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**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2009-2011 BIENNIAL
PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE STATISTICAL
CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF ECLAC ***

* This document was prepared by the secretariat based on the information provided by the working groups and international organizations.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC is intended to serve, now and in the future, as a frame of reference for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation. This long-term vision will enable the Conference to optimize the contribution of this programme to the effective fulfilment of the four strategic goals of the plan. The programme sums up the specific aims for a two-year period, which are consistent with one or more of the four strategic goals of the plan and facilitate progress towards its implementation. Furthermore, it contains guidelines to provide direction and stimulate concrete action by countries, international and subregional organizations and the different coordination and cooperation bodies created for these purposes, such as the working groups and committees of experts.

The programme does not describe all the activities carried out by the different international entities working in the area of statistics and cooperation in the region that are committed to undertaking activities and complying with responsibilities that help achieve the goals of the Conference. A complete list of activities can be found in the integrated programme of statistical activities database, which is available on the ECLAC website.

With a view to enhancing the visibility of the commitments made by the working groups and international organizations in the biennial programme and facilitating the monitoring of their fulfilment, since the fifth meeting of the Conference, the biennial programme has contained a plan of activities summarizing and identifying the activities planned for the period in relation to the relevant strategic and specific goals and the entity responsible for carrying out those activities.

The table below outlines the implementation of the activities contained in the plan of action of the 2009-2011 biennial programme, but does not include all the activities carried out by the countries and international organizations in the region during the period concerned. The reports by the working groups give a full account of the activities carried out.

Specific and strategic goals of the Strategic plan 2005-2015	Activities proposed for 2009-2011	Activities carried out
Goal 1: Institution-building		
<i>Specific goal 1:</i> Promote awareness and application of best practices in terms of legal frameworks, strategic planning, assessment of national statistical systems and financing.	Draft a proposal for a Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean for the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.	The proposal for a Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and the strategic plan for its implementation were drafted for discussion and adoption at the sixth meeting of the Conference.
<i>Specific goal 2:</i> Strengthen the relationship with users through permanent monitoring of their needs and assessment of their levels of satisfaction, and the establishment of accessible and timely mechanisms of dissemination.	Gather and disseminate information on the legal frameworks for national statistical systems and offices.	A report was prepared on the findings of the self-evaluation questionnaire circulated and filled out by 14 countries.
<i>Specific goal 3:</i> Promote the development of official statistics as a public good among governments, economic stakeholders, social actors and other decision makers, and their use in the design, follow-up and assessment of public policies.	Gather and disseminate information on best practices in strategic organization and management.	The inventory of global statistical standards was submitted to the forty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, held in New York on 23-26 February 2010. The inventory has been disseminated to the statistical community on the website of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and on the web page of the knowledge transfer network (KTN).
<i>Specific goal 4:</i> Encourage awareness and sharing of experiences among countries in order to make the best use of information and communications technologies.		
Goal 2: Human resources development		
<i>Specific goal 1:</i> Promote awareness and identification of institutional needs and the work skills required for producing statistical information and for management.	Update the assessment to identify and document the institutional needs and labour competencies required for the production of statistical information and strategic management.	An annual questionnaire was circulated to determine human resources development and training needs in the member countries of the Conference and the working groups. A regional assessment has been carried out.

<p><i>Specific goal 2:</i> Encourage awareness of and sharing of experiences relating to human resources management, as part of work towards defining a human resources management model that is relevant to the difference stages of statistical development in the region.</p>	<p>Adopt and develop distance education mechanisms to train human resources in managing and producing statistical information.</p>	<p>Dissemination of distance education courses by various institutions. A total of 11 courses were offered in 2011.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 3:</i> Support cooperation and coordination of countries' human resources training efforts in the region.</p>	<p>Design a three-level training programme on national accounts: initial training using KANGARE; advanced training in the System of National Accounts (SNA) through classes and workshops such as those organized by ECLAC and IMF; practical training on statistical production with support from the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of France.</p>	<p>A proposal has been drafted but no financing has been obtained to implement it.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 4:</i> Develop cooperation on lines of statistical research relevant for the region.</p>	<p>Implement the KTN training programme for 2009-2011.</p>	<p>The KTN initiated its activities and began to implement its programme of work.</p>
	<p>Coordinate and support the training activities carried out by the working groups.</p>	<p>Compiling and updating 98 training activities carried out during the 2009-2010 biennium and 84 activities in the 2011-2012 biennium (training offered): courses, seminars, workshops and other activities, including those conducted by the working groups of the Conference.</p>
	<p>Continue with the design and development of a training strategy for demography, population and development in the region; approach the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and other possible donors.</p>	
	<p>Support national training initiatives on demography, population and development.</p>	<p>Two national initiatives were supported in the Dominican Republic and Panama.</p>
	<p>Design and carry out a distance-learning course on gender statistics (virtual and limited-presence).</p>	<p>The course was designed and the first version carried out.</p>
	<p>Create a virtual network comprising country focal points for the Conference and ECLAC to foster the exchange of information, documentation and good practices in the region.</p>	<p>The KTN developed the virtual network of focal points.</p>

