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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME OF
INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN, JULY 2003-JUNE 2005**

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INTRODUCTION

1. Further to the provisions of the resolution establishing the Conference, and to the agreements adopted at its first meeting, the Secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (SCA-ECLAC) hereby informs its Executive Committee and member countries on progress in implementing the programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2003-June 2005. The information submitted to the Conference includes (i) a description of the ongoing multilateral cooperation projects and programmes in the region and (ii) a progress report on the activities carried out by the secretariat in terms of cooperation with member countries and regional and multilateral organizations. The information on projects has been disseminated to members of the Conference through the multilateral projects database (BADEPRO), which is available on the Conference web site. BADEPRO, which was created in 2004, constitutes the main means of disseminating information on multilateral cooperation initiatives in the region. The database includes information on definitions, activities, issues, implementation period and objectives and expected outcomes. Where appropriate, this includes information on the web site of the project and informing institution, plus contact information and e-mail addresses for any questions that may arise.

2. This report supplements the information available in BADEPRO and reviews the follow-up activities undertaken in fulfilment of their commitments by governments, regional and international agencies and the ECLAC secretariat. In this connection, the Conference had requested the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to include in the report on the activities of the programme of work a summary of progress made with regard to the planned activities, in order to monitor the course of the work more closely.

3. The present report covers the period from July 2003 to May 2005. It reflects the structure used in the programme of work and each of its four subprogrammes: (i) Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA); (ii) Improvement of the production and use of statistics on social variables and well-being; (iii) Improvement and expansion of the production of statistics in specific areas; and (iv) Modernization of statistical systems and data dissemination.

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)

Element 1.1: Providing access to technical documentation and support for those responsible for 1993 SNA and for producers of basic statistics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

4. ECLAC distributed the following manuals:

Handbook on households, vol. 1

Handbook on households, Experience in concepts and compilation, vol. 2

Manual on Statistics on International Trade in Services.

Handbook of National Accounting: Use of macro accounts in policy analysis

5. ECLAC has continued to disseminate the Spanish version of the System of National Accounts 1993 through the Internet. In response to the request of technicians and experts, the Commission has also distributed the 1993 SNA on CD-ROM.

6. In addition, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information of Mexico (INEGI) ECLAC has continued to disseminate the Spanish version of *SNA News and Notes*, No. 19 (the date of the English original is October 2004), and the United Nations Statistical Division's information bulletins on environmental statistics and classifications.

7. During the period covered by this report, missions were conducted to Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay and Uruguay to support these countries in implementing and improving their application of 1993 SNA.

Element 1.2: Follow-up of the implementation process and sharing of experience and training in national accounts and basic statistics in relation to 1993 SNA

8. ECLAC, which acts as a focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 and of all its complementary systems (quarterly accounts, regional accounts and satellite accounts), assesses the advances in these spheres. To this end, it continues to prepare an annual progress report on the implementation of 1993 SNA. This report identifies the sections that have been completed and those that are to be completed, as well as the needs for technical cooperation and the training of experts and the efforts to improve basic statistics. Special emphasis has been placed on the tourism satellite account and environmental statistics. The most recent report was published in *SNA News and Notes*, No. 17 to ensure wider dissemination of information on these activities in the region. At the Latin American Seminar on National Accounts (Quito, Ecuador, November 2004), a PowerPoint report was presented on recent progress in implementation in Latin America.

9. ECLAC continues to act as a clearing house for requests for technical assistance and locating experts who are in a position to provide the required collaboration. It also continues to manage technical cooperation activities between countries in the region, by sending technical experts from a requesting country to a country with greater experience of specific subjects within the areas of basic statistics, national accounts, prices and data processing and dissemination. This was the case with El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama.

10. In conjunction with the Central Bank of Uruguay, ECLAC organized a regional seminar in October 2003 in Montevideo, Uruguay, on topics of specific interest to the compilers of national accounts. The participants analysed a series of conceptual and methodological issues related to 1993 SNA. In the light of experiences in Latin America, participants discussed the methodologies for producing national accounts applied in several of the region's countries, whose example could be followed by countries that have not yet fully applied the new system.

11. In conjunction with the Center for Civil Society Studies of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies, ECLAC organized a seminar concerning the handbook on the satellite account for non-profit institutions, in the context of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA). The seminar was held in Buenos Aires on 27 and 28 September 2004 and was attended by 11 countries from the region. The aim was to present the handbook and initiate the relevant coordinated activities within Latin America and Caribbean countries. ECLAC has been carrying out such activities through its national office in Buenos Aires.

12. The meeting of Latin American experts in national accounts was held in Quito, Ecuador, from 8 to 11 November 2004. The agenda of the meeting, which was organized by ECLAC and sponsored by the Central Bank of Ecuador, included the review of the 1993 SNA recommendations and progress reports on the International Comparison Programme (ICP) and the application of the System of National Accounts 1993 in the countries of the region, particularly the recently circulated documents from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Paraguay. One of the main achievements of the meeting was the progress in organizing the working groups on issues identified by participants as having a special conceptual and methodological interest for technicians and experts involved in drawing up national accounts, such as the financial sector (central banks and financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM)), measuring services in constant prices, chain price indices, telecommunications, concessions, pensions, imputed rent and tourism satellite accounts.

13. ECLAC has also continued to move forward with the review of the current mechanisms for dissemination and communication among technicians and experts via Internet technology. The working groups on national accounts, international classifiers and national technicians responsible for ICP activities are up and running, while the tourism statistics and consumer prices groups are still in the process of being set up.

Element 1.3: Improvement, extension and harmonization of the production of basic statistics, prices and macrostatistical schemes

14. As part of the process to harmonize consumer price indices (CPI), the countries of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and Chile, in conjunction with ECLAC, have continued with the scheduled activities for the period 2003-2005, in particular: preparation of results and a methodological document to disseminate the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), analysis of the results obtained and definition of a programme of work for expanding the basket of goods and services.

15. With respect to the harmonization of basic statistics being carried out by the member countries of the Andean Community, ECLAC (as a participant of the working group) monitors harmonization of the CPI of this group of countries. During this period, ECLAC has attended three meetings of government experts organized by the member countries of the Andean Community in Lima, Peru (October 2003); Bogotá, Colombia (May 2004); and Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (November 2004).

16. As focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean regarding the implementation of the International Comparison Programme (ICP), ECLAC held meetings with member countries in 2003 for the joint definition of the basket of consumer goods and services to be used in the survey of prices in the region. During the working meetings held with the countries of MERCOSUR plus Chile (in Buenos Aires) and the Andean Community (in Lima), agreement was reached on a list of food, beverage and tobacco consumables and a work programme for the first half of 2004. As from January 2004, experts from Statistics Canada joined the Regional Coordination Group and, during the first four-month period of 2004, conducted working visits with ECLAC experts to analyse and coordinate with the experts of the countries participating in the programme the availability of the goods and services defined at the December 2003 meetings. In July 2004, participating countries held two subregional meetings with a view to defining the characteristics of the selected articles of the household consumption basket.

