-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-03		Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00	Mar-02	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03		Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02
Flows																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Dec-00	Mar-02	Dec-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-03		Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00	Mar-02	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03		Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Machinery and equipment																	
Constants																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-03		Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03		Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02
Flows																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-03	Dec-00	Dec-03		Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Jun-01	Mar-02	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03		Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03

	Argentina	Bolivia	Brazil	Chile	Colombia	Costa Rica	Cuba	Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala	Mexico	Panama	Paraguay	Peru	Dominican Republic	Uruguay	Venezuela
Stock variation																	
Constants																	
Historical series	Dic-01	Jan-01	Jun-01	Mar-04	Dic-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dic-01	Dic-02	Dic-03	Dic-00	Dec-03		Dic-03	Dic-01	Dic-00	Jun-02
Seasonally-adjusted series	Dic-01	Jun-01	Jun-01	Mar-04	Dic-01	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-01	Dic-02	Jun-04	Dic-00	Dec-03		Dic-03	Dic-01	Mar-04	Dic-02
Flows																	
Historical series	Dic-01	Jan-01	Jun-01	Mar-04	Dic-01	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dic-01	Dic-02	Dic-03	Dic-00	Dec-03		Dic-03	Dic-01	Mar-04	Dic-02
Seasonally-adjusted series	Dic-01	Jun-01	Jun-01	Mar-04	Dec-01	Jun-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Jun-04	Dec-00	Dec-03		Dec-03	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Exports of goods																	
Constants																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-02	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00	Dec-01	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-02	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02
Flows																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00	Dec-01	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Dec-00	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Exports of services																	
Constants																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-03	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00	Dec-01	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-03	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02
Flows																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00	Dec-01	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Dec-00	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Imports of goods																	
Constants																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-03	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00	Dec-01	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-03	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02
Flows																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00	Dec-01	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Dec-00	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03

	Argentina	Bolivia	Brazil	Chile	Colombia	Costa Rica	Cuba	Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala	Mexico	Panama	Paraguay	Peru	Dominican Republic	Uruguay	Venezuela
Imports of services																	
Constants																	
Historical series	Dic-00	Jan-01	Dic-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-03	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00	Dec-01	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Jun-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Jun-03	Dec-01	Mar-04	Dec-02
Flows																	
Historical series	Dec-00	Jan-01	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Mar-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00
Seasonally-adjusted series	Jun-01	Jun-01	Dec-00	Dec-01	Dec-00	Jun-01	Jun-02	Dec-01	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-00	Dec-03	Dec-04	Dec-00	Dec-01	Mar-04	Mar-03
Balance-of-payments current account	Dec-00	Dec-01	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Mar-01		Dec-00	Dec-00		Dec-00	Jun-01	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00	Dec-00
Rest-of-the-world account	Dec-01	Dec-01	Dec-01	Dec-04	Dec-01			Dec-02		Dec-05				Dec-02	Dec-02	Mar-04	Dec-02
Financial corporations account	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-01	Dec-04	Dec-02			Dec-02		Dec-05				Dec-02	Dec-02		Dec-02
General government account	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-01	Dec-04	Dec-02			Dec-02		Dec-05				Dec-02	Dec-02		Dec-02
Other sectors account	Dec-02	Dec-02	Dec-01	Dec-04	Dec-02			Dec-02		Dec-05				Dec-02	Dec-02		Dec-02

^a Purchaser's prices.

Element 1.5: International technical cooperation

45. ECLAC will continue to participate in the implementation of Project PAN/93/002 “Improving the national accounting system and the compilation of basic statistics” (Panama). Between February and March 2001, it will provide advisory services to the National Statistical Office of Cuba for evaluation of the work that is being carried out to change the base year of that country’s national accounts and, subject to resource availability, will carry out a project with the office in order to improve the system of national accounts.

46. ECLAC will continue to encourage horizontal technical cooperation activities among countries of the region and will cooperate with the national statistical offices and other institutions responsible for national accounts, in organizing and implementing regional and international cooperation programmes. When appropriate, it will coordinate these activities with the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, inter alia, which will require the use of internal resources, as well as the mobilization of independent experts from other organizations.

47. The Statistics Department of the International Monetary Fund is implementing a technical assistance programme for the countries of the region, oriented to the national statistical offices, the ministries of economy and finance, and the central banks. It offers technical assistance in the following areas: balance of payments statistics; public finance, monetary and financial statistics; national accounts; statistics on consumer and producer prices; and foreign trade statistics. It also offers training courses in these areas at its headquarters in Washington D.C. and in other cities in the region.

48. The United Nations Statistics Division will continue collaborating with the Central American Monetary Council, providing support for the central banks in the establishment of links between the national accounts and financial programming. It will also continue to cooperate with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, in lending support to countries of the region in connection with the development of simplified national accounts for small economies, including tourism satellite accounts within the table on supply and use of goods and services.

49. In the biennium 2001-2002, ECLAC, with the financial support of the government of the Netherlands, will implement a project to increase efficiency in the availability and comparability of foreign trade statistics for the Caribbean. The aims of this project are: (i) to improve the countries’ capacity to provide current and detailed information, and to improve its comparability; (ii) to set up a database in the ECLAC Sub-Regional Headquarters for the Caribbean, and (iii) to provide users with statistics on foreign trade in the countries of the Caribbean, and better analytical studies of the commercial and economic development of this region. To achieve these objectives, activities are being planned to evaluate the current situation of the statistics offices, training, data collection and data processing systems development.

50. With the aim of publicizing the work of the “city groups” established by the United Nations Statistical Commission, ECLAC will ensure that at least one country of the region is responsible for the follow-up of each of these groups and for passing on the documentation and the methodological advances to the other countries.

Subprogramme 2: Environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation

Introduction

51. The two areas included in this subprogramme are both relatively new in the region, and therefore the countries have little experience of compiling statistics and indicators; generally, the activity of compiling primary statistics is dispersed among many public- and private-sector organizations and does not have a technical link with the respective systems of national accounts, which should have a central role in coordinating the activities, in controlling the quality and comparability of data and in disseminating information.

