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**REPORT OF THE 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

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of meeting

1. The twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Pucón, Chile, from 24 to 26 April 2013.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States serving as members of the Executive Committee: Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay and Spain.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Conference: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

4. The following United Nations funds and programmes were represented: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

5. Also present were representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: International Labour Organization (ILO) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

6. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented: Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System (CENTROESTAD), Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) and Organization of American States (OAS).

Chair

7. In the absence of the Director of the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay, the meeting was chaired by the Director of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic.

¹ See annex.

B. AGENDA

8. The Executive Committee adopted the following agenda:
 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.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

9. At the opening session, statements were made by Pablo Longueira Montes, Minister of the Economy, Development and Tourism of Chile, Francisco Labbé Opazo, Director of the National Statistical Institute of Chile, and Pascual Gerstenfeld, Director of the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

10. The Minister of the Economy, Development and Tourism of Chile welcomed participants and said that Chile had embarked on the path to development some 30 years ago and was currently recording growth of almost 6%, along with full employment. Building solid institutions was crucial, especially in the sphere of statistics and producing comparable statistics based on sound methodologies was vital for public policymaking that targeted the most vulnerable sectors, thereby tackling the two most serious problems in the region: poverty and unequal income distribution. Chile had recently conducted its census and, as a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), had introduced an important change, led by the prestigious National Statistical Institute. That change consisted in conducting the census over a period of approximately three months, with all that that decision implied in terms of logistics. The result was a broader coverage. Lastly, the Minister stated that a bill designed to guarantee autonomy for the National Statistical Institute was being processed and, thus, quality information, produced in accordance with the strictest professional standards, would be provided to help build countries with less poverty and more equality.

11. The Director of the National Statistical Institute of Chile said that the statistical institutes had a crucial role to play in responding appropriately to countries' requests for the information they needed in order to adjust to the rapid changes that were affecting the economic and social reality of the region. That challenge called for an ongoing review and analysis and, to that end, the statistical institutes needed to be modern, empowered, autonomous and transparent. Chile had tabled a bill designed to give the National Statistical Institute political and technical autonomy. He also underscored the importance of inter-agency cooperation for sharing experiences and strengthening team work. Resources were needed to maintain that traditional practice, attend seminars, work in symposiums and promote collaboration between technical staff and offices. Other new issues, including well-being, happiness and the environment, had come to the fore but were difficult to measure and called for a response. ECLAC had a fundamental role to play in sharing experiences, discussing concepts and producing joint studies.

12. After thanking the Government of Chile for its warm welcome, the Director of the Statistical Division of ECLAC said that it was an honour to attend the meeting and to feel the trust that the countries of the region placed in his institution. The best way to repay that trust was through firm commitment in every sphere of development. Indeed, that commitment was closely linked to the role of statistics, since data had to be drawn from the economic and social reality and converted into information for public policymaking, based on comparable statistics. Such statistics should be considered as a fundamental public good since they contributed to the sound performance of democracies. Institution-building, when applied to statistical offices, was a challenge and he stressed the quality, autonomy and independence and recalled that the Regional Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean created by the Conference was a frame of reference for all institutions that worked in the field. He said that statistics needed to be timely and comparable and of good quality, and staff members must draw on all the instruments available thanks to the changes in technology and the necessary training in the field. He wished participants success in their deliberations and reiterated the Commission's determination to continue to work for the region.

Adoption of the agenda

13. The provisional agenda and the programme of activities were placed before the Committee, who adopted them without amendment.

Substantive seminars (agenda item 2)

14. The following substantive seminars were presented and discussions held:

(a) Seminar on early warnings and current economic indicators: the focus in the first seminar was on the growing need for the Latin American and Caribbean countries to have early warning and current indicators as support mechanisms for taking decisions to identify possible crises of globalization and the challenges arising from the dizzying pace of change. The presentations were made by the representatives of Brazil, Chile, Colombia and ECLAC.

15. Jorge Bustamante, the Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, introduced the topic. Subsequently, a joint presentation was made on the monthly indicator of economic activity (IMACEC) by Gerzo Gallardo, a representative of the National Statistical Institute of Chile, and Francisco Ruiz, Manager of Macroeconomic Statistics at the Central Bank of Chile. Presentations were also made by Marcia Maria Melo Quintsler, Director of Surveys, Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), and Giovanni Savio, Chief of the Economic and Environmental Statistics Unit in the Statistics Division of ECLAC.

16. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Brazil said that subjective indicators could not be analysed in a specific year except in terms of the trend that could be observed. The representative of Spain described the European experience and said that the priority was speed. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) recommended taking advantage of the continuous household surveys and using the household consumption indicator. The representative of Argentina said that the international crisis could not have been foreseen through the use of statistics, because it stemmed from political decisions; and she agreed with the representative of Spain on the need for prompt action. The representative of Brazil said that it was crucial to view reality as a whole and to incorporate the social dimension in early warning indicators, although price trends were also a factor.

(b) Seminar on multidimensional poverty measurement. The second seminar was intended as an opportunity to share views on the challenges facing the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean as a result of the implementation of a multidimensional poverty measurement; to learn from the experience of those countries in the region that used multidimensional poverty measurements as inputs for improving their analysis of the living conditions of the population; and to support the formulation and follow-up of public policies.

17. The seminar was moderated by Laura Nalbarte, Technical Director of the National Statistical Institute of Uruguay. Presentations were made by Xavier Mancero of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, Jorge Bustamante, Director of the National Administrative Department (DANE) of Colombia, and Félix Vélez, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI). The existing methods for the preparation of multidimensional poverty measurements were described both in general terms and as regards the experience with their use as official poverty indicators in two countries of the region.

18. Following the presentations, various issues were discussed. One participant asked if it was necessary to have a synthetic multidimensional poverty index or if each dimension could be assessed separately. Suggestions were made as to how the greatest complementarity possible could be achieved between the multidimensional and monetary measures and it was stressed that household surveys should gather additional information on different dimensions of well-being. Reference was also made to the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective and taking into consideration aspects of time use and

violence in multidimensional measurements. Participants also discussed how that type of indicator could be used by decision-makers.