17. In September, a regional workshop was held for the Global Office to present the ICP ToolPack, a computer tool for standardizing the various stages: from the definition of forms and directory of establishments, collection of prices and critical review and validation of information, to the eventual

index parity calculation. To facilitate the implementation of the software, each country was given a computer with ToolPack already installed.

18. In October 2004, countries carried out the first price survey for a subset of consumer goods and services defined in July. The results of this process were analysed in December 2004 at the subregional meetings held in Rio de Janeiro with the support of the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE). During the first quarter of 2005, countries carried out price surveys for the entire list of goods and services. The results of this process were analysed at the meetings held in Buenos Aires from 10 to 14 May 2005. Given the advanced stage of the ICP in Latin America, and with a view to extending the experience to other regions, the meeting was attended by representatives from Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

19. At the Latin American seminar on national accounts, held in November 2004 in Quito, Ecuador, experts from countries participating in the ICP committed themselves to reviewing household consumption weightings (both in terms of disaggregation and how they match expenditure surveys in the respective countries). The conclusions were included in reports presented during the first quarter of 2005. From 16 to 18 May 2005, in Buenos Aires, representatives from national accounts offices met to begin reviewing of the methodology to be used to compare the prices of the consumption of general government and gross capital formation, both in terms of weightings in national accounts statistics and implicit prices.

20. In January 2005, the Coordination Group began activities relating to ICP “ring countries” within the region by organizing meetings with price experts from Brazil and Chile. There is a consensus that the tasks related to the price surveys will be carried out in the first quarter of 2006.

21. ECLAC, in conjunction with the World Tourism Organization, organized a number of activities during the period within the framework of the agreement for inter-agency cooperation signed between the two agencies for the execution of joint activities relating to the elaboration of the satellite tourism account and the construction of indicators for measuring tourist activity in Latin America and the Caribbean. These activities were as follows:

- (i) The fifth Latin American Meeting on the Tourism Satellite Account in Cartagena, Colombia, from 1 to 4 July 2003, organized in conjunction with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) and the Institute of Tourism Studies of Spain;
- (ii) A meeting on the tourism satellite account with the member countries of the Puebla-Panama Plan, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 8 to 10 October 2003;
- (iii) The first meeting of the countries of MERCOSUR, together with Bolivia, Chile and Peru, on the tourism satellite account, Brasilia, Brazil, 28-30 April 2004;
- (iv) The sixth Latin American Meeting on the Tourism Satellite Account in Cartagena, Colombia, from 12 to 16 June 2004, organized in conjunction with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), the Spanish Institute of Tourism Studies and the National Institute of Statistics of Spain;
- (v) A meeting for representatives of Central American countries to begin analysis on a regional satellite account project, held in conjunction with the World Tourism Organization and the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration. In parallel, participants also

attended the second Central American workshop on the tourism satellite account (Guatemala, 18-22 October 2004); and

- (vi) The seventh Latin American Meeting on the Tourism Satellite Account in Cartagena, Colombia, from 12 to 16 May 2005, organized in conjunction with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) and the Spanish Institute of Tourism Studies.

22. In this context, ECLAC prepared the document entitled “La implementación de la Cuenta Satélite del Turismo en América Latina y el Caribe: una perspectiva general”, incorporating an economic analysis framework for tourism information relating the figures of the national accounts with those of the balance of payments and with tourism statistics based principally on administrative registers.

23. During November and December 2004, the World Tourism Organization and ECLAC developed a project to set up a tourism satellite account for Central America, Belize and Panama, at the request of the member countries of the Puebla-Panama Plan. The request was formulated by these authorities at the second Central American workshop on the tourism satellite account held in Guatemala in October 2004.

Technical assistance in statistical matters and tourism satellite accounts

24. In 2004, technical assistance was provided to Brazil and Peru as a result of requests from these countries. In the case of Brazil, two workshop-seminars were held on tourism satellite accounts: one in Recife at the end of November 2004 and another in Rio de Janeiro in December 2004. The meetings were attended by representatives from all states of Brazil, the Brazilian Tourism Company (Embratur), the Brazilian Secretariat for Planning and the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE). The two meetings gave rise to regular IBGE involvement in producing statistics and tourism satellite accounts. In Peru, assistance was provided to the Ministry of Tourism in November 2004, in the form of analysis and comments on methodological aspects and results achieved by technicians devising the satellite account.

25. April 2005 marked the beginning of cooperation with the National Tourism Service of Chile (SERNATUR) to provide assistance in setting up a tourism satellite account for 2003. Planned activities involving ECLAC in 2005 included a seminar for senior public and private tourism authorities on using tourism satellite accounts, a workshop for the working group set up to devise the satellite account and general follow-up to the entire process.

Element 1.4: Improvement, extension and harmonization of external sector statistics

26. In September 2003, ECLAC, in conjunction with the United Nations Statistics Division, organized a seminar at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile, on international trade classifications. This seminar focused on the forthcoming revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) and on the Central Product Classification (CPC), due to be revised in 2007. The seminar was also an opportunity for the countries in the region to participate actively in this revision process by expressing their concerns and suggestions and to discuss relevant issues and propose solutions. A web site was set up to include an electronic discussion forum for the experts of the working group.

27. A second seminar of Latin American experts on the revision of international trade classifications was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 14 to 18 March 2005. The seminar was jointly organized with the United Nations Statistics Division, which is leading the revision of international classifications and which uses regional meetings such as these to provide information on progress made to date. The seminar

also gave Latin American experts an opportunity to exchange ideas on requirements in terms of the classifications used for statistical work within the countries of the region.

28. ECLAC, through the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, took part in the Eighth Technical Meeting of Governmental Offices in Charge of Providing Statistic Information on Foreign Trade (RECOMEX) of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), where participants discussed issues related to the collection and systematization of foreign trade information carried out by LAIA in conjunction with national institutions and ECLAC (in accordance with the cooperation agreement signed by both organizations). The meeting, which was held at the headquarters of LAIA on 27 and 28 April 2005, was vital in terms of coordinating actions to enhance its Information System on Foreign Trade (SICOEX).

29. Again through the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, ECLAC continued to participate in the inter-agency working group on statistics of international trade in goods and participated in its annual meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 23 to 25 March 2004. Different issues relating to the international trade in goods were examined including concepts, classifications, methodologies, databases, information exchange through international organizations, reports of other relevant working groups on issues relating to the balance of payments, service statistics and progress made in developing international trade statistics in the different regions.

30. Following the recent publication of the new version of the Harmonized System of Designation and Codification of Goods, ECLAC prepared a document which contains the description of the main changes introduced in the 2002 version, incorporates the new resulting relationships and updates its correlation with other international trade classifications. This document is of special interest for the producers of customs statistics, central banks and statistical institutes and can serve as a guide in their trade work.

