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

Pucón, Chile, 24-26 April 2013

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND

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

At its sixth meeting, held in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, in November 2011, the Conference determined that for the period 2012-2013 Paraguay would act as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Conference, while the other members would be Belize, Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Spain. The Executive Committee is responsible for carrying out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference and for following up on the agreements reached at the Conference.

At its twelfth meeting, the Executive Committee will review the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2012-2013, adopted at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas by virtue of resolution 7 (VI), and the agreements adopted at its own eleventh meeting. The Executive Committee will also examine the working groups' progress in implementing their plans of action and will receive the report it commissioned from the secretariat, which will identify each group's strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations on ways of improving its operations. The Committee will also decide on the provisional agenda, place and date of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. On this occasion, the Executive Committee will also review the progress of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and other regional and subregional projects.

B. CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE

In accordance with resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Paraguay, in its capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, will preside over the twelfth meeting of the Committee.

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Committee will have before it the following provisional agenda for adoption or amendment:¹

¹ LC/L.3571(CE.12/1).

1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Substantive seminars.
 - (a) Seminar on early warnings and current economic indicators
 - (b) Seminar on multidimensional poverty measurement
 3. Review of progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2012-2013.
 - (a) Report by the secretariat
 - (b) Report of the working groups of the Conference
 - (c) Reports on the progress of regional programmes and projects
 - Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - Initiatives for the development of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - Activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network.
 - The 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme.
 4. Information regarding subregional cooperation activities.
 5. Preparations for the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 - (a) Consideration of substantive issues for discussion at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 - (b) Analysis of proposed areas of work for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015.
 - (c) Consideration of the provisional agenda of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 - (d) Selection of the place and date of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 6. Other matters.
 7. Adoption of agreements.
- 2. Substantive seminars.**

Presentations will be made and discussions held within the framework of the following substantive seminars:

(a) Seminar on early warnings and current economic indicators

This seminar will examine the growing need for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to have early warning and current economic indicators. Such indicators would support decision-making in relation to potential crises in the framework of globalization and would help to confront challenges in the face of very rapid change. Presentations will be made by the representatives of Brazil, Chile, Colombia and ECLAC.

(b) Seminar on multidimensional poverty measurement

This seminar will review the recent advances achieved in poverty measurement from a multidimensional perspective. Whereas academic experts have put forward indicators with certain desirable properties, similar to the commonly used indicators of monetary poverty, a number of countries are about to implement multidimensional poverty measurements or have already done so. Brazil and Colombia will share their experiences in this regard and ECLAC will give a presentation on past initiatives and advances in multidimensional poverty measurement.

Working document:

- The multidimensional measurement of poverty. Note for the Executive Committee of SCA (LC/L.3615(CE.12/5))

3. Review of progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2012-2013.

(a) Report by the secretariat

The secretariat will report on the operation of the working groups in accordance with the mandate given at the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. The mandate was to prepare a report that would assess, among other things, the strengths and weaknesses of each working group, possible synergies or duplications with other groups, the outputs delivered, the time frame and the work still pending based on the programmes of activities of the relevant groups. The report also contains recommendations for improving the performance of the working groups. The delegations will have before them the documents listed below, for consideration and adoption, as appropriate, of the recommendations contained therein.

Working documents:

- Progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operation (LC/L.3612(CE.12/3))
- Report on the activities of the working groups (LC/L.3613(CE.12/4))

Reference documents:

- Report on the review of the operating modalities of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3285(CE.10/4))
- Implementation and monitoring of the programme of regional statistical work, July 2005-June 2007: responsibilities of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, and tentative terms of reference of the working groups (DDR/3)

(b) Report by the working groups of the Conference

Under this agenda item, the coordinators of the working groups will report to delegations on the progress in implementing their programmes of activities and on the fulfilment of the targets and outputs pledged for the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

- (i) Report of the Working Group on Censuses
- (ii) Report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals
- (iii) Report of the Working Group on Gender Statistics
- (iv) Report of the Working Group on National Accounts
- (v) Report of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies
- (vi) Report of the Working Group on Institution-building
- (vii) Report of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics
- (viii) Report of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers
- (ix) Report of the Working Group on International Classifications
- (x) Report of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics
- (xi) Report of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators
- (xii) Report of the Working Group on Household Surveys
- (xiii) Report of the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence
- (xiv) Report of the Working Group on Public Safety and Justice Statistics

For the consideration of this agenda item, the participants will have before them the following documents:

Working document:

- Report on the activities of the working groups (LC/L.3613(CE.12/4))

Reference document:

- Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2012-2013 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3390(CEA.6/17))

(c) Reports on the progress of regional programmes and projects

- Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean
Brazil, the coordinating country of the committee for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Global Strategy, will report on the progress of work and on the next tasks and challenges to be tackled.
- Initiatives for the development of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico, the Project Executing Unit of the regional public goods project relating to the strategy and plan of action for the generation of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, will present a status report on the project.

- Activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network
Mexico, the country responsible for the Coordination Unit of the Knowledge Transfer Network, will report on the progress of the Network's activities and its prospects for the future. Delegations will be invited to give their views on the proposed composition of the new Council of the Knowledge Transfer Network, and on appointing a new country to take over responsibility for the Coordination Unit. This proposal will be submitted for adoption at the seventh meeting of the Conference.
- The 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme.

Working document:

- Report of the Knowledge Transfer Network of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (LC/L.3616(CE.12/6))

4. Information regarding subregional cooperation activities.

Under this agenda item, the various coordination bodies —the specialized statistical meeting within MERCOSUR, the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System (CENTROESTAD), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the statistical programme of the Andean Community— will report on their activities.

5. Preparations for the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

(a) Consideration of substantive issues for discussion at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

Under this agenda item the secretariat will report to the Committee on the various themes proposed for the substantive seminars to be held in the framework of the seventh meeting of the Conference and the Committee will decide on the themes and the coordinating countries.

(b) Analysis of proposed areas of work for the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015

The Executive Committee will consider the main areas of work for the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2014-2015, in preparation for its discussion and adoption at the seventh meeting of the Conference. The secretariat will give a presentation on the main challenges of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 as a general framework for discussing the guidelines for the Biennial Programme 2014-2015. The working groups are expected to participate in the discussion and to draw attention to the priorities in their respective areas.

Reference document:

- Proposed updating of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 (LC/L.3375(CEA.6/3))

(c) Consideration of the provisional agenda of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

The secretariat will propose a provisional agenda for the seventh meeting of the Conference, for consideration and adoption, as appropriate.

(d) Selection of the place and date of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

Delegations shall decide on the date and place of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of agreements.

The Executive Committee will adopt the agreements it deems appropriate.