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First meeting of the Executive Committee of the
Statistical Conference of the Americas of the
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25-26 March 2002

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

(United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7)

By resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations approved the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission. In view of the fact that this is the first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, the secretariat feels it is appropriate to convey the contents of that resolution to its members.

2000/7

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,¹ which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978,

Bearing in mind the decisions adopted at the tenth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 May 1997, particularly decision 10/1 B,² on the review of the progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Considering that, insofar as technical cooperation in the field of statistics is concerned, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has been cooperating systematically to facilitate inter-institutional coordination among developed countries, international organizations and national statistical offices in member countries that carry out technical cooperation projects,

Bearing in mind, on the one hand, that since 1994, the Organization of American States has collaborated with the Commission in the organization of the Joint Organization of American States/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Meeting on Statistical Matters and, on the other, that the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/52/39)*, annex I.

Council for Integral Development of the Organization of American States, in its resolution 34 of 8 October 1998, decided to put an end to the existence, within the Organization of American States, of the Inter-American Statistical Conference, whose Permanent Executive Committee had been the counterpart to the Commission in the Agreement on Cooperation in Statistical Matters between the Organization of American States and the Commission, and, moreover, that the Organization of American States has asked its member countries to bring the coordination of statistical matters into a single entity within the framework of the Commission,

Bearing in mind also that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has been including the Joint Organization of American States/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Meeting on Statistical Matters in its programme of work, and that therefore the technical, operational and financial implications of establishing a Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of its subsidiary bodies can be dealt with by reallocating existing regular budgetary resources,

Considering that, by its resolution 34, the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development entrusted the representatives of the statistical offices of Canada, Mexico and Peru and the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with the task of preparing a proposal on the organization and operation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the content of which was improved and approved by consensus at the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas, held at the headquarters of the Commission in Santiago from 24 to 26 March 1999,

Recalling resolution 489 (PLEN.19), of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the intergovernmental structure and functions of the Commission, in which the Committee recommended that the current institutional structure of the Commission should be maintained, Commission resolution 553 (XXVI),³ on the reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Commission, in which the Commission recommended that the current pattern of conferences of the Commission system should be continued, and Commission resolution 573 (XXVII),⁴ on technical cooperation among developing countries and regions,

Having examined the proposal on the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which is contained in the annex to the present resolution,

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 17 (E/1996/37)*, chap. III, sect. F.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 1998, *Supplement No. 21 (E/1998/41)*, chap. III, sect. G.

Considering, finally, the nature of and the objectives set forth in the proposal on the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,⁵

1. *Approves* the proposal on the establishment, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as set forth in the annex to the present resolution, with the observations and suggestions included in the report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to submit for consideration by the relevant United Nations bodies such proposals as may be necessary for the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on the fulfilment of the present resolution at the twenty-ninth session of the Commission.

*39th plenary meeting
25 July 2000*

Annex

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

I. Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. Nature

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall be a subsidiary body of the Commission that shall contribute to the progress of policies on statistics and statistical activities in the countries of the region.

2. Objectives

(a) To promote the development and improvement of national statistics and work to ensure that they are comparable internationally, bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations;

(b) To promote international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies;

⁵ Informe Final de la Reunión de Directores de Estadística de las Américas (LC/L.1199(Sem.88/10)).

(c) To draw up a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, to meet the demands of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources.

3. *Membership*

All countries that are members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean are members of the Conference.

4. *Meetings of the Conference*

The Conference shall hold its regular meetings every other year. The Conference may accept an invitation from a member Government to hold its regular meeting in its country.

5. *Membership of the Executive Committee*

The Conference shall elect an Executive Committee, in accordance with the regulations established by the Commission. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall also preside over the meetings of the Conference. The Executive Committee is empowered to convene a special meeting in the interval between regular meetings.

6. *Secretariat*

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall serve as the secretariat of the Conference. The secretariat shall make available to the Conference such documents and facilities as have been approved by the Commission.

II. Executive Committee of the Conference

1. *Nature*

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean shall set up an Executive Committee to support the Conference, as set forth in paragraph 4 below.

2. *Composition*

The Executive Committee shall be made up of a Chairperson and six members. Its members shall be elected from among the member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Special attention shall be paid to ensuring that the subregional groups of countries are represented on the Committee.

3. *Election of the Executive Committee and terms of office*

At the beginning of each Conference, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, in consultation with the members of the Executive Committee and of the Conference, shall draw up a proposal on the election of the new Committee.

The newly elected Executive Committee shall take up its duties once the regular meeting of the Conference at which it was elected has ended, and shall remain in office until the end of the next regular meeting.

The members of the Executive Committee, including the Chairperson, shall be elected by the Conference at its regular meeting for a term of two years.

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

4. *Duties*

The Executive Committee shall have the following duties:

- (a) To carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference;
- (b) To draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of activities of regional and international cooperation on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference;
- (c) To follow up the implementation of the agreements reached at the Conference and the tasks entrusted to it by the Conference, particularly the biennial programme of activities referred to in section I, paragraph 2 (c), above;
- (d) To decide on the documentation required for its meetings. As a general rule, no substantive discussion shall be initiated unless an appropriate document is available. The secretariat shall be responsible for facilitating compliance with this rule.

5. *Meetings*

The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice during the interval between regular meetings of the Conference. At the meeting preceding the Conference, it shall approve a biennial programme of activities of the Conference, which shall be presented at the regular meeting of the Conference.

The Executive Committee may invite to its meetings any countries or experts who can make a contribution to the fulfilment of its duties.