<i>Specific goal 5:</i> Strengthen the region's networks of statistical information experts in various fields.	Maintain an up-to-date list of official statistical experts in various fields.	The network of experts and training centres in the KTN was created, comprising 138 specialists and 18 centres.
Goal 3: Develop statistical and methodological capacities		
<i>Specific goal 1:</i> Promote cooperation and the exchange of experiences on worldwide best practices and methodological documents useful for the region in the production of statistical information.	<p>Produce documents on the Millennium Development Goals focused on specific topics, in the form of a manual of best practices.</p> <p>Conduct a minimum of two thematic courses or workshops to support the countries in the region in developing statistics related to Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p> <p>Participate in a minimum of two technical assistance missions to collaborate with officials from national statistical offices and sectoral ministries on statistical topics related to the Millennium Development Goals.</p> <p>Conduct a minimum of one workshop and one technical assistance mission designed to enhance the production of statistics related to the seventh Millennium Development Goal.</p>	<p>Special sessions on Millennium Development Goal indicators were included in regional meetings on specific themes (gender, information and communications technologies, and child and maternal mortality).</p>
<i>Specific goal 2:</i> Support and promote the implementation of the 2010 round of censuses in the countries of the region.	<p>Develop a regional agenda for statistical reconciliation and improve the participation of national statistical offices in the production of national reports.</p> <p>Conclude the implementation of the project to update the methodology for measuring poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>Conduct a workshop on censuses and health in the fourth quarter of 2009 with the corresponding reference documents and produce a document on the inclusion of a gender focus in population censuses.</p> <p>Conduct workshops and promote different forms of cooperation which allow for the exchange of experiences on the preparations for population and housing censuses in the region.</p>	<p>Two technical assistance missions were carried out in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic related to the seventh Millennium Development Goal.</p> <p>A programme was established with the countries, which has resulted in the preparation of four documents on reconciliation strategies and mechanisms.</p> <p>Being developed</p> <p>A seminar/workshop was held on the 2010 round of censuses and health, in which 47 professionals participated. As part of the preparations for the workshop, researchers from the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC and consultants prepared seven reference documents.</p> <p>Missions were organized to observe pilot programmes and censuses in six countries and six workshops and seminars were held to exchange experiences in different census areas.</p>

Conduct a workshop on census management in the fourth quarter of 2009 in the Dominican Republic and seek the support necessary to replicate the workshop in 2010 and 2011 in other countries of the region.

Improve the internal processing modules for the REDATAM program in order to create databases using population and housing censuses and agricultural censuses, and update the computer modules to improve regional indicator systems that are processed online with REDATAM Web Server.

Conduct three intensive regional courses on demographic analysis for development (CRIADD) beginning in 2010 or 2011, subject to the availability of financial resources.

The workshop on census management was held, based on the Handbook on Population and Housing Census Editing issued by the United Nations Statistics Division. In total, the workshop entailed 48 hours of work.

REDATAM 7 features improvements in speed and data compression, a new programming language and enhanced presentation. It includes the concept of "project", which helps users to manage their programme files, selections, maps and documents.

From 6 June to 30 July 2011, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC held an intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications, in conjunction with the National Statistics and Census Institute of Panama and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Regional Workshop on demographic evaluation and projections based on census data: analysis of census coherence, quality and coverage was held in Santiago from 1 to 5 August 2011, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the professionals and technical experts in national statistical institutes to analyse demographic trends in the process of evaluating censuses.