Review of progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2012-2013 (agenda item 3)

(a) Report by the secretariat

19. A representative of the secretariat presented a report on the functioning of the working groups, in accordance with the mandate handed down by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference at its eleventh meeting for the preparation of a report to assess, among other things, the strengths and weaknesses of each working group. The overall assessment was that not all the groups operated fully, that countries had scant capacity to commit to participating in so many groups and that not all groups had targeted programmes. Moreover, technology for videoconferences, virtual forums and other such resources was underutilized.

20. The representative of Colombia proposed that the working groups should prepare programmes on the basis of the Biennial programme, that those groups which bore no relationship to the Programme should cease their activities; that a budget should be set up for the implementation of the activities, both by the countries and by international cooperation agencies, and that the technical secretariats of the groups should help to secure funding from international agencies. He asked the secretariat to seek out plans that already existed, and that had been agreed by international agencies, with a view to replicating them. Thus, the Biennial programme would provide the opportunity to reach an agreement with others and harmonize timetables, schedules and resources. That would not pose any difficulty, since the plans were in the public domain and were available.

21. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank said that the groups' working mechanisms needed to be adjusted. The priority areas for cooperation were as follows: institution-building, sectoral statistics, particularly the use of administrative records, strengthening the use of statistics and promoting the use of technology. He pointed out that in February of that year, there had been a meeting between multilateral development banks (regional banks, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)) and the United Nations to work out a post-2015 development agenda and organize statistical coordination and support.

22. The representative of UN-Women said that it was important to shed light on the contribution already being made by the agencies, which the countries could take into account when they required support for horizontal cooperation or technical assistance.

23. The ECLAC representative said that the document presented at the thirty-fourth session of ECLAC could be useful in identifying strategic needs for information and that a similar approach could be used with the countries. He proposed that each national statistical system should decode the statistical priorities in the country's development strategy.

24. The representative of Brazil said that the Biennial programme was the outcome of the countries' work plans and stemmed from their national priorities, which was as it should be. It was then necessary to determine whether those activities could be matched with available financing. The groups should arise from the needs of the countries. All the groups, at one time or another, corresponded to the countries' priorities. She did not believe it was possible to create a broad matrix for the region; rather each country should raise the issues that reflected its particular reality. At the end of each period, an assessment should

be made as a matter of course, to determine whether the group should continue or not; it was not a matter of whether it had done anything wrong. In terms of the size, she considered that the very large groups were an indication of the priority attached to the issue, but there were few participants. To ensure that they were effective, there should be a limit to the number of participants in the group. She suggested that the groups should have clear intermediate products before arriving at the end product, so that it would be easier to assess their progress.

(b) Report of the working groups of the Conference

25. The coordinating countries of the various working groups then gave an account of their progress in implementing the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2012-2013.

Working Group on Censuses

26. The report of the Working Group on Censuses was presented by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who reviewed the activities and referred to the different meetings held. He mentioned the seminar on the use of technology in censuses and statistical operations, which would be organized with support from IDB and CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, and the course on demographic analysis. He said that the plan of activities included preparation of the 2015 census and the conduct of studies on adolescent fertility.

Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers

27. The representative of Uruguay, the coordinating country, said that the Group had not held any meetings since the workshop in Montevideo. The Group's initial goal had been revised and was currently to produce an up-to-date map of the status of national experiences in income poverty measurement. Another goal was to explore training and cooperation activities. The main activities included systematizing the results of the workshop and disseminating them in the report, identifying those countries that were using the World Bank's Accelerated Data Programme and holding a workshop based on a multidimensional approach to poverty. The countries participating in the Group should be requested to make available the documentation with the metadata. Funding would be needed for those activities. Several documents were expected to be produced on systematization for assessing the feasibility of harmonizing poverty statistics. A meeting was scheduled to be held in May 2013 as well as a workshop to systematize comparative information on methodologies for constructing poverty lines in the member countries; in addition a horizontal cooperation plan would be designed to promote harmonization through internships.

28. The representative of Uruguay said that the workshop had revealed significant differences between countries and that it would be necessary to reconsider the *raison d'être* of the Group and whether the goal of harmonization should be maintained or reoriented towards multidimensional measurement.

29. The representative of Argentina supported the position of Uruguay but said that the purpose of the Group was to enquire into the nature of poverty and indigence in Latin America and to look at the tools being used to report on those phenomena.

Working Group on National Accounts

30. The representative of Peru, the coordinating country, drew attention to the three core issues covered by the group: the varying degrees in implementation of the System of National Accounts (2008 SNA), which made it difficult to have a common work plan; institutional diversity, since in some cases,

the relevant stakeholder was the national statistical institute, while in others it was the central bank; and the scarcity of resources for cooperation. The work plan initially proposed was an ambitious one: to promote international coordination in developing methodologies, achieving regional harmonization and training human resources. The specific goals for 2013 were to promote basic statistics and to seek support. The activities to be carried out included an advanced course on national accounts and a workshop on systematizing national accounts and a workshop on unpaid work in measuring economic activity and well-being.

31. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that her country did not appear as a member of the group, probably because the national accounts were drawn up by the central bank and not by the national statistical institute, but her country had made significant progress in implementing 2008 SNA and participated in the regional group led by the Inter-American Monetary Council and in the series of ECLAC meetings on harmonization of accounting methods. She suggested that the Working Group should keep abreast of the work that was being done in the region.

32. The representative of Brazil proposed that lines should be established at the annual meeting organized by ECLAC and that the Working Group of the Statistical Conference should take into account the reports coming out of that meeting. If not, there would be duplication of the tasks of the Group and the progress being made by the countries. The forum on general issues should be the traditional annual meeting on national accounts.