Element 1.5: Other international technical cooperation projects

31. ECLAC continued to participate in the execution of project PAN/93/002 “Improving the national accounting system and the compilation of basic statistics” (Panama). Training activities were discussed (for 2003), and the project culminated in the dissemination of the second phase of studies for changing the base year for the national accounts of this country. Activities are being programmed to give continuity to this collaboration project for a new period.

32. The United Nations Statistics Division continued to collaborate with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and countries of the region in providing support to the countries of the Caribbean for the preparation of national accounts (including the tourism satellite account), with reference to tables on supply and the use of goods and services, as well as support in connection with economic classifications. As part of such cooperation, ECLAC, in conjunction with the World Tourism Organization and Statistics Canada, held a seminar on tourism statistics and preparation of the tourism satellite account for the countries of the Caribbean. ECLAC and the World Tourism Organization are currently seeking the necessary funding to give technical support to a group of CARICOM countries in the development of tourism statistics.

Subprogramme 2: Improvement of the production and use of statistics on social variables and well-being

Element 2.1: Improvement of the production of statistics on social variables

2.1.1 Household surveys

MECOVI programme

33. Within the framework of the programme for the improvement of surveys and the measurement of living conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI), being implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank and ECLAC, additional regional discussion and analytical workshops continued to be held with the cooperation of the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru and the National Institute of Statistics and the Census (INDEC) of Argentina.

34. In the period under study, ECLAC, in its capacity as the body responsible for the coordination and management of these activities, organized four new regional workshops. As in previous cases, the focus was on preparing work programmes, participating in the preparation of technical documents (reference material to identify the important points of discussions) and drafting the relevant reports.

- (i) The eleventh workshop in this series was held in Lima, Peru, from 16 to 18 July 2003 with the cooperation of INEI of Peru. The workshop examined methodologies for the design and integration of household survey databases as part of an exchange of experiences on the use of information technology in statistical institutes oriented towards the improvement of the architecture and use of the databases constructed around the survey data.
- (ii) The twelfth workshop, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 3 to 5 November 2003 with the cooperation of INDEC of Argentina, was geared towards evaluating the measurement and description of employment through household surveys. The workshop looked at the status of household surveys in countries and considered how they should be adapted to the changes in the functioning of modern labour markets, bearing in mind the traditional measurement of joblessness as one of the main concerns.
- (iii) The thirteenth MECOVI workshop was held from 7 to 9 July 2004, in Lima, Peru, and addressed recent practices in countries of the region in defining basic baskets for poverty measurement.
- (iv) The fourteenth workshop, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 17 to 19 November 2004 with the cooperation of INDEC of Argentina, was geared towards discussing methodological procedures and the implications of data imputation in household surveys.

35. At the beginning of 2004, ECLAC produced a CD-ROM with all the documentation of the 12 regional MECOVI workshops that had been held by that date, with the region's national statistical offices being given priority in terms of distribution. In 2005, the CD-ROM was reissued to include documentation from all 14 workshops. This material is also available on the MECOVI web site administered by ECLAC.¹

¹ See www.eclac.cl/deype/mecovi.

36. ECLAC produced a new CD-ROM to continue with the tasks of standardizing, systematizing and documenting the databases corresponding to the household surveys conducted by countries of Latin America and the Caribbean; this CD-ROM contains information on the surveys conducted in 11 countries in 2000 and 2001. In addition to the microdata of each survey, the CD contains the reading format, size of the record, description of the fields, dictionary of variables, ranges permitted, format of questionnaire used for collecting information, new variables developed by ECLAC and the corresponding figures published by the countries.

37. Additional regional training courses coordinated by IDB have been organized on the design, implementation and analysis of household surveys. The tenth Regional Course of the MECOVI Programme, "Housing surveys, targeting alternatives and poverty maps" organized jointly with INEI of Peru was conducted in Lima, Peru, from 20 to 31 October 2003 and attended by 30 professionals from 14 countries. Meanwhile, the eleventh regional course devoted to the same issue was held from 19 to 30 April 2004 in Lima, Peru, where the twelfth was also held in October of the same year. In turn, the secretariat has continued to provide technical and financial support to various countries in the region through national projects for the improvement of household surveys. The countries currently receiving this support or which have received it in the past are Argentina, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru.

Other international technical cooperation projects

38. ECLAC, in conjunction with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), held an expert group meeting on nutrition, poverty and human development in Washington, D.C., on 14 and 15 October 2004. The aims of the meeting were to discuss the minimum nutritional requirements for the food baskets used by ECLAC for estimating poverty lines, and to analyse the recommendations on the optimum nutritional requirements for achieving the maximum human development potential.

39. In conjunction with IDB, ECLAC held the second meeting on disability statistics in the Southern Cone at the Commission's headquarters in Santiago, Chile, on 28 and 29 October 2004. Participants at the meeting discussed regional initiatives to measure disability, and Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay shared their experiences.

Direct technical assistance

40. During the period under review, ECLAC carried out 16 technical support missions to five countries in the region: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Honduras. Basically, the technical assistance was geared to improving statistical methods for the preparation of sample designs and the evaluation of survey processes for collecting information in the field. ECLAC promotes the use of information from household surveys and the analysis of information that can be used as a basis for public action in the social sphere.

2.1.2 Population and housing censuses

41. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC conducted a technical seminar in Santiago, Chile, from 10 to 12 December 2003 on the lessons learned from the population censuses of the 2000 round. Attended by 50 specialists in census issues from 16 Latin American countries, the seminar dealt with the following subjects: basic census concepts, census organization and census coverage; census mapping; census training; use of sampling in censuses; introduction of new technologies and information processing; housing, household and family characteristics; social and cultural characteristics; demographic characteristics; population mobility and economic characteristics; and analysis and dissemination of census data. During 2004, various reports were produced on the basis of the results of this seminar (minutes, three reports on the results of a survey of countries, a summary report on the lessons learned from the 2000 round of population censuses and a report on the coverage of population censuses). The final version of these reports became available at the beginning of 2005.

42. During the period under review, CELADE assisted Colombia, Nicaragua and Peru with the preparation of their respective population censuses scheduled for 2005. The assistance was mainly related to census preparation (Colombia and Peru), census form design (Nicaragua and Colombia) and the assessment of pilot tests (Nicaragua). In addition, CELADE took part in activities to evaluate new ways of taking censuses and continued to advise those Caribbean countries that had not finished processing the population censuses corresponding to the 2000 round.

43. The CELADE census data bank was updated with information from the databases of the population censuses of the 2000 round. During 2004, the definitive data from Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Paraguay were added to the census database.

Element 2.2: Use of information from household surveys and other sources

2.2.1 Household surveys

Databank on household surveys

44. ECLAC proceeded with the continuous updating of its household survey data bank (BADEHOG), which is a vital input for conducting studies and constructing economic and social indicators in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Thanks to the most recent updates, microdata and documentation on household surveys are now available up to the year 2002. BADEHOG is available for the use of all ECLAC divisions, national offices and subregional headquarters through the Intranet and provides a module for tabulation of information as well as data for more disaggregated analysis.