52. In close collaboration with INEGI of Mexico and the United Nations Statistics Division (environmental statistics), and with CESD-Madrid and INE of Spain (statistics on science, technology and innovation). ECLAC has been carrying out activities designed to enable Latin American and Caribbean countries to benefit from experience gained in other regions and to share the progress made in their own region. However, the cooperation activities in these areas remain fairly limited.

53. The main thrust of the proposal made by ECLAC is that the countries initiate activities designed to consolidate the above-mentioned areas as articulated subsystems within the national statistical system. For this purpose, it suggests as a first stage the development of statistics inventories and directories of agencies and institutions that produce environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation, and to encourage their compilation in order to respond gradually to the demands of their national and international users, within the framework of the international recommendations.

Elements of the subprogramme

Element 2.1: Status report on environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation

54. ECLAC and INEGI of Mexico will work together to follow up on the progress made by countries in the compilation of environmental statistics.

55. ECLAC and INEI of Peru will together design a form to evaluate the compilation of statistics and indicators on science, technology and innovation, to assess their operational link with the national statistical system, and to identify potential offers of horizontal technical cooperation.

Element 2.2: Transfer of international experience, training, and technical cooperation

Environment

56. ECLAC, INEGI of Mexico and INE of Chile, the Central Statistical Office of Belize and the State Secretariat of Puerto Rico will organize, in November 2001, a regional training workshop for national experts, particularly those from the national statistical offices, so that they can contribute to improving and organizing integrated systems of environmental statistics.

57. When the revision is completed of the Manual on environmental accounting, which is expected to be published in July 2001, ECLAC will organize a workshop, in coordination with the United Nations Statistics Division, to publicize the changes made and to study in greater depth some aspects dealt with in the previous workshop in April 1998.

58. Assuming that the United Nations Statistics Division completes the revision of the Manual of Environmental Statistics and Indicators in 2001, ECLAC will collaborate with the Division to organize a workshop on that subject in order to present the manual. The workshop will take place before June 2003.

59. ECLAC will begin to compile directories of organizations, agencies, institutions, and national and international experts working in the environmental area, so that this information can be made available to countries with the aim of facilitating exchanges of information and consultations on the topics considered. ECLAC will translate and disseminate through its Web site the ENVSAT publication on environmental statistics produced by the United Nations Statistics Division.

60. ECLAC will suggest that the countries' national statistical offices develop their own directories of institutions producing environmental statistics.

Science and technology

61. ECLAC will encourage the countries of the region to include in economic censuses and surveys a module on basic indicators and statistics on information technologies and on other aspects of science and technology which are of national interest.

62. The National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru, together with the Conference of Iberoamerican Authorities on Informatics (CAOBI), will continue to promote the development of basic statistics and indicators on information technologies, with international compatibility criteria, and will periodically evaluate this process.

63. As in the past few years countries have been experiencing exponential growth in the incorporation of information and communication technologies (electronic commerce, Internet access, data networks, on-line services, cellular and satellite telephones, inter alia), and that these technological changes are affecting the social and economic life of society, giving rise to inequalities and gaps between different groups of people, ECLAC will promote the development of methodologies and procedures to ensure that the impact of information and communication technologies is taken into account in growth-related measurement systems, or to improve them, as appropriate.

Subprogramme 3: Statistics and indicators on social variables and well-being

Elements of the subprogramme

Element 3.1: Improvement of household surveys

The programme to improve surveys on living conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI)

64. The current state of the economy in the region is such that there is a constant need for data that can be used to assess the impact of economic and social policies on peoples' living standards, especially with respect to those groups considered to be most vulnerable. In this respect, it is increasingly important to dispose of timely, reliable information in order to follow up on the variables that affect levels of employment, income distribution and poverty.

65. During the past decade, countries have significantly increased activities aimed at strengthening the technical, methodological and operational aspects of the planning and execution of household surveys. They have also carried out research designed to produce indicators of the extent of and trends in poverty and in income concentration.

66. Although significant progress has been made, the consensus is that it is still necessary to continue to refine the measurement tools and "operational activities" intended to improve the quality and timeliness of the information generated. The MECOVI, an initiative promoted and financed entirely by the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and ECLAC, was brought on stream in 1997. The purpose of this programme is to give technical support to countries in the design, planning and operation of household surveys with a view to developing appropriate indicators for monitoring the living conditions of households.

67. Currently, the countries participating in the programme are Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru. Other countries are expected to join over the next two years. In order to offer greater access to local experts, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC has requested that its courses and seminars, some of which IBGE of Brazil has offered to host, also be held in other countries in the region, and that an evaluation programme be considered for those countries which already have permanent household surveys.

Regional workshops for discussion and analysis

68. Activities planned under the MECOVI programme include regional workshops to consider, discuss and analyse important issues relating to the execution of surveys and the development of indicators for assessing living standards, poverty, employment and income distribution. ECLAC is responsible for coordinating and implementing these activities, and in 2001, will hold the last two regional workshops in this series, which will cover issues relating to the construction of social indicators and their use for analysis of living conditions.

69. As in the workshops held between 1998 and 2000, ECLAC will prepare the work programmes and will participate in the preparation of technical documents for presentation at the meetings; this documentation will help to identify important points for discussion and will serve as a basis for debate and consensus-building.

70. INEGI (Mexico) and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC, Argentina) will participate as co-sponsors of the activities in question, as these organizations have been selected as regional hosts for the workshops.

71. As its technical contribution on the issues under consideration, and as a means of disseminating information on national experiences of relevance to the region, ECLAC will prepare reports on the most important aspects of the discussions, technical studies to be presented as background papers at meetings, and reports on national experiences relating to methodologies and working procedures used in statistical projects and social studies.

72. In order to achieve a broader level of dissemination of the material generated in the workshops and to facilitate access to it, ECLAC has created a special page on its Internet Website so that a wider readership within the region and in the rest of the world can consult the reports on regional activities.