33. The representative of Argentina applied for her country to join the Group.

Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies

34. The representative of the Dominican Republic, the coordinating country, presented the progress report on that Group. She referred to the outputs corresponding to 2013, including the training workshop on the updated corporate ICT module and the meeting for the health sector ICT module. She also mentioned the survey on whether ICT statistics were part of the regular survey programme. She said that the Group faced formidable challenges; for example, it needed to conduct more in-depth studies at the regional level and to consolidate national output in the field of ICTs. She also proposed that the survey, including the relevant adaptations introduced in line with the ECLAC Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC), should be applied to the ministers responsible for the digital agenda in each country. The plan of activities for the period 2014-2015 contemplated continuing with the application of the ICT survey, collecting the results and, together with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), programming activities for Caribbean countries, including workshops with ICT modules. The Group also pointed out that further technical assistance would be needed from ECLAC in order to carry out the above-mentioned plan of activities.

35. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank reported that one of the Bank's priorities in support of statistics was to promote the use of technology for the production and use of statistics. He said that IDB was coordinating efforts to strengthen cooperation with the statistical office of the Republic of Korea and was identifying areas for collaboration in order to learn from that country's experience in disseminating statistics. A meeting being planned in Seoul would be the opportunity to report on the status of statistics in Latin America and to learn about the advances in the Republic of Korea. He reported also on plans for a study on the use of different technologies in population and housing censuses in Latin America, to which reference was made in the ECLAC review *Notas de Población* no. 95.

Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

36. The report on the above Group was presented by the representative of Argentina. She referred to the meetings and workshops that had been held and the publications produced on the issue of statistical reconciliation, as well as the implementation of an information platform for virtual communication and interaction. She said that the groups had had difficulties in making use of new technologies other than e-mail to keep in touch. A production and regional harmonization seminar on the Millennium Development Goal indicators had been rescheduled as well as a meeting to strengthen progress. The major pending issue was training and skills development and an initial virtual course was being proposed to be followed by a face-to-face outreach course. The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) had taken responsibility for some activities linked to the design and implementation of training and skills-building programmes. In its capacity as technical secretariat, ECLAC had suggested taking steps to identify resources and donors. Countries were at different stages in terms of the indicators that reflected the degree of progress towards the Goals. She mentioned the new paradigm shift in social statistics from unidimensional to multidimensional, from quantitative to qualitative, from aggregate to disaggregated and from access to equity. As regards the post-2015 development agenda, the challenges were to identify problems in existing information, to improve disaggregation by ethnic origin, gender and vulnerable group, to incorporate complementary information and to conduct longitudinal studies.

37. The representative of Cuba, in citing the ECLAC document on sustainable development goals, said that it was important to keep abreast of international deliberations and that the challenge was to better measure and pay close attention to the indicators that might be established globally.

38. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterated the comment made on previous occasions on the information used by international agencies and said that they were continuing to use models when the country had information more adapted to the national reality. The international agencies should give priority to national information whenever it was available but did not always do so. The most serious case was that of the Human Development Index. He also expressed concern with respect to other issues beyond 2015.

39. The representative of Nicaragua also expressed concern over the use of official figures from countries in the reports of international organizations.

40. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) replied that the international agencies were seeking to standardize results worldwide to ensure that they were comparable, but that that effort required microdata which were not always available, hence their decision to use less up-to-date data.

Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators

41. The representative of Chile presented the progress report of the above-mentioned Group. He said that a number of targets had been met to date and countries had collaborated in filling in the questionnaires. The latter had been useful as inputs for preparing the assessments and for the face-to-face meeting that was expected to take place later in 2013, when new targets could be established in accordance with the specific goals of the work plan. He also said that synergies could be gained between the above Group and the Working Group on Household Surveys, as the latter could provide a more comprehensive view of the surveys that existed and could make recommendations on how best to integrate them. Lastly, Chile and Colombia, in their capacity as group coordinators, reaffirmed their commitment to continue leading their respective working groups in the biennium 2014-2015.

42. The representative of Brazil said that the new indicators would provide a more comprehensive and accurate description of the labour scene and congratulated the group on the strong impetus it had given to the issue.

43. The representative of Spain reinforced the idea of an integrated social statistical system. He said that the employment survey was the widest that had been implemented in his country and that the additional issues were being raised as modules in order to analyse them in an integrated manner.

44. The representative of Nicaragua questioned the term “decent work”, since the opposite would be “indecent” work.

45. The representative of the International Labour Organization explained the use of the term “decent” and said that, indeed, indecent jobs did exist, examples being child labour, jobs without social protection and employment with exploitative working conditions. The important point was to understand that such types of jobs should not exist.

Working Group on Household Surveys

46. It was proposed that the above-mentioned group should be reconverted to a group of tasks with one main objective: to produce a document on integrated household systems; a separate group on household surveys could be merged with the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators.

47. The representative of Brazil said that there were issues that were more specific than others, in particular the preparation of a report on master sampling frames. Such a report could be a first step towards the future implementation of an integrated household survey system and it should be borne in mind that integrating survey issues were the initial objective of the group. It would not change the target relating to integration of the information system.

48. The representative of Ecuador said that the important point was that the group should be limited and should have realistic goals. The document was not designed to be just conceptual but to have a methodological guide that would sum up the state of the art in each of the components.

49. The representative of Argentina said that the issue was crucial and that both points should be addressed: master sampling frames and the thematic coverage and harmonization among countries.

50. The representative of Spain supported the proposal of Ecuador that there should be a long-term structure and a group of short-term task forces. He said that the integrated household survey system in Europe was implemented by each country: it was a prototype omnibus survey which could be expanded to include additional modules. In the European Union, countries could not be obliged to harmonize the conduct of their surveys. Each country chose how to stratify, what sample size to choose and so forth. Efforts were made to harmonize the way the findings were presented.

51. The representative of Brazil proposed maintaining the group to deal with the broad issue and appointing task forces for specific outputs.