Social Panorama of Latin America

45. The *Social Panorama of Latin America 2002-2003* was published in March 2004. The document analyses, among other things, issues relating to several of the Millennium Development Goals, relating to the extent and spread of poverty, hunger and gender inequalities. It contains the most recent estimates of poverty and indigence for the years 2001 and 2002 for 18 countries of Latin America. In addition, it provides the background on the extent and trends in undernourishment and child malnutrition in 24 countries in the region.

46. The 2004 edition of the *Social Panorama* was published in November of that year. In addition to deepening the analysis of poverty and inequality in the region, the document also covers areas such as the employment opportunities of young people in Latin American countries, the main demographic changes in the region and the consequences for public policy, trends in family structures and family and youth policies.

47. The 2005 edition of the *Social Panorama* is already being prepared and should be distributed in the course of the current year. In addition to the traditional issues of poverty and inequality, the document also analyses health and social spending in the region.

Joint studies with countries

48. ECLAC carried out a new study on the magnitude of poverty in Chile in 2003, in response to a request by the Chilean Government in keeping with a pattern that has been developing since 1990. The results of this study were revealed in July 2004. Moreover, the secretariat has provided technical assistance and collaboration to the Government of Brazil in the design and construction of an updated official extreme poverty line, which will serve as a reference for the administration of a set of social programmes that are currently in operation.

Regional training

49. The Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), which is part of ECLAC, organized a course in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, from 3 to 14 May 2004 on the use of socio-economic indicators in the assessment of the impact of projects and programmes for combating poverty. This course was conducted in collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) and the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, with teaching staff that included officials from ILPES, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, other ECLAC units and specialized consultants.

2.2.2 Population and housing censuses

50. During the period under review, CELADE continued to provide assistance to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the use of the REDATAM software (Retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer) for the dissemination and use of census data. As a result of this support, seven countries currently allow the processing of census databases online through the Internet, using the web server of REDATAM. In addition, two countries in the region (Chile and Costa Rica) provided their municipalities with census databases in REDATAM format. In April 2005, technical assistance will be provided to the Dominican Republic on creating and processing census data and Internet dissemination applications.

51. In February 2004, CELADE launched its most recent version of REDATAM, named REDATAM+SP in honour of its principal founder, Serge Poulard, who passed away on 1 December 2003 while on an official technical assistance mission to support the countries of the Caribbean in the processing of their population censuses.

52. Since July 2003, three workshops have been held on the use of REDATAM for the construction of sociodemographic indicators using census data. One of these workshops was held in Ethiopia for the English-speaking countries of Africa. During 2004, four training workshops were held on the use of REDATAM for the processing and analysis of sociodemographic information (in Chile and Ecuador) and three workshops were held on database construction and applications to disseminate census information

using the Internet (in Chile —with participants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia and the Dominican Republic— and in Ecuador and Paraguay).

53. As part of its technical assistance programme, CELADE has advised several countries in the region on the preparation of their population estimates and projections on the basis of the results of the 2000 round of censuses. Since July 2003, advice on national estimates and projections has been provided to the following countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Paraguay. Nicaragua has not conducted a census recently, but the country was interested in revising its estimates in the light of new demographic data from the surveys. Bolivia, Ecuador and Guatemala also received assistance with subnational projections.

54. In 2004, the database on spatial distribution and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean (DEPUALC) was updated with the information currently available for 13 countries (Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay). Population centres that had over 20,000 inhabitants at some point during the period in question (1995-2000) were identified and information was included on total population (urban and rural areas) and population in areas with between 2,000 and 20,000 inhabitants in each major administrative division.

55. CELADE has updated the information for the project “Investigation of International Migration in Latin America” (IMILA), which studies the population covered by the census in a country other than the country of birth. Information on the characteristics of foreign nationals has been processed for the recent censuses of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay.

56. Four Demographic Bulletins were published: No. 72 (July 2003) on population ageing (in Latin America and the Caribbean); No. 73 (January 2004) on population estimates and projections (in Latin America and the Caribbean); No. 74 (July 2004) on life tables (in Latin America); and No. 75 (January 2005) on urbanization and urban population dynamics 1950-2000 (in Latin America).

57. The IMILA and DEPUALC databases were made available on the CELADE web page for all users to consult or download results quickly, easily and free of charge.

58. CELADE has also continued with the activities of the project “Indigenous and Afro-descendent populations as reflected in censuses” with respect to Bolivia, Ecuador and Panama; the information corresponding to the recent censuses of these three countries has already been processed and the preliminary versions of the corresponding sociodemographic studies have been prepared by national consultants of countries with the advice of the principal consultant of the project and other CELADE experts. The studies generated an indigenous atlas for each country concerned. The CD-ROMs of the three indigenous atlases and the sociodemographic studies were presented at the final workshops held in each country in November and December 2004.

59. The seminar on “Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: relevance of sociodemographic information to policies and programmes” was held at ECLAC Headquarters, Santiago, Chile, from 27 to 29 April 2005. The seminar was organized by CELADE and the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, with the sponsorship of the Government of France and the cooperation of the French Centre for Population and Development (CEPED). It was attended by representatives from Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of

Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and the United States.

60. Lastly, in 2003, several activities were carried out relating to the Regional System of Indicators for the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). ECLAC continued with the entry of data in the Regional System and updated indicators for the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) as well as the inclusion of the relevant metadata. The secretariat followed up on the activities carried out by the countries attending the workshops. Work was also begun on a document that consolidates the experience obtained by CELADE and the countries in the development of the Regional System for the follow-up of the International Conference on Population and Development, and which in turn will be an input for the analysis of the follow-up of the goals adopted on that occasion. This Regional System of Indicators was expanded to include those related to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 8–12 April 2002) and those monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

61. After analysing the follow-up activities undertaken by the countries for the effective implementation of systems, the ECLAC Women and Development Unit and CELADE recognized the need to further the study conducted with the countries. They therefore planned a series of meetings to programme a more advanced phase that will boost progress made in some countries in terms of training made possible thanks to this project.

Element 2.3: Participation in working and study groups on issues of regional interest

2.3.1 Rio Group

62. ECLAC has continued to act as technical secretariat for the Expert Group on Poverty Statistics (Rio Group), chaired by the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE). In particular, it supported IBGE in organizing the sixth and seventh Meetings of the Group in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The sixth Meeting, which was held from 12 to 14 November 2003, addressed issues such as the different approaches to poverty measurements, practices in the preparation of absolute and relative poverty lines and strategies for improving information on poverty. It was attended by 10 representatives from eight countries of different regions of the world as well as 10 officials from seven international organizations. At the seventh Meeting of the Rio Group, which was held from 6 to 8 December 2004, participants discussed the content of a compendium of best practices aimed at describing the methods most frequently used for poverty measurement. The first drafts of each chapter were presented and a work schedule adopted for 2005. The methodological inputs for all meetings are available on the IBGE web site.²

63. In recent months, the Rio Group has continued to work on the development of the compendium of best practices in close coordination with the United Nations Statistics Division, which, in cooperation with IBGE and ECLAC, organized a regional discussion meeting in May 2004 to discuss a handbook on poverty measurement.