73. During the second half of 2001 the organizations co-sponsoring MECOVI will take the necessary action to obtain the resources required to ensure continuity of this programme, as well as a new cycle of regional workshops for the period 2002-2005. The continuity of the programme is of the greatest importance, *inter alia* because it would ensure that the participating countries institutionalize the progress made in improving household surveys.

Data bank of the MECOVI programme

74. Proper management of the MECOVI programme calls for reflection on and analysis of the region's experience in generating information through household surveys. A data bank has therefore been initiated, based on the experience gained by ECLAC in recent years. This has led to a cooperation agreement between IDB and ECLAC that aims to standardize, harmonize and document the databases developed from the household surveys carried out by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1995 and 1998. An analysis will be made of their capabilities and limitations regarding the study of the living conditions of their populations.

75. Over the period 1997-2000, ECLAC prepared a total of 14 databases each year containing information from the household surveys carried out in that number of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. For ease of access, the data were recorded on a CD-ROM, which contains the microdata relating to each survey, the reading format, the size of records, the field descriptions, the dictionary of variables, the admissible ranges, the format of the questionnaire used for data collection, the variables developed by ECLAC and control figures for checking the consistency of the data provided by ECLAC with the statistics published by individual countries. Full compliance was thus achieved with the terms of reference contained in the agreement.

76. As in the case of the regional workshops, ECLAC and the other organizations that are co-sponsors of MECOVI will begin over the next few months the actions needed to ensure the continuity of these activities in the framework of programme implementation in future years.

Regional training

77. In 2001, the last two regional training courses planned in the context of the MECOVI programme will be held. Their aim is to improve the technical training of national officials responsible for the design and execution of surveys and of those working on studies of living standards. As additional resources become available, a new cycle of courses will be held in 2002 in order to extend up-to-date training on issues of regional interest to a larger number of national officials. These training activities have hitherto been hosted by INDEC (Argentina) and INEGI (Mexico). The World Bank announced its intention to carry out, within the framework of the MECOVI programme, a new technical cooperation activity for the Caribbean region, in particular for the English-speaking countries.

National projects

78. Technical assistance will continue to be provided to beneficiary countries as part of the substantive contribution of ECLAC to the MECOVI programme, on issues relating to survey design and execution, statistical analysis, construction of social indicators and the preparation of poverty studies.

79. In addition, ECLAC will transmit to all the countries of the region, in a timely and comprehensive manner, the technical documentation generated, along with reports on any new matters of relevance to the MECOVI programme, and accounts of national experiences. The aim is to promote cooperation among countries and improve the analytical and operational capabilities of national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Direct technical assistance

80. ECLAC will continue to provide technical assistance to countries of the region on issues relating to the statistical design of household surveys and on methodological and operational aspects of field work in connection with this type of project. It will also maintain its technical support for the processing and analysis of employment, poverty and income distribution indicators.

81. In this area, and taking into consideration that the majority of countries will carry out national population and housing censuses over the next three years, the possibility will also be considered of organizing an international workshop on the design, construction and updating of sampling frames, with the participation of experts from the region and the directors of the national statistical offices, and a workshop on evaluation of sample designs for household surveys on living conditions, focusing on the measurement of sampling errors of the variables investigated. The possibility of holding one or two international workshops on statistics with a gender perspective will also be considered, in order to contribute to improving the production of indicators in that field.

Element 3.2: Use of information generated by the household surveys

Update of the ECLAC data bank on household surveys

82. ECLAC will constantly update its household survey data bank, which is a vital tool for carrying out studies and constructing economic and social indicators in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The support of the national statistical offices is essential to ensure timely access to the documentation and databases of the surveys conducted in recent years.

Social Panorama of Latin America

83. Towards the middle of each year, ECLAC will disseminate the 2001 and 2001 editions of the *Social Panorama of Latin America*. These publications will include up-to-date information on trends in employment, poverty and income distribution. In collaboration with UNICEF, they will continue to incorporate information that is useful in assessing the situation of children with respect to various issues of regional interest. Data generated from household surveys will be a vital input for the preparation of these reports.

Joint studies with countries

84. ECLAC will continue to implement joint activities with the Latin American and Caribbean countries involving research into poverty, employment and income distribution. Cooperation agreements have been concluded with Brazil, Chile and Mexico, and other interested countries also have the opportunity to participate in joint activities with ECLAC; indeed, INEI of Peru, with the aim of contributing to future discussions to be held on the subject in the context of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, has offered to host the technical meetings on gender statistics and indicators and has requested technical assistance and advisory services from ECLAC in order to identify sources of financing for the two associated workshops scheduled in the Programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean. UNIFEM approved that proposal and indicated its interest in participating. The first workshop will take place in November 2001 and the subject will be indicators of intra-family violence.

Project for the Caribbean

85. ECLAC, through the intermediary of the Sub-Regional Headquarters for the Caribbean, and with the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands, will complete in the biennium 2001-2002 a project on the development, maintenance and use of a database on social and demographic statistics for the countries of the Caribbean. This project also has the aim of developing and strengthening the capacity of those countries to evaluate and monitor social vulnerability in the small and open economies of the Caribbean, to provide comparable information and guarantee its availability and relevance for the purposes of formulating policies for eradicating poverty and encouraging social equity. In implementing this project, advantage will be taken of the accumulated experience as well as the technical and human resources available in the region.

Preparation of methodological material on the construction of social indicators

86. There is interest in and a need for materials that can be used in the construction and analysis of social indicators, especially those that reveal trends in employment, poverty and income distribution. Over the period covered by the programme, ECLAC plans to continue to prepare handbooks describing the methodological and operational aspects of the construction and interpretation of social indicators. In addition, regional forums may be held at which such material can be distributed and explanations can be given on their use in conducting national and regional studies on social issues.