52. The representative of Chile said that the challenge of an integrated system was to ensure that the different sections of a national statistical institute maintained a dialogue with each other. They had worked to lay the institutional foundations for such a dialogue and it was important to address the

institutional challenges for the implementation of an integrated household survey system, and for rationalizing the thematic approach in conceptual and operational terms.

Working Group on Institution-building

53. The representative of Colombia reported on the programme of implementation of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and on the execution of global evaluations and the workshop on dissemination of the Code. He also sought a commitment from countries that they would participate actively in the group, especially in the workshop for disseminating the Code, which was scheduled to be held on 8 July in Bogotá.

54. The representative of Guatemala requested ECLAC and the group to disseminate the Code to the central banks in the region, which, in many countries, played a very important role in generating statistics.

55. The IDB representative mentioned a results-based management project currently underway and said that the concept was vital for improving statistical work in the region.

Working Group on International Classifications

56. The representative of Mexico reviewed the activities being carried out by the Group. She said that the Group's calendar of work had been updated in line with the agreement reached at the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the Group. She also discussed the formation of technical subcommittees for conducting specific tasks. Those subcommittees consisted of representatives of the countries that had been present in September 2012 at the first meeting of the Group. She also announced that the second meeting of the working group would be held in Aguascalientes, México, from 17 to 21 June 2013.

Working Group on Gender Statistics

57. The representative of Mexico referred to the main activities being conducted by the group with respect to time use and measurement and valuation of unpaid work in the System of National Accounts, statistics on violence against women and poverty measurement with the emphasis on gender.

58. The representative of Chile recognized the numerous contributions made by INEGI and admitted that his country's participation in the Group had been low. He said that it had been a challenge for the National Statistical Institute of Chile to harmonize its work and priorities with the National Women's Service (SERNAM) and to keep abreast of each agency's activities with a view to cooperating efficiently. He reported on the launch, in coordination with SERNAM, of a time-use survey and the more intensive work carried out on gender indicators. The national statistical institutes should have units that specialized in gender issues which could liaise with a statistical unit within the entity responsible for gender issues.

59. The representative of Brazil announced that the meeting on time use would be held in August 2013 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) under the auspices of the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) and the International Association for Time-Use Research (IATUR) and proposed that a meeting of the Working Group should be held within that framework.

60. The representative of Colombia asked to be readmitted to the Working Group. He said that in 2013 there would be a presentation on time use surveys and satellite accounts on unpaid work.

61. The representative of Argentina stressed the importance of the Working Group's work on statistics relating to violence against women and announced that her country had been working to improve administrative records in this area. She asked to join the Working Group on Gender Statistics.

62. The representative of Uruguay welcomed the announcement by the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2013 of the forthcoming publication by the United Nations Statistics Division of a guide for the production of statistics on violence against women. She reported on the South-South cooperation being maintained with INEGI of Mexico with a view to the preparation of a national survey on violence against women.

63. The representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) said that the Group's work had received new impetus as witness the significant improvement in participation by members, in particular in the sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission. Gender issues were being stressed in relation to economic statistics and economic empowerment.

Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence

64. The representative of Panama, the Group coordinator, presented the activities carried out and drew attention to the preparation of a database with 115 indicators for the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. Those indicators were based on the list contained in the annual report *State of the World's Children*. That would be the starting point for the assessment of the indicators that should be considered to follow up on the rights of the child. The database had been sent to the DevInfoLAC office with a view to adapting them to the DevInfo platform.

65. No comments were made on the above topic.

Initiative Committee for the establishment of a working group on public security and justice statistics

66. The above topic was presented by the representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the representative of Mexico. The latter said that the proposed objective was to coordinate efforts to generate, develop and authenticate statistical information on security and criminal justice; the specific goals were to help to generate and develop the international classification of crimes for statistical purposes and to promote and contribute to the development of surveys on victimization and to ensure that the expected outcomes included preparation of a schedule of activities and participation in the development of an international classification of crimes. Financing would have to be secured for meetings and activities of the National Institute on Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and of the UNODC Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice. First, however, it would be necessary to establish the final programme of work and, subsequently, the agreements could be submitted to the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

67. The representative of Cuba said that the specific goal of supporting the development of the system of statistical information relating to public security and justice was fully consistent with the strategic plan 2005-2015, but that that effort needed to be carried out with reference to the institutional framework and national legislation of the countries and with respect for the sovereignty of States. Prior to the classification, a conceptual framework should be agreed at the intergovernmental level indicating the scope of each crime or offence being considered and including definitions of public security and victimization, as no single definition had been agreed among the States for those concepts. Greater moderation was called for with regard to the promotion and development of surveys on victimization and

that would apply to those countries that requested or agreed to use such instruments. He also stressed that State terrorism and related acts should be included as crimes, explaining that they should not come under the heading of other non-classified criminal acts. He said that his country would be interested in participating in further discussions on the issue.

68. The representative of Chile said that it would be difficult for the national statistical offices to become involved in the issue. A survey could be conducted on the matter, but the national statistical offices did not necessarily have the conceptual basis for participating in the discussion. In Chile, the issues were dictated by the Ministry of the Interior and the National Statistical Institute carried out the surveys, but further, broader discussions were being held on the objective and meaning of the survey. The certification to 2016 on the surveys on victimization seemed to be a highly ambitious objective, because the content of the survey did not depend solely on the National Statistical Institute.

69. The representative of Peru requested permission to join the group/initiative committee.

70. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that he had doubts as to how certain crimes should be placed: for example how invasions due to the policy of the United States of America should be treated and how the cases of the victims of such incidents should be studied.

71. The representative of Argentina shared the concerns of the representatives of Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. She also expressed an interest in joining the group.

72. The representative of the ECLAC secretariat said that the findings should be presented in a way that would be easier to quantify.