² See www.ibge.gov.br/poverty/.

Element 2.4: Other international technical cooperation projects

2.4.1 REDESA project

64. As part of the project entitled “A Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics (REDESA), ECLAC held a regional workshop from 18 to 21 November 2003 on the integration of systems of social indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean. The objective of this regional workshop was to hold discussions with experts of the region on conceptual frameworks, thematic contents and indicators used in the systems of social indicators existing in the countries, with a view to advancing towards greater comparability and integration of these elements. The workshop focused specifically on indicators in the areas of population, education, employment and poverty. In addition to presentations on the experience of selected countries, each of these items was the subject of a presentation by the relevant specialized international agency.

65. In order to study in greater depth the material reviewed at the November 2003 meeting, a regional workshop on the use and limitations of social indicators was held at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from 14 to 18 June 2004. The main aim was to continue discussions on a minimum set of social indicators that could be applied to all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to measure and characterize fundamental social problems. The workshop was attended by 20 representatives from the statistical offices of 17 countries within the region, in addition to representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

66. The closing meeting of the social component of the REDESA project (“results and future prospects”) was held at ECLAC, Santiago, Chile, on 9 and 10 June 2005. Participants analysed the project results achieved over the three years and the activities that would continue to be part of the ECLAC Programme of Work. Attempts were made to reach consensus on a minimum set of social indicators, as part of the process towards greater comparability among Latin American and Caribbean countries.

67. In November 2003, ECLAC launched the new REDESA web site,³ which provides methodological documents and a directory of institutions and experts linked to social and environmental statistics and information on regional workshops of experts. In April 2005, the directory included over 400 experts in social issues from 21 countries in the region, and 25 institutions from 15 countries.

68. Also in November 2003, as part of the activities for implementation of the REDESA project, ECLAC launched the online version of Database on Social Statistics and Indicators (BADEINSO) —an integrated statistical information system for harmonization of social statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean that facilitates the dissemination of timely, up-to-date, consistent and comparable information.⁴ The web site gives access to data, estimates and projections on population, education, health, housing, employment, wages, poverty and income distribution, economy and most of the indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals. The information comes from various international organizations and household surveys provided by the statistical systems of the countries in the region. Using this system, it is possible to record research results on an Excel spreadsheet and to access definitions, calculation methodologies, disaggregated data, sources of information and comments on each indicator. Since October 2004, the database has also offered the option of generating graphics online. The English version was launched in June 2005.

³ See www.eclac.cl/redesa.

⁴ See www.eclac.cl/badeinso.

69. Between September 2003 and November 2004, staff members carried out missions in Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, in order to collect information on the production of social statistics in the region. The ECLAC officials explained the objectives of the REDESA project and the content and functioning of the web site, examined the possibility of linking national data banks to REDESA as well as the need for technical assistance and the possibility of organizing horizontal technical assistance through national statistical offices.

2.4.2 Activities in follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals

70. ECLAC has created a web site that deals with the Millennium Development Goals from a regional perspective. The site contains documents and links relating to the Millennium Summit, including the Millennium Declaration, the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and United Nations Summits and Conferences, as well as texts that analyse the Goals from a Latin American perspective. The site also affords access to data on indicators created by ECLAC and other international organizations for monitoring the goals.⁵

71. ECLAC and other bodies within the United Nations system are working on a document to assess the region's prospects of fulfilling each of the eight Millennium Development Goals. The content of the document was discussed at two inter-agency meetings held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile: the first was held on 6 and 7 October 2004 and the second on 27 and 28 January 2005. Both meetings were attended by representatives of the following bodies: United Nations Human Settlements Programme (Habitat), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The document will be published in the second quarter of 2005.

72. Pursuant to the agreement signed in 2002 by ECLAC, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank and UNDP, pilot reports are being prepared on the progress achieved by selected countries in fulfilling the goals. A workshop on national statistical offices and the Millennium Development Goals was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 18 to 20 May 2005. The aim of the workshop was to intensify discussions on the role of national statistical offices in following up the Goals and on how to rise to current challenges and take advantage of the opportunities available.

73. Between 20 and 22 October 2004, a team made up of two officials from the Population Division of ECLAC-Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) and one official from the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC was invited to Quito, Ecuador, by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide support to staff of the Government of Ecuador in preparing its national report on the Millennium Development Goals, with special emphasis on Goal 4 (reduce child mortality), Goal 5 (improve maternal health) and Goal 6 (combat HIV-AIDS, malaria and other diseases).

⁵ See <http://www.eclac.cl/mdg>.

Subprogramme 3: Improvement and expansion of the production of statistics in specific areas

Element 3.1: Environmental statistics

Environmental component of the RESEDA project

74. In the last two years, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division has been developing the Network of Institutions and Experts for the Development of Social and Environmental Statistics (REDESA). The environmental component of the project is being directed by the National Accounts and Foreign Trade Statistics Unit.

Regional technical meetings

75. During the period covered by this report, government experts held three meetings on environmental statistics. The Second Regional Workshop: Towards the development of a basic set of environmental statistics (Santiago, Chile, 26-28 November 2003) was attended by 17 representatives from a total of 14 countries, and its main purpose was to define a minimum set of environmental statistics, which should be available in the division's environmental database (BADEIMA) for use by national experts and ECLAC. Environmental sector institutions and statistical institutes in the region collaborated in the workshop. The Third Regional Workshop: Comparability of environmental statistical methodologies of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 28-30 June 2004) was attended by 28 representatives from 17 countries who discussed the methodological sheets sent in by countries of the region with a view to formulating a concrete proposal of contents and format for the next pilot survey of environmental data from national sources.

76. Over a period of almost two years, the REDESA programme was set up in countries of the region, whose participation has increased progressively. Countries' demand for training and technical assistance in the various spheres of development of environmental statistics has also been increasing steadily and is being handled through REDESA to the extent that resources are available.

77. The fourth Latin American meeting on environmental statistics: presentation of results and outputs of the Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics (REDESA) was held on 5 and 6 May 2005. In addition to presenting the outputs of the environmental component of the RESEDA project, the meeting also provided the opportunity to discuss the challenges of future work in terms of environmental statistics, indicators and accounts in the region.

Training

78. At the request of the Secretariat of the Andean Community and as part of its support programme for the development of environmental statistics, a training course was designed and conducted jointly by a team of four experts from the region. This course was delivered in four countries of the Andean subregion in the first quarter of 2004, and was attended by a number of national experts from sectors that produce, compile and use environmental statistics. A revised version of the course was also delivered to participants from all over Latin America in Buenos Aires in July 2004. These activities provided training to over 160 people. The REDESA team (environmental component) is currently preparing a new version for presentation in Paraguay and Central America during 2005.