Element 3.3: Implementation of population and housing censuses

87. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean began to implement a new round of population and housing censuses in 2000. They have been completed in eight countries of Latin America and the Caribbean so far, and it is hoped that the majority will be completed before the end of 2002. The CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC is cooperating with the countries in preparing the censuses and the evaluation and use of the results, through technical advisory services, the organization and participation in seminars and the development of methodological material. Advice is offered in the areas of conceptual design of the censuses (design of the form, type of census, experimental evidence), the creation of databases to facilitate access to and processing of census data (software for retrieval of data for small areas (REDATAM), and Web pages, inter alia), and the evaluation and analysis of results. The CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC will continue to develop the REDATAM programme in order to facilitate and promote a wider and enhanced use of the census information from the 2000 round. Also, in view of the lack of national resources, there may be collaboration between the countries and the Inter-American Development Bank in the preparation of loan projects to assure the implementation and quality of these operations.

88. In the context of data base maintenance, the CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, with the collaboration of the countries, will continue with the project Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA) on the part of the population born outside the region that was covered by the census, according to the place of origin. In particular, a project will be carried out, in conjunction with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), on Central American migration, based on the censuses of those countries, Mexico, Canada and the United States.

89. Based on the results of the new censuses and in coordination with the national institutions, the population estimates and projections for the countries of the region will be revised, and subsequently published in the demographic bulletins (issued twice a year). It is hoped to offer the United Nations Population Division the countries' revised figures for the 2002 round, information which is disseminated in the publication World Population Prospects.

90. During the biennium, the CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC will also continue to expand and update its census data bank from the seventies, and will support countries in recovering census data from previous decades and in expanding access to such information.

Element 3.4: Project on statistical cooperation between the European Union and the Mercosur countries

91. The project on statistical cooperation between the European Union and the Mercosur countries came into effect in 1999. The central aim of this activity is to harmonize Mercosur statistics within a time-frame of three years. For operational purposes, the activities are assigned to 10 working groups; reference is made here only to group 6, which is responsible for the development of social indicators (see the list of working groups in paragraph 40).

92. In 2001, group 6 will continue, and possibly conclude, its work on harmonizing employment and education indicators, which includes the drafting of the initial publication with that information, and the associated training workshop and research project planned under the agreement. The research project, if approved, will discuss the measurement of employment quality.

93. In the framework of this agreement, the work of ECLAC is to act as an observer and to provide technical assistance when requested to do so by the working groups. It also intends to take an active role in disseminating this activity and its results to other countries of the region, with the aim of stimulating new efforts of harmonization of the social indicators in the region.

Element 3.5: Regional and national training activities

International workshop on poverty measurement

94. The eleventh and twelfth annual international workshops on poverty measurement will be held by ECLAC and INEGI (Mexico) in Aguascalientes in August of 2001 and August of 2002. The workshops are designed for Latin American and Caribbean civil servants involved in conducting studies on the extent of and trends in poverty, and the objective is to provide training for national experts in the area of social statistics. ECLAC supports this activity by providing teaching staff and material for use in academic and practical sessions.

National training workshops in statistical methods

95. ECLAC, together with some countries, will provide training staff and teaching materials to support national training efforts in statistical methodology and analysis designed to enhance the analytical capacity of staff of national statistical offices involved in projects and studies using data from household studies and population and housing censuses. The IBGE of Brazil has invited the statistical offices of the other countries of the region to participate in its training programmes for household surveys and to share their experiences in conducting the 2000 census. The Subsecretariat of State of Puerto Rico has offered the country as a pilot for the process of reviewing the surveys and implementation of an integrated system of household surveys.

Element 3.6: Participation in working and study groups on issues of regional interest

96. In accordance with decisions taken by the United Nations Statistical Commission, ECLAC will continue to participate actively in various international working groups which study issues of regional interest. It will attend the meetings of the following groups: the Canberra Group, which studies aspects of income measurement; the Rio Group, which studies methods for estimating poverty; the Delhi Group, which is responsible for analysis of methods for measuring the informal sector; and the Sienna Group, which deals with various issues relating to social statistics and indicators.

97. As working meetings are held or as reference material becomes available, ECLAC will undertake to ensure wide dissemination of the relevant documentation to national statistical offices throughout the region.

Subprogramme 4: Dissemination of statistical information

Introduction

98. The activities included in this subprogramme have been taking place since the 1987 Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas and the results achieved reflect significant progress in introducing into the region more advanced technological innovations in this field.

99. The progress achieved by a significant number of statistical offices in the region in the use of Internet-related technologies in relation to the management of large electronic microdata bases, the gradual incorporation of systems of metadata on statistical data, and the recent trend towards commercialization of data and services by electronic media, are a combination of factors which inevitably make this area the focus of activities of this subprogramme for the biennium 2001-2002. The aim is to expand the capacity of the offices which are already using these technologies and, in particular, to encourage their adoption in the short term and with the least effort by those offices which have recently begun to use them.

Elements of the subprogramme

Element 4.1: Use of the Internet environment for information and data dissemination via static and dynamic Web pages

100. With the aim of encouraging the improvement or incorporation, as appropriate, of the most advanced systems in this field for dissemination, exchange and electronic retrieval of data between statistical offices, international and regional organizations, and the national and international community, ECLAC will continue the following activities:

- (a) Development of the computerized system for the regional short-term economic indicators database so that the indicators provided by the countries can be updated on a monthly basis, and continuation of the drafting of the quarterly report and a monthly bulletin that will begin to appear in this biennium with indicators that are officially updated or from alternative sources in cases where there are delays in the provision of data. It is hoped to add about five countries to the current members of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA).
- (b) Close collaboration in the development of the statistical portal of Mercosur, Bolivia and Chile (statistical information system of Mercosur and the associated countries Bolivia and Chile – SIE MSUR + 2), begun at the meeting held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 1998 with the aim of establishing a system for electronic dissemination of statistical data from the six countries via the Internet. This portal will also be updated on a monthly basis and will remain at a fixed address.
- (c) Provision of expert and coordination services, when requested, for bilateral development activities and technical assistance in this area.