From 20 September to 14 October 2011, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, in conjunction with the National Statistics and Census Institute of Panama and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), will hold a national seminar/workshop in Panama on the potential uses and applications of census data, with a view to building institutional capacities to analyse population trends, health and social protection, internal and international migration, urban dynamics, housing and the housing shortage.

Update and enhance regional systems for indicators based on census data and other sources in the System of Sociodemographic Indicators for Indigenous Peoples and Populations of Latin America (SISPI), and for indicators for monitoring international conferences (the Regional System of Indicators on Aging, SISE; the programme entitled "Investigation of International Migration in Latin America", IMILA; the Database on Internal Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean, MIALC; and the project entitled "Spatial distribution and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean", DEPUALC).

By virtue of the agreement with PAHO/WHO, continue supporting the development of a plan of action to improve vital and health statistics, incorporating an ethnic approach in vital statistics and other information sources.

CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC has continued developing the Regional System of Indicators on Aging (SISE), which contains comparable information for 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and enables data to be processed for two census periods (1990 and 2000) and disaggregated by sex, age group and area of residence.

The Database of indicators for indigenous and afro-descendant peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean (PIAALC) was set up on the web page of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC. It contains vast information, including indicators for indigenous women and reproductive health in 15 countries in the region. See www.cepal.org/celade/indigenas.

Technical assistance was given to Ecuador and Guatemala to assist them with the pilot project to include an ethnic approach in health records based on the 2010 work plan. Six workshops were held in each country with health teams and indigenous organizations to provide training and raise awareness of this issue.

Pilot tests were carried out on the incorporation of an ethnic approach in health systems. Work was carried out in Ecuador and Guatemala to draw up the work plan for the pilot project to include questions to identify indigenous peoples in health records.

Implement the plan on regional public goods on statistics on establishments.

A project involving 11 countries is being developed to establish a regional statistical framework for directories of businesses and establishments.

Specific goal 3: Promote the establishment and use of administrative records as a relevant source for the creation of official statistics.

Specific goal 4: Produce a document on alternative and complementary methods incorporating censuses, surveys and administrative records to improve the production of sociodemographic statistics.

<p><i>Specific goal 5:</i> Promote and develop gender statistics in all countries in the region.</p>	<p>Implement the project on time use and unpaid work “Guidelines to harmonize time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean”.</p> <p>Implement the project “Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities” (2008-2010) related to measuring and collecting the set of indicators recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission.</p> <p>Implement the project “Developing gender indicators: capacities for statistical institutions and offices of women”.</p> <p>Conduct international meetings on gender statistics in 2009, 2010 and 2011.</p> <p>Develop a proposal for an activities-classification system for time-use surveys.</p> <p>Conduct Latin American seminars on national accounts.</p> <p>Consider countries’ needs when organizing round-table meetings and define methodological options, training workshops, and horizontal coordination activities through two possibilities: internships and technical assistance.</p> <p>Create a website to expand technical cooperation.</p> <p>Continue promoting the programme on industrial and services statistics.</p> <p>Advance in the assessment of statistical needs, making use of annual meetings organized by ECLAC.</p>	<p>Eleven countries have carried out data surveys and four others are in the process of doing so. In August 2011, the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) of Mexico presented a satellite account of unpaid work in households 2003-2009.</p> <p>Several countries are working to measure violence against women.</p> <p>Three international meetings were organized by INEGI and the National Women’s Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UN-Women.</p> <p>A proposal for a classification of time-use activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL) was submitted to the tenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference.</p> <p>Seminars were conducted in 2009, 2010 and 2011.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 6:</i> Support and promote the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA) in all the countries of the region and the revision process up to 2008, in accordance with a regional schedule of stages.</p>	<p>A Wiki information platform has been developed and is now being used by three technical working groups for sharing methodologies.</p> <p>Two regional workshops were held in this area.</p> <p>A survey was conducted on countries’ specific horizontal cooperation needs. The findings were presented at the Latin American and Caribbean Seminar on National Accounts: Regional implementation of the System of National Accounts.</p>	