Inter-agency cooperation

79. There has been increasing cooperation with the Division of Early Warning Assessment of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, which gave rise to two meetings held convened in Santiago (26 May and 19-20 October 2004).

80. A framework agreement on cooperation in statistical and environmental information between the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and ECLAC was officially signed on 6 May 2005 at the Latin American meeting on environmental statistics. The aim is to develop a joint programme of work on statistics and environmental information. Technical teams are currently drawing up the joint work programme that will define how the two agencies can work together in the region.

81. Similarly close links continued to be forged with the United Nations Statistics Division, including work on the four questionnaires on environmental statistics, which the United Nations Statistics Division sends to countries twice a year. The past year has also seen a progressive rapprochement with the Statistics Division in the area of environmental accounts, with a view to working with the region's countries to develop integrated accounts.

Technical assistance

82. REDESA has continued providing technical assistance to countries in the field of environmental statistics. In November 2004, a mission was carried out in Brazil, at the request of the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), to draw up a work schedule for developing a national environmental statistics system. In April 2005, a technical assistance mission was carried out in the Dominican Republic to assist the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Central Bank and other bodies in drawing up a project profile for environmental accounts for water.

83. Between 28 February and 4 March 2005, meetings were held with INEGI, Centro Geo (geography and geomatics research centre) and the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT).

Environmental accounts

84. In preparation for the regional initiative on environmental-economic accounts, ECLAC participated in the first meeting of the United Nations Committee on Environmental and Economic Accounting (Copenhagen, 20-21 September 2004) and in the meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting (Copenhagen, 22-24 September 2004). The first meeting discussed strategies for advancing in the implementation of the methodological framework of integrated environmental accounts in different countries and the second produced an update of the methodological advances of the Integrated environmental and economic accounting system (SCAEI 2003) and of the sub-working groups on subsoil assets, water and social aspects of integrated accounting.

Element 3.2: Statistics on science, technology and innovation

85. ECLAC collaborated with the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the above-mentioned regional and international organizations on the promotion of the production and dissemination of statistics on science, technology and innovation relating to the processes of technological change taking place in the region and the world. The Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILA), which ECLAC has been promoting in conjunction with the Institute

for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) and the Ibero-American Network of Science and Technology Indicators (RICYT), has made progress in the following areas during the past months:

- (i) Preparation of a comparative study encompassing 12 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), Statistics Canada and the Australian Bureau of Statistics on measurement tools and indicators of information and information and communications technologies (ICTs) in national censuses, household surveys and business surveys. The purpose is to collect and compare the relevant statistics available in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- (ii) Preparation of a standard questionnaire for listing metadata on ICT indicators in national statistical institutes.

86. OSILA has initiated activities for implementing the metadata questionnaire in close coordination with other international bodies, such as OECD and various United Nations agencies. These activities include identifying a set of indicators to be incorporated in household and business surveys at the global level and supporting the creation and strengthening of technical capacity in this area in statistical institutes in Latin America and the Caribbean. ECLAC carried out a regional inventory on indicators of information and communications technologies through a questionnaire sent to all the national statistical institutes in Latin America and the Caribbean. A regional workshop, held on 3 and 4 October 2004, reviewed the results of this exercise and recommended a harmonized list of basic questions for the collection of data from household and business surveys.

87. Within the framework of the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, ECLAC and the United Nations Statistics Division jointly organized a coordination event on statistics relating to the information society. The meeting was held as part of the thirty-fifth session of the Statistical Commission (New York, 2-5 March 2004), which was attended by representatives of 10 United Nations agencies. The United Nations agencies and Regional Commissions supported the ECLAC proposal for identifying a common set of indicators at the international level. The work of OSILA inspired the creation of the partnership on measuring ICT for development, which involves the Regional Commissions of the United Nations (ECLAC, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)); the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat); the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS); the World Bank; and the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force. At the Thematic Meeting on Measuring the Information Society (Geneva, 7-9 February 2005), participants agreed on a common list of ICT core indicators for measuring progress. OSILA began its programme aimed at supporting national statistical offices and capacity building through horizontal technical cooperation between countries of the region. OSILA also began preparations for the Second Thematic Meeting on Measuring the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, scheduled to be held during the second half of 2005.

Element 3.3: Statistics on gender equity

3.1.1 Processes of collection and analysis

Time-use surveys

88. The Women and Development Unit of ECLAC helped to organize a meeting of experts on time-use surveys (Santiago, Chile, 11 and 12 December 2003) to discuss and share experiences in the formulation of time-use surveys in order to generate more accurate statistics on paid work and unpaid domestic work. The participants, who included representatives from Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Spain, Uruguay and organizations within the United Nations system, adopted a series of conceptual, methodological, technical, operational and institutional recommendations. In particular, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division and the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC were requested to organize a regional technical meeting on time-use surveys for producers and users of information, in the same vein as the two technical meetings on gender indicators held in the previous biennium within the framework of the programme of work of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

89. The Women and Development Unit and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division have since been seeking financial support for a technical meeting in preparation for a jointly organized meeting of experts aimed at incorporating a module into household surveys that will enable experts to construct key time-use indicators with a limited number of questions. Although the meeting could not be organized in the present biennium, the funds are expected to be raised in the near future. In the meantime, the report of the meeting of experts on time-use surveys (LC/L.2058) and two special issues of the *Mujer y desarrollo series*⁶ are part of the conceptual and technical inputs which the Women and Development Unit will make available to experts and government representatives.

Violence

90. The Women and Development Unit incorporated the information available on violence against women into the 16 national studies on the follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals and gender equality. One of the problems encountered in implementing the recommendations of the first technical meeting on gender indicators (Bolivia, November 2001) is that countries lack the resources to carry out the specific surveys required.

91. The Unit was also involved in preparing material for the participants of the Expert Group Meeting, “Violence against women: a statistical overview, challenges and gaps in data collection and methodology and approaches for overcoming them”, organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women (Geneva, 11 to 14 April 2005).

Poverty

92. ECLAC presented the document “Entender la pobreza desde la perspectiva de género” at the meeting of experts on poverty and gender (Santiago, Chile, 12 and 13 August 2003). Discussions centred on the progress achieved and on conceptual dilemmas relating to the linkage between poverty and gender, the contributions to poverty measurement from the gender perspective and the challenges that emerge in

⁶ The first has already appeared as “Un acercamiento a las encuestas sobre el uso del tiempo con orientación de género”, (gender-based approach to time-use surveys), *Mujer y desarrollo series*, No. 50 (LC/L.2022-P), and the second is in the process of being published.

the formulation of public policies. The specialists attending the meeting drafted a common assessment outlining the contribution of feminist theory in posing epistemological breaks for reconstructing the concept of poverty. This process, as shown in the debate that took place at the meeting, implies the revision of concepts such as equality, difference, autonomy, agency and a dynamic comprehension of poverty to identify its causes rather than just the symptoms.