73. The representative of the Organization of American States (OAS) transmitted a message of support for the development of those types of statistics from the OAS Secretary-General. He said that data were increasingly necessary and that the issue would therefore be raised at the OAS General Assembly and at a ministerial meeting on public security. Nevertheless, he said that in order to have a goal, it was necessary to have reliable data. In the Americas, security was a major problem and OAS needed support from all the institutions that were able to provide information.

74. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the CISALVA Institute at the University del Valle in Cali, Colombia, said that the issue of citizen security was a top priority for IDB and thus a regional public goods project had been adopted on that matter and was being executed by the CISALVA Institute. Launched five years earlier, the project sought to obtain timely and reliable information on citizen security and harmonious coexistence. In order to confirm the project data as the official data of the country, a signature from the ministry of security or the corresponding body was necessary. Several international agencies had collaborated with the Institute in generating official data.

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

75. The Working Group on Agricultural Statistics and the Working Group on Environmental Statistics gave an account of their activities within the framework of the progress report on the different regional programmes and projects.

Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and Working Group on Agricultural Statistics

76. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said that the purpose of the Strategy was to provide a framework for national systems. She referred to the three dimensions: the economic, social and environmental. She said that the Global Strategy had a broader focus than usual as it covered aquaculture and forestry. It was based on three pillars: the establishment of basic data, which the countries would prepare in response to demand; the incorporation of agricultural and rural statistics into the national statistical system; and the creation of a sustainable statistical system through good management and fostering statistical capacity. The regional plan of implementation was still a draft and she asked countries to make observations.

77. The representative of Mexico confirmed that he would be attending the meeting in Trinidad and Tobago; the representative of Argentina explained why she had been unable to attend the workshop convened by the Government of Brazil; and the representative of Belize said that FAO was organizing a workshop for countries of the Caribbean in June. The representative of Brazil urged Argentina to reconsider her position regarding participation in the joint study.

Initiatives for the development of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and Working Group on Environmental Statistics

78. The representative of Mexico presented the report of the Working Group, which had sought to promote the generation of relevant statistics and document experiences and best practices on the development of environmental systems. He said that an electronic platform had been established to facilitate communication among members of the Group and that as part of an IDB project, currently under way, funding was being sought to launch the implementation phase.

79. The representative of Mexico also outlined some ideas which would be used to plan activities.

80. The representative of Guatemala said that he could provide information on an experiment being conducted in his country by the Rafael Landívar University.

The 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme

81. The secretariat presented the International Comparison Programme (ICP), which was going to be closed with the final publication of the results in December 2013.

82. The representative of Brazil said that it was important to conduct comparison exercises with earlier ICPs, proposed by the Executive Board, and the representative of Cuba thanked ECLAC for the support provided and suggested that a report should be prepared on how the programme had proceeded in the countries.

Activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network

83. The representative of Mexico said that the portal of the Network contained information on the activities carried out in each country. Given the shortage of resources, virtual courses could play an important part. The different links provided information on workshops and seminars along with the relevant documents, presentations and videos, classified by topic. Each country could upload its courses to a platform specially designed for that purpose. He referred to the contribution made by the World Bank

to strengthen the activities of the knowledge transfer activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. Since the National Administrative Department of Statistics was going to assume responsibility for the Network, it would have to seek new sources of financing. He also drew attention to the virtual statistical system, an online resource for national statistical offices, and to a project of the World Bank, which was being translated for use by the English-speaking community.

84. The representative of Colombia reiterated that it was an instrument of easy access for sharing experiences and communicating the results of activities. The National Administrative Department of Statistics of his country offered to participate and would agree to assume responsibility for the Network if the Conference considered it appropriate.

85. The representative of Nicaragua congratulated the Network and suggested that it should be used to raise concerns or questions or to launch a virtual dialogue. The representative of Mexico said that a blog was being maintained for such purposes.

Information regarding subregional cooperation activities (agenda item 4)

86. The representative of Ecuador gave a brief description of the Statistical Programme of the Andean Community, geared to the design, generation and dissemination of statistics required for the Andean integration process.

87. A representative of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) presented the report on the group's activities. He mentioned, in particular, the establishment and operation of the MERCOSUR specialized statistical meeting.

88. The representative of Belize said that concerted efforts had been made to include the Caribbean countries in all the activities of the Statistical Conference. On behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), he expressed appreciation to all concerned. He said that ensuring full participation by the CARICOM countries on a long-term basis was crucial and required urgent attention.

Preparations for the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (agenda item 5)

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

89. The secretariat reported to representatives on the issues proposed for discussion at the substantive seminars to be held during the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

90. The representatives of the countries nominated for coordinating the seminars accepted that responsibility. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that the topics had been well chosen. In terms of the issue that Brazil would be coordinating, it was stated that the situation in the countries and role of the national statistical institutes would be discussed. The representative of Guatemala said that Colombia and Brazil should coordinate their efforts as the issues they would be dealing with were complementary.

91. The IDB representative asked the secretariat to include an item on the agenda concerning the development of a methodology for assessing the general statistical capacity of institutes to produce basic statistics. There was no tool of that kind for measuring progress in terms of how it was done; the capacity

was complementary and a public good; the idea was not to make a classification of countries but to evaluate their capacity and identify possible areas for technical improvements and institution-building. The CISALVA representative asked for inclusion of an item for presenting the Regional system of standardized indicators for peaceful coexistence and citizen security (SES project), which could be an opportunity for harmonization and standardization of statistics in that field.

92. The representative of Colombia welcomed the suggestion of the representative of Guatemala but said that it would be necessary to specify the scope of each seminar: Colombia had a micro perspective while Brazil had a macro perspective.

93. The representative of Brazil said that the idea was to identify broad issues for the period beyond 2015, for example, in terms of information on the most pressing social issues and the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions. She suggested coordinating efforts with Colombia to avoid duplication of work.

94. The representative of Nicaragua suggested that a critical path analysis to statistical production should be introduced in the seminar on institution-building in connection with the issue of promoting quality and credibility.

95. The secretariat said that the coordinators were also working group coordinators and hence could draw up their own agendas.

