

UNITED NATIONS

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN - ECLAC**



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

Panama City, Panama, 11 and 12 December 2002

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is a subsidiary body of ECLAC established pursuant to resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. That resolution assigns it the following objectives: 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 the first meeting of the Conference, held in Santiago, Chile, in May 2001, the representatives of the member States elected the following delegations to serve on the Executive Committee: Chair: Brazil; members: Belize, Canada, Chile, Panama, Peru and Spain. Its mandate extends up to the end of the next regular meeting, scheduled for mid-2003.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee took place at the headquarters of the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 25 and 26 March 2002. In accordance with the agreement reached on that occasion, the second meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in Panama City on 11 and 12 December 2002.

Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the duties of the Executive Committee are as follows: to carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; to draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of activities of regional and international cooperation on statistical matters to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; to follow up the implementation of the agreements reached at the Conference and the tasks entrusted to it by the Conference, particularly the biennial programme of activities; and to decide on the documentation required for its meetings.

B. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Committee will have before it the following provisional agenda for adoption or amendment (LC/L.1793):

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Progress report on the activities of the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003
3. Information system on bilateral and horizontal cooperation activities
4. Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Comparison Programme and cooperation with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)
5. Guidelines for the preparation of the programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003-June 2005
6. Scheduling of the second meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - (a) Place and date
 - (b) Drafting of the provisional agenda
 - (c) Assignment of responsibility for introducing substantive items
7. Other matters
8. Agreements and decisions of the meeting

2. Progress report on the activities of the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003

The secretariat will present a report on the activities carried out under the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003.¹ This report will include a list of the statistical cooperation initiatives in which member countries of the Conference, as well as regional and international organizations, have participated.

Working document

- Progress report on the activities of the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003 (LC/L.1697/Rev.1).

3. Information system on bilateral and horizontal cooperation activities

In accordance with the commitment made at the first meeting of the Executive Committee, the secretariat will report on the bilateral and horizontal cooperation activities carried out during the period under consideration and the measures taken to create a subsite on

¹ The Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003 (LC/L.1474/Rev.1) was approved by resolution 1(I) of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its first meeting (9-11 May 2001, Santiago, Chile).

the web page of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, where information on offers of cooperation and activities in progress could be posted. The information system would make it possible to monitor activities in order to coordinate and strengthen cooperation and target priority issues.

Working document

- Progress report on the activities of the Programme of International Statistical Work for Latin America and the Caribbean, June 2001-June 2003, annex (LC/L.1697/Rev.1).

4. Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Comparison Programme and cooperation with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)

The secretariat will present an oral report on the progress achieved in the past few months in the implementation of the International Comparison Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean. The activities carried out in the framework of cooperation with PARIS21 will also be presented.

5. Guidelines for the preparation of the programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003-June 2005

The Executive Committee will review the guidelines for the programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003-June 2005, which will be presented by the secretariat. It is very important that the new programme of work take due account of regional and international cooperation activities which, subject to the availability of resources, are carried out to meet the demands of the countries of the region, in accordance with the agreement reached when the Statistical Conference of the Americas was established.

Working document

- Guidelines for the programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003-June 2005 (LC/L.1805)

6. Scheduling of the second meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

The Executive Committee will determine the place and date of the second meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. It will also prepare and approve the corresponding draft provisional agenda, in accordance with the modus operandi applied at the first meeting of the Executive Committee in the document "Statistical Conference of the

Americas. Modus operandi", in which a work method is proposed to make the work of the Conference more efficient and to take maximum advantage of the opportunities provided by this forum for in-depth analysis of the substantive issues selected by the countries.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee the following substantive issues were identified:

- (a) Public credibility of national statistical institutes;
- (b) Preparation of directories and use of administrative records as a primary source of information and as a frame of reference for surveys and other statistical research projects;
- (c) Management of data quality in national statistical institutes.

On that occasion, the offers extended by Canada and Spain to provide substantive documents on the topic specified in subparagraph (c) above were gratefully accepted. In subsequent consultations between the secretariat and the countries, similar offers were received from IBGE of Brazil (topic (c)) and the National Institute of Statistics of Bolivia (topic (a)).

Taking into account the inputs mentioned above and those that may subsequently be received, the Executive Committee will assign responsibility for introducing the substantive items at the second meeting of the Statistical Conference.

7. Other matters

This item covers any other issues which delegations may wish to raise.

8. Agreements and decisions of the meeting

The Executive Committee will take decisions on the items mentioned above.