101. ECLAC, in conjunction with CESD-Madrid and INE of Spain will organize a seminar and workshop on advanced dissemination systems in the Internet environment.

102. ECLAC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, will set up and administrate a site on this subject on its Web page. This will be designed on the basis of the current site of INEI of Peru and in accordance with the proposal of INEGI of Mexico; it should be linked to the Web pages of the participating member countries who so desire and have sub-sites to enable the exchange and dissemination of documents, opinions and recommendations on topics or subjects selected by the Conference or its Executive Committee. Initially, it should include information on the following: (i) important topics to be considered; (ii) the production of statistics on capital stocks; (iii) satellite accounts; (iv) agricultural censuses; (v) economic censuses; (vi) statistics on science, technology and innovation; (vii) information and communication technologies; (viii) environmental statistics; (ix) 2000 population and housing censuses; (x) measurements of poverty and quality of life; and (xi) "city groups". It should also contain directories on the following: (i) authorities from national statistical offices; (ii) experts on national accounts; (iii) experts on consumer price indices; and (iv) experts on foreign trade statistics.

Element 4.2: Incorporation of technology and services for electronic commerce via the Internet

103. With the aim of promoting the use or adoption of technologies and services available in the Internet environment for the distribution and commercialization of statistical information by the national statistical offices of countries in the region and in order to support them in this process, ECLAC will gather information on projects and models for dissemination of current data or data that are being developed in the region, and, if possible, also in other regions, and will disseminate them to interested parties. The INEI of Peru and the IBGE of Brazil have made available to interested parties their marketing models INFORMATION-INEI and "Tienda Virtual" and the Internet census dissemination model, which allow users to make tabulations of selected data for a fee.

Annex 1

SUMMARY OF THE SUBPROGRAMMES

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the system of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
1.1 Providing access to technical documentation for those responsible for 193 SNA in its annual, quarterly and regional versions, and for producers of basic statistics in the countries			
- Distribution of technical materials in Spanish	- Presentation, as early as possible of the latest international recommendations on topics of interest to those responsible for preparing basic statistics and national accounts - To continue distributing the technical materials available on quarterly national accounts	ECLAC, in coordination with the United Nations Statistics Division, the International Monetary Fund, EUROSTAT and OECD ECLAC, in collaboration with EUROSTAT and the International Monetary Fund	Those responsible for preparing the basic statistics and national accounts of the countries will receive in a timely manner the technical materials needed in order to make the estimates referred to in the current international recommendations
- Use of electronic media	To make the documents generated at technical meetings and the SNA News and Notes available to users through the ECLAC Web site	ECLAC, in coordination with the United Nations Statistics Division and with support from INEGI (Mexico)	To keep those responsible for national accounts and other interested parties properly informed

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the system of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
1.2 Follow-up and support of the 1993 SNA implementation process and of efforts to improve the production of basic statistics			
- Evaluation and follow-up	- To continue the following: (a) evaluating countries' progress in preparing the annual, quarterly and regional national accounts (b) evaluating the production of basic series for preparing national accounts	- ECLAC, in coordination with the national offices responsible for preparing national accounts - ECLAC, in coordination with the national statistical offices of the region	- To maintain an updated inventory of the parts of the system that have been completed and to identify needs for technical cooperation and training - To keep and up-to-date record of the main characteristics of the organizations of the national statistical offices and their contribution, in basic series, to the preparation of national accounts
- Directories of experts	To keep existing directories updated and create others for new areas	ECLAC	- To facilitate the sharing of experience and promote horizontal technical cooperation
1.3 Sharing of experience and training of national accounts experts and producers of basic statistics related to 1993 SNA			
- Sharing of experience	To act as a clearing house for requests for advisory services and horizontal technical cooperation	ECLAC, in coordination with the national offices involved	To improve, facilitate, and reduce expenditure on advisory services and the sharing of experience at the regional level

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the system of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
- Regional seminars	<p>In 2001 the following regional workshops will be organized and held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporation of classifications and definitions recommended by 1993 SNA for the production of basic statistics <p>Economic Censuses: use of definitions, coverage, classifications, nomenclatures and observation units</p>	<p>INE (Bolivia) and ECLAC</p> <p>Nations Statistics Division, and ECLAC</p>	<p>To update and harmonize at the regional level the use of concepts, definitions, nomenclatures and observation units in the preparation of basic statistics and economic censuses</p>
- Regional training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2001, the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA) will conduct skills development and updating activities for technical personnel (see page 7) - In 2001, CESD-Madrid and INE (Spain) will organize four courses and two seminars in Spain and five seminars and one regional workshop in Latin America on topics selected by the Executive Committee of the Conference 	<p>CEMLA</p> <p>CESD-Madrid and INE (Spain)</p>	<p>To have developed the courses and seminars on national accounts, balance of payments and monetary and financial statistics that were requested by the central banks and institutes of statistics</p> <p>To have trained technical personnel from the countries of the region in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomenclatures and statistical registers of companies • Company surveys • Sampling as applied to household surveys • Social indicators • National accounting • Financial accounts • Consumer price indices • Quarterly national accounts • Education, training and employment statistics

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the system of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)				
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results	
1.4 Improvement, extension and harmonization of the production of basic statistics, and macrostatistical prices and schemes	- ECLAC will participate in professional training and upgrading activities to the extent that the interested countries have resources available	ECLAC and the requesting national institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization and functioning of the national statistical offices • Service statistics • Organized systems in the Internet environment <p>To provide support for the countries that request it in the organization and implementation of the relevant activities</p>	
	DANE of Colombia will conduct in August 2001 the seminar "Methodologies for construction statistics"	DANE, Colombia	To strengthen technical capacity for measuring construction activity	
	Identification of technical assistance needs	ECLAC will continue to use its annual surveys of national accounts and basic statistics to identify technical cooperation needs and to establish priorities	ECLAC	To make a summary of regional technical assistance needs available to interested countries and international organizations
	- Statistical harmonization	- INE (Chile) and ECLAC will disseminate information on the statistical harmonization activities of the Mercosur countries	INE (Chile) in coordination with ECLAC	To make available to the countries of the region the experience of the Mercosur countries, Chile and Bolivia in the harmonization of basic statistics and consumer prices