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

96. In preparation for the discussion and adoption of the biennial programme 2014-2015 of the Statistical Conference at the seventh meeting of that body, the Executive Committee considered the main areas of work for the next biennial programme.

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

97. The participants had before them the following draft, which they adopted as the provisional agenda of the seventh meeting of the Conference:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues
3. Report on the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012-2013
4. Presentation of the proposed biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2014-2015
5. Adoption of agreements
6. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2014-2015

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

98. The secretariat proposed that the meeting should be held in Santiago from 6 to 8 November 2013.

Other matters (agenda item 6)

99. No other matters were raised.

Agreements (agenda item 7)

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its twelfth meeting, held in Pucón, Chile, from 24 to 26 April 2013,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, in which the Council approved 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,

Bearing in mind also that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee shall carry out the following functions: draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; 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; and decide on the documentation required for its meetings,

Bearing in mind further resolution 7 (VI) adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its sixth meeting,

Considering the agreements adopted by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its eleventh meeting,

Having reviewed the progress reports of the working groups and other activities contained in the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, 2012-2013,

Having reviewed also the progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations,²

Taking into consideration the agreements reached by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session,

Taking fully into consideration the views expressed and the contributions put forward by the Governments of the member States of the Conference and by the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations represented at the meeting,

² LC/L.3612(CE.12/3).

Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012-2013

Recommendations for improving the operations of the working groups

1. *Thanks* the secretariat for the progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations,³ adopts the recommendations contained therein and pledges to implement them;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, at its earliest opportunity, rules of procedure for the formation and operation of the working groups and other task forces of the Conference, and present them for consideration and adoption by the Conference at its seventh meeting; the rules of procedure should take into account the contents of the progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations, as well as the experience of the international statistical community in this area;

3. *Asks* the secretariat to include in the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015, which will be presented for consideration and adoption by the Conference in November 2013, at its seventh meeting, a proposal for reorganizing the existing working groups, with a view to building on the experience acquired, targeting technical efforts and promoting existing synergies, thereby aligning the objectives and goals with the actual resource potential and capacity to contribute of the member countries and international agencies and enhancing the expected outcomes;

4. *Urges* the coordinating countries of the working groups, in connection with the proposed reorganization, to demonstrate proactive leadership and initiative and to encourage member countries to participate actively in, and contribute to, the tasks assigned to the groups;

5. *Urges also* the member countries of the different working groups to follow up without delay on their commitments and to make available the experts and staff required to meet the goals and produce the outputs to be presented at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission;

6. *Requests* the Commission, the other international agencies that act as technical secretariats and those that assist the working groups in their activities to step up their efforts in relation to technical cooperation and financing with a view to achieving the established goals;

Institution-building

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the preparation of the programme for implementing the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and the arrangements for conducting comprehensive assessments and a workshop on disseminating the Code as part of this programme, and thanks the National Administrative Department of Statistics and the Government of Colombia for the financial support provided through the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation for this purpose;

8. *Recognizes* the significant contribution made by the Statistical Office of the European Communities in the development phase of the Code of Good Practice and urges that institution to continue to provide technical support to member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas during its dissemination and implementation in the region;

³ LC/L.3612(CE.12/3).

Promotion of training of competent human resources

9. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico for the valuable role it played in creating and consolidating the Knowledge Transfer Network and in coordinating the implementation unit of the Council of the Network;

10. *Thanks also* the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia for its offer to take responsibility for coordinating the basic unit of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the period 2014-2015, which is subject to approval by the Conference at its seventh meeting, and requests the Governments of Mexico and Colombia to take the necessary steps to ensure that the transfer of the coordination functions from the former to the latter takes place in a timely fashion and without any disruption to the smooth functioning of the Network;

11. *Reiterates* the need to ensure that all members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas strengthen the Knowledge Transfer Network by contributing resources and by working to boost the stock of specialized information, introduce additional activities for knowledge transfer and expert support, and update the information in the Network's basic tool in order to improve its efficiency;

12. *Thanks* the World Bank for its continued financial support for the implementation of the programme of work of the Knowledge Transfer Network;

13. *Requests* the Commission to draw up, in conjunction with the advisory committee of the Knowledge Transfer Network, a draft programme for strengthening human resources training within the national statistics systems;

Technical capacity-building

Millennium Development Goals

14. *Welcomes* the progress report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, as well as its projected outcomes in the run-up to the seventh meeting of the Conference in relation to the analysis of discrepancies between the data provided by countries and those used by international bodies in monitoring progress towards the Goals, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6, the improvement in the quality of statistical data on the Goals in the countries and the promotion of inter-agency coordination both within countries and between countries and international agencies;

15. *Thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its support and collaboration as the technical secretariat of the Conference in building national statistical capacities for the production of indicators of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, analysing the discrepancies between national and international data, pursuing statistical reconciliation and disseminating topics relating to the Millennium Summit on the Commission's website; and expresses the need for continued financial support to carry out the activities planned for the current biennium; this collaboration has benefited from the implementation of the Development Account project "Strengthening national statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing";

16. *Reiterates* the need for national statistical offices to participate in the production of national and subnational reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in order to ensure that the correct statistical information is used for monitoring advances using international standards and regional and national points of reference;

17. *Requests* the member countries, in view of the proximity of the deadline set for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, to reflect on the agenda for development, in particular on the development agenda beyond 2015, and on the corresponding statistical challenges in the short and medium term for presentation to the Statistical Conference at its seventh meeting;

Gender statistics

18. *Expresses satisfaction* with the Working Group's substantial progress towards meeting its proposed objectives for the biennium 2012-2013;

19. *Reaffirms* the priorities with respect to the production of gender statistics relating to violence against women, time use and the valuation of unpaid work and the preparation of proposed gender-sensitive indicators in the framework of the development agenda beyond 2015;