93. The Women and Development Unit prepared a specific chapter on poverty and inequality from a gender perspective for the 2002-2003 edition of the *Social Panorama of Latin America*. A special effort was made to produce comparable data based on household surveys between the years 1994 and 2002 in approximately 18 countries. The information produced includes tabulations by level of poverty in terms of household and family, economic independence of women, economics of care, reproductive work and time use, the labour market and the political empowerment of women.

94. In order to give greater visibility to the different problems confronting women in the home (control of the resources earned by the household, consumption patterns and allocation of resources for catering for the needs of the different members of the household), the Women and Development Unit has processed all the disaggregated information available in household surveys without incorporating a new module in the surveys. This information is available on the ECLAC web page on gender statistics.

95. As part of the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (Santiago, Chile, 1-3 June 2005), a side event on incorporating a gender perspective in the measurement of poverty was organized in conjunction with the President of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the event, member countries were informed of some of the more interesting advances made in measurement methodologies and poverty eradication programmes in the region.

3.3.2 Activities for training and strengthening of analytical capacities in the countries

96. The second Technical Meeting on Statistics and Gender Indicators in Poverty Measurement (La Paz, Bolivia, 23-25 September 2003), organized in conjunction with the National Institute of Statistics of Bolivia with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Government of Italy, examined the outline of the conceptual framework for incorporating a gender perspective in the methodologies of poverty measurement used in the region and discussed the document prepared by ECLAC with a view to providing countries with the necessary tools for analysing the linkage between poverty and gender and understanding how each of these phenomena influence and determine the other. Following the discussions, participants adopted a set of recommendations in support of this process directed at the national institutes of statistics, national machineries for the advancement of women and international cooperation agencies.

97. Nicaraguan civil servants (both men and women) attended the module on poverty measurement of the Postgraduate course in statistics and gender indicators designed and organized for them by the Nicaraguan Women's Institute (INIM), the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), the Central American University (UCA) and the United Nations System (Managua, Nicaragua, 25-27 November 2003).

98. Following the Inter-agency coordination meeting on gender statistics (Santiago, Chile, 7-10 October 2002), organized with the participation of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),

International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLASCO), ECLAC liaised with these organizations to produce a technical assistance guide for the production and use of gender indicators as a response to the need to harmonize technical advice methodologies used by the different bodies that carry out such activities. The most recent version was published in the first half of 2005 and is targeted at United Nations specialized agencies that provide technical assistance to governments in collecting, processing, analysing, disseminating and applying gender indicators on the issues of education, health, population, labour and economics, political participation and violence against women.

3.3.3 Project “Making gender indicators available for policy-making”

99. The activities carried out in 2004 by the Women and Development Unit under the project “Use of gender indicators in public policy-making” were aimed mainly at supplementing the production of gender indicators available for the use of countries of the region. Household surveys from 1994 and 2002 were processed for about 18 countries in the region, in order to update the information available and supplement the historical perspective for the benefit of users. All of this information is being published as part of a book on the situation of women and men in the region.

100. The Unit processed the information produced as part of the project “Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States”, implemented by the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, with a view to creating a set of indicators and a gender statistics database for the countries of the Caribbean that would be compatible with the regional database available at ECLAC for Latin America. This made it possible to construct a base line with data from 1990 for 14 Caribbean countries and to begin processing data from 2000 for five countries. During the next biennium, this information is expected to be supplemented with data from the 2000 round of censuses as they become available within the various countries of the subregion. In mid-2005, this preliminary version of the database was incorporated into the ECLAC web page devoted to gender statistics with country profiles and comparative data at the regional level.

101. The information entered in 2001-2002 in the Regional System of Indicators for the Follow-up of the Platform of Action of Beijing was revised and supplemented with the data updated in 2002 through the implementation of the R+G4xPlan of the REDATAM programme (retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer), which was made available to users through the Internet in May 2005. That same month, ECLAC went online with the Regional Systems of Indicators for the Follow-up of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and Plan of Action of the Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 2002), drawn up by CELADE. In addition, a preliminary investigation for the formulation of gender indicators for the follow-up of the twelfth strategic area of the Beijing Platform on the girl child.

102. The web page devoted to gender statistics is updated periodically with information from the project. Currently, users have access to 22 profiles of countries in the region on the basis of a minimum set of indicators as well as a series of comparative socio-economic indicators on the following issues: population, fertility, household and family; education; labour and income; poverty, health and political empowerment. In 2003, a historic line was constructed on the basis of the household surveys available in the region for the year 1994. This information was completed up to the period 1980-1990 for some strategic indicators relating to fertility, education, employment and poverty and, up to 1970, for unwanted

fertility. In 2004, profiles of Latin American countries were updated and the regional information available online was updated up to the year 2002 on the basis of data from the 2002 household surveys. In addition, a system of figures was incorporated in the “Regional Indicators” section to facilitate the analysis of the information. Also, the methodological notes on the construction of indicators are being completed so that they may be made available to users. These notes are part of the technical material presented in the technical assistance guide for the production and use of gender indicators that was published by the Unit in the first half of 2005.

103. The information produced for the project also served to prepare additional indicators for the follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals. A pilot study was prepared with financial support from UNIFEM on “Millennium Development Goals and gender equality. The case of Peru”. The challenge was to use national data to propose and document a list of gender indicators to supplement those established by the Millennium Declaration. To this end, information was processed on poverty, education, labour and income, unpaid housework, economic independence, participation in decision-making in the home, participation in legislative power, maternal and infant mortality, and sexual and reproductive health. In view of the success of the pilot study, UNIFEM decided to extend the project to other Andean countries and start other studies in Central America and Argentina, while the Government of Mexico decided to conduct its own national study and the Government of Italy financed comparable studies in Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Panama and Paraguay. The resulting documents are being revised prior to publication, while the new studies agreed with UNIFEM were started in 2004. A comparative compendium of the 16 studies carried out in Latin America is expected to be published in the second half of 2005.

104. The latest census statistics available for Bolivia (2001), Brazil (2000), Ecuador (2001), Guatemala (2002) and Panama (2000) were processed with a view to carrying out a gender study, especially in areas where the sample coverage of the household surveys is insufficient and in others where the information collected in the census proves especially important for describing the population according to racial and ethnic background. The tabulation plan included the thematic areas of population, fertility, activity and education and the data produced are being analysed. For the purposes of identifying the population according to ethnic group, questions on the respondent’s sense of belonging or self-identification are preferred to questions about mother tongue in cases where countries use both types of questions. The information is currently available on the web page on gender statistics.⁷

Subprogramme 4: Modernization of statistical systems and data dissemination

Element 4.1: Advocacy of the strategic role of statistics and their use for the formulation and follow-up of economic and social development policies

105. ECLAC collaborated with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) on the preparation of a video for promoting the role of statistics in the process of economic and social development in the countries of the region. The video will consist of interviews with users and producers of statistics and will encompass various economic, social and institutional issues.