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the system of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
	- When the final version is available of the manual of statistics on international trade in services, a regional programme will be organized for the harmonization and improvement of those statistics	ECLAC	To disseminate the technical materials available and the guidelines for uniform production and classification of basic statistics on international trade in services
- Harmonization of tourism satellite accounts	ECLAC, with the collaboration of the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the State Secretariat of Commerce, Tourism, and of Small-and Medium-sized Enterprises of Spain and INE of Spain, will disseminate the current international recommendations on the preparation of satellite accounts for the tourism sector. The first workshop, on key issues in tourism satellite accounts, will be held at ECLAC headquarters from 1 to 3 October 2001	ECLAC, WTO, the State Secretariat of Commerce, Tourism, and of Small-and Medium-sized Enterprises of Spain, and INE of Spain	To ensure adequate regional dissemination of the current international recommendations and of the practical experience acquired by countries of the region
- Harmonization of agricultural censuses	ECLAC and INEGI (Mexico) will organize two regional meetings, one in 2002 and the other in 2003 to analyze experience acquired with agricultural censuses	ECLAC and INEGI (Mexico)	To strengthen the technical capacity of the countries of the region for conducting agricultural censuses
- Institutional organization for harmonization purposes	In 2001 INE of Guatemala will hold the necessary consultations to create, within the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration, a unit for statistical coordination and harmonization	INE of Guatemala	Creation of a subregional entity to facilitate, <i>inter alia</i> , the harmonization of basic statistics, price indices and national accounts in the countries of Central America and Panama

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the system of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
- Statistical harmonization between the European Union and Mercosur	<p>In 2001, and for part of 2002, the countries of the European Union and of Mercosur and Chile will continue the process of statistical harmonization through the ten working groups which have been functioning since 1999. ECLAC will continue to act as an observer and will collaborate, if requested, with the following groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Customs and foreign trade - Investments - Services - Macroeconomic indicators - Classifications and nomenclatures - Transport 	European Union, the countries of Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and Chile	Harmonization of the statistics accorded priority in the countries of the European Union and Mercosur (2001)
- Harmonization of consumer price indices	<p>The Mercosur countries, Chile and Bolivia will continue until August 2001 the process of harmonizing their consumer price indices, with support from ECLAC</p> <p>Subsequently, this process will continue in the context of the cooperation agreement between Mercosur-Chile and the European Community</p>	<p>National statistical offices of the Mercosur countries, Chile and Bolivia, and ECLAC (Technical Secretariat)</p> <p>Mercosur countries, Chile, and the European Community</p>	<p>Provision, in August 2001, of a harmonized consumer price index, calculated on the basis of a reduced basket, by the Mercosur countries, Chile and Bolivia</p> <p>Establishing a harmonized consumer price index on the basis of a more extensive basket</p>

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the system of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
- Statistical harmonization in the Andean Community	In 2001 the countries of the Andean Community, within the framework of its community statistical programme 2000-2004, will conduct two pilot tests, seven seminars, three meetings and three workshops for government experts, in order to improve and harmonize basic statistics	Countries of the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela), with cooperation funds from the government of France	Implementation of the planned activities, and achievement of the expected results
- Harmonization of quarterly national accounts	In 2001 and 2002 the countries mentioned will prepare and present their estimated quarterly national accounts in accordance with the agreed criteria and deadlines: (a) Countries of the Andean Community (b) Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	General Secretariat of the Andean Community and the member countries ECLAC and the countries involved (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela)	In 2001 and 2002, presentation of the official estimates for the quarterly national accounts, prepared in accordance with the agreed criteria and schedules
1.5 International technical cooperation			
- Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	- ECLAC will continue to provide support for the implementation and development of technical cooperation projects	ECLAC, interested countries, and other international organizations	Provision of technical assistance to countries so that the technical cooperation projects achieve the expected results

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the system of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From March to February 2001, it will provide support for national accounts to the National Statistical Office of Cuba and, subject to resource availability, will also implement a project to improve those accounts - During the biennium, the International Monetary Fund will continue its technical assistance programme in connection with balance of payments statistics; public finance, monetary and financial statistics; national accounts; statistics on consumer and producer prices; and foreign trade; intended for the central banks, ministries of economy and finances, and statistical offices 	<p>ECLAC and the National Statistical Office of Cuba</p> <p>The International Monetary Fund, in coordination with interested countries</p>	<p>Evaluation of the activities relating to the change of the base year for the national accounts of Cuba</p> <p>To strengthen the technical capacity of national institutions for the preparation of basic statistics and the development of macrostatistical plans</p>
- Countries of the Caribbean	In the biennium, ECLAC, with support from the Government of the Netherlands will implement the project to increase efficiency in the availability and comparability of foreign trade statistics for the Caribbean	ECLAC, and participating Caribbean countries	Improvement of the Caribbean countries' capacity to produce information on foreign trade, and organization of a database on foreign trade
- City groups	Follow-up and regional distribution of the materials available	Countries which make a commitment with ECLAC to be responsible for follow-up	Timely distribution of information on the progress made in these working groups

Subprogramme 2: Environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
<p>2.1 Status report on environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation</p> <p>Follow-up and evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the first year of the biennium, ECLAC and INEGI (Mexico) will evaluate the production of environmental statistics in the region - In the first year of the biennium, ECLAC and INEI (Peru) will evaluate the statistics and indicators on science, technology and innovation in the region 	<p>ECLAC, and INEGI (Mexico)</p> <p>ECLAC, and INEI (Peru)</p>	<p>Information for countries of the region on the status of the production of environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation</p>
<p>2.2 Transfer of international experience, training, and technical cooperation</p> <p>(a) Environment:</p> <p>Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the first year of the biennium, ECLAC, INEGI of Mexico, INE of Chile, the Central Statistical Office of Belize and the Secretariat of State of Puerto Rico will organize a training workshop for national experts on environmental statistics 	<p>ECLAC, INEGI of Mexico, INE of Chile, the Central Statistical Office of Belize and the Secretariat of State of Puerto Rico</p>	<p>Distribution to the countries of the region of guidelines and recommendations for the preparation of environmental statistics</p>