20. *Commends* the work initiated by Colombia, El Salvador and Guatemala on the economic valuation of unpaid work and the calculation of a satellite account, involving the three corresponding competent authorities, namely, the mechanism for the advancement of women, the national statistical office and the central bank;

21. *Welcomes* the announcement of the United Nations Statistics Division regarding the forthcoming publication of guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women and the work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics in that connection as it is of the utmost importance for national statistical offices to discuss and have clear criteria for data collection on the subject;

22. *Welcomes also* the plan of work 2013-2015 of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), adopted at the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 3 to 5 April 2013, and highlights the particular emphasis of that plan on generating statistics and information on the gender gap and the differentiated impacts of information and communications technologies;

Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers

23. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers, which announces a meeting to compile the poverty measurement methodologies used in the member countries of the group, to be held in Montevideo in May 2013;

24. *Requests* the Working Group to complete the updated map of the status of national experiences relating to the measurement of income poverty for presentation to the Conference at its seventh meeting;

25. *Reiterates*, in line with previous agreements of the Executive Committee, the importance of developing complementary measures based on a multidimensional approach to poverty measurement;

Censuses

26. *Commends* the countries and territories that have already conducted their population and housing census for the 2010 round and encourages them to facilitate access to that census data and promote their use, analysis and dissemination as is fitting; and reiterates that it is important for countries that have not yet conducted their census to consult and, to the extent possible, incorporate into their upcoming census exercise the recommendations emerging from the discussion process and the consensus reached in the framework of the activities of the Conference;

27. *Urges* the countries, with support from the international funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to tackle well in advance the systematization of the lessons learned from the census exercise of the 2010 round, as well as the preparatory methodological tasks of the next census round;

28. *Expresses satisfaction* at the substantial progress made towards fulfilling the goals of the Working Group on Censuses for the 2012-2013 biennium and recommends that the Group participate, in close coordination with the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of the Commission, in the activities on census data analysis to be conducted at the workshop scheduled for October 2013;

29. *Commends* the United Nations Population Fund and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of the Commission on their initiative in holding a new version of the intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications between August and December 2013, and calls on them to arrange other similar courses, subject to availability of resources, and encourages other specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other international cooperation entities to support these activities;

30. *Commends also* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of the Commission on the organization of the forthcoming first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and encourages the Working Group on Censuses to attend and to take part in the discussions and proceedings of the session;

National accounts

31. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on National Accounts and welcomes the advances in the preparation of the advanced course on national accounts, undertaken with support from the countries of the Andean Community;

32. *Requests* the Working Group on National Accounts to pursue the preparation of new modules of the advanced course on national accounts with support from countries and international agencies and to present the outputs to the Conference at its seventh meeting;

33. *Underscores* the importance of continued coordination between the Working Group and the Commission with respect to the annual seminar on national accounts;

International classifications

34. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the implementation of the plan of activities of the Working Group on International Classifications and the projected outputs to be presented at the seventh

meeting of the Statistical Conference and urges the members of the Conference to give these activities their full support;

35. *Underscores* the Working Group's efforts to obtain funding in order to implement the project on the adoption and adaptation of socioeconomic classifiers in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

36. *Welcomes* the initiative taken to develop a virtual training course on classifiers of economic activities by the group of countries involved in the project on a regional statistical framework for directories of businesses and establishments; and recommends this course to its members;

Statistics on information and communications technologies

37. *Expresses satisfaction* at the substantial progress towards the goals of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies for the biennium 2012-2013, in particular its completion of the indicators for eLAC2015; the training activities for an up-to-date module on information and communications technologies in business surveys; the updating, to 2012, of the compendium of practices, with a view to incorporating questions relating to these technologies in household and business surveys; and the launch of activities for the preparation of a module on access to and use of these technologies in the health sector;

38. *Expresses satisfaction also* at the adoption of resolution 672(XXXIV) of the Commission, establishing the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, which is expected to contribute to progress on science, technology and innovation policies and activities in the countries of the region, and affirms its unreserved willingness to support the achievement of the objectives of this Conference through the activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, especially those of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies;

39. *Welcomes* the agreement by the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to receive support from the Working Group in coordinating and preparing the final monitoring plan for eLAC2015;

Environmental statistics

40. *Commends* the Working Group on Environmental Statistics on the regional project it has undertaken on the development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean, with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank and requests the Executive Committee of the project to ensure that the workshop to launch the project is held by the end of June 2013;

41. *Welcomes* the adoption of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics by the United Nations Statistical Commission and urges national statistical offices and Government environmental agencies to adopt these methodological recommendations for the development of their national environmental statistics programmes;

Agricultural statistics

42. *Takes note* of the activities of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics and of the preparation of the draft regional plan of action for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and requests the authorities of the national statistical offices to endorse the goals of the Global Strategy by participating in the activities of the Group;

43. *Underscores* the importance of cooperation between the national institutes of statistics and ministries of agriculture for the success of the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

44. *Urges* the national institutes of statistics and ministries of agriculture in the region to fill out the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistical system in order to obtain an appraisal of the status of statistics in the countries;

45. *Requests* the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Inter-American Statistical Institute, the International Labour Organization and multilateral organizations to support the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics by helping to finance its activities and by providing technical and institutional assistance;

46. *Thanks* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the support and collaboration provided in building national statistical capacities to improve agricultural and rural statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Labour market indicators

47. *Expresses satisfaction* with the substantial progress achieved towards fulfilling the goals of the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators for the biennium 2012-2013, in particular through the preparation and processing of questionnaires addressed to countries on the measurement of employment, unemployment and underemployment, the preparation of a document setting out the regional position concerning the International Labour Organization's proposal on updating definitions, which will be presented in October 2013 at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, and the participation in substantive regional and global seminars and meetings of the above-mentioned Organization;

48. *Urges* the member countries of the Conference and international organizations to provide the necessary support for completing all pending activities, particularly the holding of a face-to-face meeting in 2013 in order to agree on a means of measuring informal employment and decent work and to take steps to harmonize those indicators and incorporate them into national statistics systems;