4.1.1 The role of statistics in regional integration

106. ECLAC supported the agreement signed on 7 June 2003 by the directors of statistical institutes and offices of Central America to promote the creation of a regional harmonized statistical system. In this

⁷ See http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles_en/default.htm.

framework, ECLAC supported the activities of the PARIS21 partnership in Central America and, at the request of the member countries, organized a workshop on the harmonization of agricultural statistics in the region in December 2003, which was attended by representatives of the ministries of agriculture, national statistical institutes and central banks. Other activities linked to the issue of harmonization of statistics from a perspective of regional integration were reported on in Element 1.3 of this report (see Subprogramme 1).

107. ECLAC co-sponsored a workshop organized by PARIS21 (Panama, 20 and 22 April 2004) at the request of the Provisional Secretariat of the Central American Statistical Committee to support the preparation of national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS) and define the programme of action of the countries for the development of statistics in Central America. The meeting was sponsored by several multilateral agencies and was attended by representatives of countries of the Andean Community. A follow-up meeting was organized in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 28 and 29 October 2004, to review the advances and mobilize financial resources for the preparation of national plans and the regional programme.

108. As part of the regional project of the Network for Macroeconomic Dialogue (REDIMA), ECLAC organized a workshop on macroeconomic coordination modelling in the Andean Community. This workshop was held on 22 October 2003 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile. It was the second in a series of meetings on the modelling of macroeconomic coordination in Latin America. ECLAC is continuing to cooperate in activities of modelling and economic projections within the framework of a programme of work incorporating modelling activities using time series models or general equilibrium models.

109. The European Union confirmed its interest in continuing to support REDIMA work in the region, particularly in terms of statistical harmonization and modelling. In this context, the Central American Monetary Council expressed an interest in contributing to the harmonization of customer price indices in the region's countries and to the comparison of household purchasing power parities.

110. The Economic Projections Centre in the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC organized the third REDIMA workshop on modelling macroeconomic coordination (Santiago, Chile, 31 May and 1 June 2004) as part of the activities of the Network for Macroeconomic Dialogue (REDIMA). The aim was to strengthen the work programme in order to improve the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to prepare and monitor development policies by modelling alternative scenarios. The first part presented the results of modelling, especially *Mac Sim*, which attempts to capture the phenomenon of shock transmission between economies belonging to an integration agreement and to define the field of action of the macroeconomic policy for decision-making at the regional level.

111. The second part of the meeting presented a set of studies on applications of computable general equilibrium (CGE) models relating mainly to the liberalization of intraregional trade and the impact on the economic structure of nations that belong to common markets or which are parties to bilateral agreements. These tools, constructed on CGE models, are useful for evaluating structural and social implications in alternative scenarios. In the seminar, methodological issues were discussed and applications were presented for certain countries in the region, especially member States of the Andean Community and MERCOSUR.

112. As part of these activities, ECLAC launched a modelling project in various countries of Central America and the Caribbean in December 2004. These initiatives are supported by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York and the Central American Monetary Council.

4.1.2 Development of new advanced indicators for follow-up and analysis of current economic and social trends

113. ECLAC and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) jointly organized the third and fourth workshops on the development and application of business opinion surveys.

114. The third workshop on business opinion surveys was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, on 1 and 2 December 2003. It was attended by representatives from institutions in nine countries of the region (Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru). The workshop was the third in a series of meetings on business opinion surveys held within the framework of cooperation activities between OECD and ECLAC, and was geared towards evaluating the Latin American situation and discussing numerous technical aspects of the surveys being carried out in the region. On this occasion, the purpose of the meeting —based on the agreements reached at the workshop on business opinion surveys in December 2002— was to define a strategy for harmonizing opinion surveys, deepen the analysis of methods and procedures for handling the results of surveys and the construction of composite indicators for the follow-up of the economic situation and assessment of their prospects and to study the possibility of defining a regional cooperation programme.

115. The fourth workshop on business opinion surveys was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, on 20 and 21 March 2005. It was attended by representatives from 11 countries in the region: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru. The purpose of the meeting —based on the agreements reached at the workshop on business opinion surveys in December 2003— was to:

- (i) Assess progress towards harmonizing business opinion surveys in Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Mexico.
- (ii) Identify problems faced by countries in implementing surveys in order to establish their needs in terms of technical assistance.
- (iii) Draw up a work schedule for regional efforts to produce harmonized surveys in the interests of country comparisons.

116. As part of the workshop agenda, OECD representatives delivered a technical course on the software used for cyclical analysis and composite indicators. The data used were from business opinion surveys conducted in Brazil and Colombia.

Element 4.2: Building and strengthening management capacity of the statistic-producing agencies

117. ECLAC oversaw the translation into Spanish of the Handbook of Statistical Organization, Third Edition: The Operation and Organization of Statistical Agency. The Spanish version was then disseminated on the web site of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division. The English original was published as document number ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/88 in 2003 by the Statistical Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Handbook is designed mainly for chief statisticians and those responsible for oversight of the official statistics function. The areas included are general principles of a statistical body and a system of statistics; data collection and respondent policies; user needs; principles and examples of organization and management; and dissemination guidelines.

118. ECLAC participated in the initiative launched by a group of statistical organizations of member countries (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Spain and United States) to create a consortium of institutes geared to improving the technical and academic level of official statisticians through coordinated and concurrent actions, first, by offering and using each country's installed capacity and, second, by seeking technical and economic support for the normal development of training activities. For this purpose, a brief questionnaire was distributed to each of the member countries of the Conference in order to (i) obtain information on the capacities of each of the countries for implementing training plans; (ii) identify statistical areas that are considered priorities for training; and (iii) make a list of national and international organizations that are involved in training in the field of official statistics.

Element 4.3: Expansion, improvement and harmonization of information systems and use of the Internet for the dissemination of information and data

119. The activities relating to the development of databases and web portals on specialized topics were reported in the relevant sections of the programme of work. In addition, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC redesigned its web page to include an online statistical database portal (BADESTAT). The portal gives Internet users access to data and indicators covering economic, social and international trade issues compiled in the course of activities described in this report.

120. In the case of the Regional Short-term Indicators Database (BADECOY), the Statistics and Economic Projections Division initiated the development of a new system of data management with the aim of integrating this type of information with that of the other ECLAC economic data banks. In 2004, efforts were concentrated on the design of the database management system, technical specifications and substantive aspects and the organization of available information (structure, metadata and data capture). A prototype database was successfully tested in November 2004 and, at the beginning of 2005, was adapted for dissemination of BADECOY by Internet.

121. In May 2005, the environmental indicators database (BADEIMA) was also made available online. The database is the result of a pilot survey of environmental statistics based on a list prepared jointly by REDESA, the countries and experts. Following analysis and validation, the national data received by countries in this initial phase were complemented by information compiled and disseminated by international agencies. BADEIMA also includes other applications, such as a database of methodological documents.