Subprogramme 2: Environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When the Spanish version of the “Manual on environmental accounting” is available, ECLAC and the United Nations Statistics Division will organize a regional workshop to discuss the contents 	ECLAC and the United Nations Statistics Division	Information provided to the countries of the region on the changes introduced since the previous version of the manual
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subject to the completion in 2001 of the revised version of the “Manual of Environmental Statistics and Indicators”, ECLAC and the United Nations Statistics Division will organize a workshop on the subject before June 2003 	ECLAC and the United Nations Statistics Division	Introduction to the countries of the region of the new version of the “Manual of Environmental Statistics and Indicators”
- Directories	During the biennium, ECLAC will begin the preparation and distribution of directories of organizations, agencies, institutions and experts working with environmental statistics	ECLAC	Providing countries with a tool to facilitate the sharing of experience
- Technical documents	ECLAC will translate and distribute the ENVSTAT publication on environmental statistics	ECLAC	To provide information for those responsible for or interested in environmental statistics
(b) Science and technology			
Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote the inclusion of modules on science, technology and innovation in censuses and surveys 	ECLAC	Development and expansion of statistics and indicators for science and technology in the countries

Subprogramme 2: Environmental statistics and statistics on science, technology and innovation			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2001, INEI (Peru) and the Conference of Iberoamerican Authorities on Informatics (CAIBI) will continue to promote the development of basic statistics and indicators for information technology - In 2001, ECLAC will encourage the development of methodologies and procedures which ensure that information and communication technologies are taken into account in growth-related measurement systems 	<p>INEI (Peru) and the Conference of Iberoamerican Authorities on Informatics (CAIBI)</p> <p>ECLAC</p>	<p>Identification of the impact of information and communication technologies in countries' growth estimates</p>

Subprogramme 3 : Statistics and indicators on social variables and well-being			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
3.1 Improvement of household surveys			
A. MECOVI project		- ECLAC, IDB and the World Bank	
- Regional workshops for discussion and analysis	- In 2001, the last two regional workshops for discussion and analysis planned in the current phase of the project will take place. The first one will be organized jointly with INEGI of Mexico, and the second one will take place with the collaboration of INDEC of Argentina	- ECLAC, in coordination with INDEC (Argentina) and INEGI (Mexico) (the venues for these events will be Aguascalientes and Buenos Aires)	- Summaries of the papers presented at the workshops will be published in both printed and electronic (Internet) form, to add to the region's bibliographic resources on technical aspects of household surveys and poverty measurement
	- In 2001 the necessary action will be taken to obtain resources to continue this programme for the period 2002-2005	- ECLAC, IDB and the World Bank	
- Data bank of the MECOVI programme	- Distribution of some annual data files from household surveys carried out in 14 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean over the period 1995-1998	- ECLAC	- Distribution of compact discs (4), each containing 14 surveys, with standardized and refined data bases. Distribution of the technical documentation for users of the databases
	- In 2001, action will be taken to expand and continue this component of the MECOVI programme	- ECLAC, IDB and the World Bank	

Subprogramme 3 : Statistics and indicators on social variables and well-being			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
- Regional training	- In 2001, the last two regional training courses planned in the current phase of the project will take place, on topics related to household surveys and measurement of living conditions	- IDB, the World Bank and ECLAC. Coordination activities with Argentina and Mexico, the host countries of these events	- Training of 60 technicians in the conduct of surveys and standard-of-living studies
- National projects	- Technical assistance missions to countries participating in MECOVI	- ECLAC, in coordination with IDB, the World Bank and the MECOVI countries (Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru)	- Technical assistance will be provided to countries for design, execution and analysis of household surveys, for statistical analysis of data, and for construction of indicators and studies related to measurement of poverty and income distribution
	- Promoting the sharing of technical documents and results of the MECOVI programme in the region	- IDB, the World Bank, ECLAC and the MECOVI countries	- Adequate regional dissemination of national research and practices applied by bodies participating in MECOVI on subjects related to survey design and execution and to measurement of poverty and income distribution
B. Direct technical assistance			
- Support for design and execution of household surveys, data analysis and construction of social indicators	- Technical assistance to countries at their request, and according to resource availability	- ECLAC, in coordination with the countries interested	- Technical assistance missions to the countries of the region on the design and execution of national projects for the realization of household surveys, data analysis, and construction of poverty, employment and income distribution indicators

Subprogramme 3 : Statistics and indicators on social variables and well-being			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International workshops will be held, subject to resource availability, on the following subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) design, construction and updating of sampling frames (one workshop); (ii) evaluation of sample designs for household surveys on living conditions (one workshop); and (iii) statistics with a gender perspective (one or two workshops) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECLAC, other sponsoring organizations, and countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing of experience, improvement of methodologies, development of technical materials and evaluation of the progress made in these subjects in the region
3.2 Use of information generated by the household surveys			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update of the ECLAC regional data bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating the regional data bank with data from household surveys conducted in recent years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECLAC, with the cooperation of all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generation of databases, duly standardized and documented, with information on the surveys carried out in 1999, 2000 and 2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparing and distributing the <i>Social Panorama of Latin America</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparing and distributing the 2001 and 2002 editions of the <i>Social Panorama of Latin America</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECLAC, with the collaboration of UNICEF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribution in the region of the 2001 and 2002 editions of the <i>Social Panorama of Latin America</i>, prepared using information from the household surveys - Provision of updated employment, poverty and income distribution indicators for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