<p><i>Specific goal 7:</i> Ensure that all countries, according to their circumstances, have relevant statistics on their natural resources and environment, in addition to a minimum set of common sustainability indicators for the region as a whole.</p>	<p>Create a working group and carry out activities to mobilize the human resources of national statistical offices, as well as financial resources to implement the group's programme.</p> <p>Create a programme to implement a set of minimum indicators on sustainability.</p>	<p>The working group was created and financial resources obtained from the IDB for a project to strengthen the capacities of the countries in the region.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 8:</i> Ensure that all countries, according to their circumstances, have relevant statistics on science and technology, in addition to a minimum set of common indicators for the region as a whole.</p>	<p>Hold a meeting of the group of experts on water accounts and statistics.</p> <p>Update the compendium of practices on the inclusion of questions on ICT statistics in household and business surveys by national statistical institutes, as well as statistics on ICT access and use in the public, education and health sectors.</p>	<p>Establish partnerships and coordination mechanisms with the working group on environmental statistics and indicators of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the environmental commissions of the subregions to draft a proposal on the establishment of a minimum set of relevant environmental statistics for the region.</p>
<p>Promote the strengthening of the regional database of the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC) by encouraging countries to submit the relevant measurements.</p> <p>Help define the quantifiable targets and indicators for the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2010).</p>	<p>OSILAC continued to provide support for the submission of data by the countries in the region.</p>	<p>The working group's contribution to the commission on indicators was coordinated with the eLAC secretariat.</p>
<p>Goal 4: Encourage coordination and cooperation between countries and international organizations</p>		
<p><i>Specific goal 1:</i> Develop a framework for the regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral cooperation activities aimed at achieving the goals of the Conference as defined in this strategic plan and the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission.</p>	<p>Maintain an updated version of the inventory of projects and activities conducted by international agencies in the region and create an updated database of international statistical activities.</p> <p>Monitor the implementation of the biennial programme</p>	<p>The inventory of activities and projects conducted by international agencies in the region was updated in 2011.</p> <p>Two reports on the implementation of the biennial programme were submitted to the ninth and tenth meetings of the Executive Committee of the Conference.</p>

<p><i>Specific goal 2:</i> Support and strengthen bilateral cooperation between the member countries of the Conference in an effective and efficient manner, especially for the countries that are relatively less developed in terms of statistics.</p>	<p>Design a programme to mobilize resources to fund horizontal cooperation.</p>	
<p><i>Specific goal 3:</i> Promote the development of a regional programme to harmonize statistical information in key areas.</p>	<p>Draft a proposal for indicators on migration and remittances in Latin America and the Caribbean based on information available in the respective statistical offices.</p> <p>Create a working group on the harmonization of statistics in health, employment and education.</p> <p>Draft terms of reference and a work programme for the working group on the methodology used to measure poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>Implement the project on social cohesion indicators.</p>	<p>The working group on migration and trends in remittances conducted a study to gather information on remittances and migration.</p> <p>Terms of reference and the work programme for the working group on the harmonization of statistics on income poverty and public transfers were drawn up. The group was formed and initiated its activities.</p> <p>The project was completed and the findings published.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 4:</i> Ensure that international, technical and financial cooperation on statistical matters is designed to strengthen the institutions of the countries and addresses the priority requirements of the beneficiary countries in the region.</p>	<p>Have the Executive Committee prepare an annual report to facilitate and monitor the progress made towards the goals and objectives of inter-institutional coordination in the region.</p> <p>Participate in the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women and work together to prepare a methodological guide; request that agencies responsible for different statistical areas present a progress report.</p>	<p>Two reports were prepared, one on gender statistics and the other on environmental statistics, and submitted to the ninth and tenth sessions of the Executive Committee of the Conference respectively.</p> <p>Mexico coordinated the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The Group submitted a report to the forty-second session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 5:</i> Urge international agencies to improve the coverage, transparency, and reporting on all indicators of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, avoiding imputation unless specific country data are available for reliable imputations following consultations with the countries concerned and through transparent methodologies.</p>	<p>Represent regional interests at the annual meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on the Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p> <p>Conduct at least one regional seminar per year on the Millennium Development Goals, inviting national statistical offices, agencies responsible for national reporting and corresponding regional agencies.</p> <p>Implement a strategy for reconciliation of national and international databases on the Millennium Development Goals.</p>	<p>Experts from ECLAC and from several countries participated in the Group's meetings.</p> <p>Two regional seminars were organized by the Working Group on the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and ECLAC.</p> <p>ECLAC established a programme with the support of the Working Group on mechanisms and strategies for reconciling statistics.</p>