49. *Recommends* that the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators establish the necessary coordination mechanisms with the Working Group on Household Surveys in order to identify areas of synergy and cooperation;

Household surveys

50. *Takes note* of the progress of the activities of the Working Group on Household Surveys, in particular the meeting on integrated household survey systems and other issues relating to the

implementation of housing surveys, organized jointly by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador, with support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and held in Buenos Aires on 15 and 16 October 2012;

51. *Requests* the Working Group on Household Surveys to complete a status report on the development of integrated household survey systems in the region, for presentation at the seventh meeting of the Conference;

Statistics on childhood and adolescence

52. *Notes with satisfaction* the evaluation of the indicators on children and adolescents of both sexes produced by the various participating countries, with a view to reaching a consensus on which indicators should be adopted to monitor the fulfilment of commitments concerning the rights of the child, and for which an online platform will be set up on the DevInfo website;

53. *Requests* the United Nations Children's Fund, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Working Group, to resume its support functions in order to meet the objectives of the programme of activities 2012-2013;

Information on governance, public security victims of crime and administration of justice

54. *Takes note* of the report presented by the initiative committee appointed to set up a working group on public security and justice statistics, urges it to act upon the recommendations formulated following the deliberations of the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee and requests it to submit the proposal on the establishment of the working group and its draft programme of work, with any relevant adjustments, for consideration and approval by the Conference at its seventh meeting;

55. *Notes* that a meeting of the prospective members of the working group on public security and justice statistics will be held in August 2013;

56. *Urges* countries to endorse the road map for improving crime statistics at the national and international levels, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session;

Promotion of coordination and cooperation between States members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and international agencies

57. *Reiterates* that, in preparing their reports, international agencies should use the official statistics generated by countries;

International Comparison Programme

58. *Takes note* of the progress achieved with regard to the compilation, validation and transfer to the World Bank's International Comparison Programme Global Office of the preliminary data relating to Latin America and the Caribbean and the deadlines set for publication of those data at the regional and global levels;

59. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the broad coverage in terms of the number of countries in the region participating in the Programme compared with the 2005 round and reiterates the importance of providing further technical support to member countries (especially those of the Caribbean) in order to finalize the compilation, validation and transfer of national account data and special survey results;

60. *Thanks* the World Bank and regional and subregional organizations for their financial and technical support and international and regional agencies for their financial support, without which this important global project involving approximately 170 countries and coordinated at the regional level by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the Caribbean Community, would not have been feasible;

Subregional coordination

61. *Expresses its thanks* to the subregional agencies, the Central American Statistical Commission, the Andean Community and the Southern Common Market for the informative and interesting presentations outlining their objectives and activities;

Organization of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

62. *Agrees* to hold the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference in Santiago from 6 to 8 November 2013;

63. *Decides* to propose the following provisional agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues
3. Report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2012-2013
4. Presentation of the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2014-2015
5. Adoption of agreements
6. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2014-2015

64. *Agrees* to hold seminars on the following substantive issues at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas:

- (a) Production of basic economic statistics within the framework of the System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) in Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinated by Peru;

- (b) The development agenda beyond 2015 and challenges for national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinated by Brazil;
- (c) Advances and challenges in mainstreaming the gender perspective into the production of statistics in national statistical systems, coordinated by Mexico;
- (d) Institution-building in relation to national statistical offices and systems in order to enhance the quality and credibility of official statistics, coordinated by Colombia.

65. *Thanks* and congratulates the Government of Chile and the National Institute of Statistics and its staff, in particular the National Director, for the excellent organization of the meeting and the hospitality extended to participants.

Close of the meeting

100. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC thanked the Government and the National Statistical Institute of Chile for their warm welcome. He also thanked the representative of the Dominican Republic, who had acted as Chair of the meeting, and the participants, who ensured continuity in the Commission's work, as well as the officials of the National Statistical Institute and ECLAC. He said that the Commission was motivated by the desire to share views and promote cooperation in tackling new challenges in the different spheres of national statistics and strengthening national statistical systems. He reiterated the Commission's willingness to provide support both in the production of statistics and in analysis and dissemination and said that member countries could continue to rely on its commitment.

Annex

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
Member States of the Commission**

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- Luis Gerónimo Reyes Verde, Gerente General del Instituto Nacional de Estadística (INE), email: luisgrv@gmail.com

**B. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies**

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

- María de la Paz López Barajas, Asesora Técnica en Estadísticas y Políticas de Igualdad de Género, email: paz.lopez@unwomen.org

Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Walter Mendoza, Analista de Programas, email: mendoza@unfpa.org.pe

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito /United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- Salomé Flores Sierra, Coordinador del Centro de Excelencia UNODC-INEGI, email: salome.flores@unodc.org

**C. Organismos especializados
Specialized agencies**

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- David Glejberman, Asesor Estadístico Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Santiago, email: glejberman@oit Chile.cl
- Bolívar Pino, Coordinador de Estadísticas del Sistema de Información y Análisis Laboral de América Latina y el Caribe (SIALC), Panamá, email: pinob@ilo.org

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Verónica Boero, Estadística Regional, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Santiago, email: verónica.boero@fao.org

**D. Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales
Other intergovernmental organizations**

Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI)/Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)

- Carlos Landauer, Director, Departamento de Información y Estadística, Montevideo, email: clandauer@aladi.org

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

- Gilberto Moncada, email: gilbertom@iadb.org

Comisión Centroamericana de Estadística del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (CENTROESTAD)/Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System (CENTROESTAD)

- Fernando Ramírez, Presidente Pro Témpore Comisión Centroamericana de Estadística (CENTROESTAD), email: intdes@racsa.co.cr

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

- Evelio O. Fabbroni, Secretario Técnico, email: fabpan@cwpanama.net

Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)/Organization of American States (OAS)

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F. Secretaría Secretariat

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