Subprogramme 3 : Statistics and indicators on social variables and well-being			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
- Joint studies with countries	- Carrying out national studies on various social topics in response to requests from countries - The INE of Bolivia will host the technical meetings on gender statistics and indicators. The first workshop, on indicators of intra-family violence, will take place in November 2001.	- ECLAC, in coordination with Brazil, Chile, Mexico and other countries which make requests - INE of Bolivia, ECLAC	- Joint studies with countries, including studies of national estimates regarding the magnitude and trends of poverty and income distribution - Enhancement of the guidelines for the development of gender statistics
- Project for the Caribbean supported by the Government of the Netherlands. Database on social statistics	- Development, maintenance and use of the database on social and demographic statistics in the Caribbean subregion	- ECLAC (Port-of-Spain Sub-Regional Headquarters) and the statistical offices of countries in the area	- Design and assembly of the database on social statistics and indicators - Regional training workshops on the development and use of the data and data analysis methodologies
- Preparation of methodological materials on the construction of social indicators	- Preparing technical materials to provide support to the countries	- ECLAC	- Preparation and distribution of working documents containing methodological details regarding the construction and analysis of social indicators - Promotion of regional forums for discussion and analysis of methods for construction and interpretation of social indicators

Subprogramme 3 : Statistics and indicators on social variables and well-being			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
3.3 Implementation of population and housing censuses			
- Support for the 2000 round of population and housing censuses	- Technical assistance to countries requesting it	- ECLAC, with the countries of the region	- Technical support for the conceptual design of the censuses, and for dealing with methodological problems and practical situations in relation to the conduct of the 2000 census round
	- ECLAC, together with the IOM, will continue the IMILA project on Central American migration	- ECLAC, together with the countries of the region	- Enhancement of the information available on migrations
- Preparation, evaluation, and use of results	- Technical assistance, on request of the countries	- ECLAC, with the countries of the region	- Technical support for creating census databases
	- Organization of and participation in seminars		- Organization and participation in a seminar (in 2001)
	- Evaluation of census coverage and quality		
- Revision of population estimates and projections	- Development of the new population projections for countries of Latin America and the Caribbean		- Population estimates and projections (publication of two issues of the Demographic bulletin per year)
- Census data bank	- Recovery and updating of the census data bank covering the 1960s.	- ECLAC	- Provision of access to census data from previous decades
3.4 Project on statistical cooperation between the European Union and the Mercosur countries	- Collaboration in implementing the 2001 work programme in relation to social indicators	- European Union and statistical offices of Mercosur countries	- Completion in 2001 of the harmonization process carried out by group 6, publication of results, training workshops and research project

Subprogramme 3 : Statistics and indicators on social variables and well-being			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
3.5 Regional and national training activities	- Participation in skills development and updating activities for technical personnel		
- International workshop on poverty measurement	- The eleventh and twelfth international workshops on poverty measurement will be held in August 2001, and August 2002, at INEGI in Aguascalientes	- ECLAC, in coordination with INEGI (Mexico)	- Skills development and updating for national technical staff responsible for poverty measurement in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean - Teaching materials will be prepared for participants in the workshop
- National training workshops in statistical methods	- Participation in teaching and training activities for the benefit of national technical staff, at the request of countries	- ECLAC and countries of the region which organize national or subregional training activities in statistics	- Support for the countries through the participation of instructors in the implementation of statistics training activities of a national subregional nature - Strengthening of the analytical abilities of national experts in the area of statistics, data analysis and elaboration of social indicators
	- The IBGE of Brazil has made available to interested countries its training programmes on household surveys	- IBGE of Brazil and interested countries	- Training of national experts in household surveys
3.6 Participation in working and study groups on issues of regional interest	- Participation in working meetings, regional dissemination of documents on data collection and analysis techniques and measurement methodologies	- ECLAC, those responsible for the working groups, and the countries of the region participating in those groups	- Participation in the working meetings of the study groups

Subprogramme 3 : Statistics and indicators on social variables and well-being			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
- Canberra Group: household income measurement			- Monitoring of activities throughout the world on issues related to household surveys and to poverty measurement, income, and the informal sector
- Rio Group: poverty measurement		- Brazil, as the country responsible for the group, and ECLAC as the technical secretariat	- Dissemination in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean of analyses of the latest methods and techniques for measurement and study of those economic and social phenomena which are researched by means of household surveys
- Delhi Group: measurements of the informal sector			
- Siena Group: social statistics and indicators			

Subprogramme 4: Dissemination of statistical information			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
4.1 Use of the Internet environment for information and data dissemination via static and dynamic Web pages	- In 2001, ECLAC will continue to develop the computerized system for the regional short-term indicators database and to expand the number of countries included	- ECLAC and the countries involved	- Provision of access for the countries to a short-term economic and social indicators database that is updated monthly
	- In 2001, ECLAC will continue its collaboration in developing the statistical portal of Mercosur, Bolivia and Chile	- ECLAC, in coordination with the Mercosur countries, Bolivia, and Chile	- To increase the number of series and economic and social indicators available to the users
	- ECLAC will continue to collaborate with national experts and to coordinate bilateral activities	- ECLAC and the countries involved	- Timely provision of support to the countries requesting it
	- ECLAC will hold a joint seminar-workshop with CESD-Madrid and INE of Spain on advanced dissemination systems in the Internet environment	- ECLAC, CESD-Madrid, INE (Spain)	- Strengthening of the technical capacity of experts from the region on dissemination in the Internet environment

Subprogramme 4: Dissemination of statistical information			
Programme element	Substantive action	Organizations responsible and coordination required	Expected results
	- In 2001 ECLAC will set up a site for the Statistical Conference of the Americas on its Web page, in order to provide space for sharing and dissemination of technical materials on areas of interest	ECLAC	Provision of a medium to allow countries a fluid exchange of documents, opinions and technical recommendations
4.2 Incorporation of technology and services for electronic commerce via the Internet	In the biennium, ECLAC will collaborate with experts to systematize and distribute models for the commercialization of statistical information	ECLAC and the countries involved	Provision of information to the national statistical offices on the experience acquired with models for the commercialization of statistical data