

UNITED NATIONS

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



Distr.
LIMITED
LC/L.2385
8 November 2005
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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

Mexico City, 14 and 15 November 2005

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, which assigned the Conference 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.

The participants in the first three meetings of the Conference confirmed the need for a regional intergovernmental forum to coordinate the regional programme of work, and attested to the member States' interest in taking an active part in the design and implementation of the programme. The growing participation of multilateral organizations also demonstrates the importance of this meeting as a mechanism for the exchange of information and the coordination of programmes of work.

In its resolution 2000/7, the United Nations Economic and Social Council provided that the Executive Committee should have the following duties: 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.

At the third meeting of the Conference, held in Santiago, Chile, in June 2003, the representatives of the member States elected the following countries to serve on the Executive Committee of the Conference: Mexico (Chairperson); Colombia, Chile, Honduras, Jamaica Spain and the United States (members). The Committee's mandate will expire at the end of the next regular meeting of the Conference, to be held in mid-2007.

In its resolution (3)III (June 2005), the Conference tasked the Executive Committee with drafting a new version of the strategic plan 2005-2015, taking into account the priorities and guidelines provided by delegations during the third meeting of the Conference. In resolution (4)III, the Conference also requested that the Executive Committee identify and promote the synergies between the programme of regional statistical work defined by the Statistical Conference and the activities of regional and international agencies, with special reference to ECLAC activities in statistical development matters. Lastly, the Conference adopted the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007, including the input provided by the participating delegations. These contributions are included in the final report of the meeting.

In accordance with this mandate, the Executive Committee will use its fifth meeting to analyse the terms of reference of the working groups —made up of member countries and multilateral agencies— that will implement the regional programme of work in coordination with the statistical development activities of the ECLAC system. The Committee will also define mechanisms for the coordination and strengthening of intraregional and international cooperation in statistics. Also with a view to achieving the

aims of the strategic plan 2005-2015, the Executive Committee intends to use to analyse the relevant mechanisms and promote representation by the region's countries in intergovernmental forums.

In the light of the strategic objectives and priorities established by the Conference, the meeting will evaluate those substantive issues of particular interest for the development of official statistics in the region, and which will be presented at the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to be held in 2007.

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Committee will have before it the following provisional agenda (LC/L.2376) for its adoption or modification:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Review of the draft strategic plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC with a view to its finalization
3. Definition of the terms of reference of the working groups established by the Statistical Conference of the Americas
4. Review and implementation of the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007:
 - (a) Activities of the working groups for the period 2005-2007
 - (b) Coordination with the statistical activities of ECLAC
 - (c) Coordination with subregional statistical activities
 - (d) Follow-up modalities
5. Mobilization of the resources necessary for the implementation of the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007
 - (a) Project relating to regional public goods
 - (b) Other initiatives
6. The regional perspective of the international statistical agenda
 - (a) Preparations for the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (2006)
 - (b) Selection of the substantive issues for the fourth Statistical Conference of the Americas (2007)
7. Agreements and decisions
8. Other matters

2. Review of the draft strategic plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC with a view to its finalization

In accordance with the commitment undertaken at the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee will present the strategic plan 2005-2015 that was presented and discussed at the third meeting of the Conference, and the new draft plan as amended by the Chairperson.

At the request of the Chairperson of the Committee, the secretariat will present an oral report on the main features of the draft strategic plan.

Working documents

- Strategic plan 2005-2015 (CEA.2005/3)
- Revised draft strategic plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, 2005-2015 (LC/L.2388)

3. Definition of the terms of reference of the working groups established by the Statistical Conference of the Americas

The working groups set up at the third meeting of the Conference have an important commitment to fulfil as part of the activities that need to be carried out to achieve the objectives outlined by the Conference in the strategic plan 2005-2015. These activities include designing and implementing the projects and programmes that make up the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007; mobilizing the resources needed for their implementation; and ensuring coordination with activities carried out by multilateral agencies in the region.

These working groups were established in accordance with the Conference's wish that its work and recommendations should be implemented by the respective countries, thereby strengthening the role of ECLAC as secretariat of the Conference and the Executive Committee's role as coordination body for international initiatives.

The Chairperson will present draft terms of reference for the working groups, particularly in connection with how they are organized and guidelines for reviewing the programme of work.

4. Review and implementation of the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007

Once the strategic objectives have been reviewed and the working groups' terms of reference defined, the Executive Committee will turn its attention to the operational aspects of the programme of regional statistical work, July 2005-June 2007, approved at the third meeting of the Conference.

According to document LC/L.2294(CEA.2005/4), the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007, consists of the following four subprogrammes:

- Subprogramme 1: Institution-building
- Subprogramme 2: Human resources and training
- Subprogramme 3: Development of statistical capacity
- Subprogramme 4: International coordination and regional harmonization

Participants at the third meeting of the Conference also decided to set up six working groups for the 2005-2007 period, each to be coordinated by a member country:

- National accounts: Brazil
- Censuses: Chile
- Training: Argentina and Spain
- Millennium indicators: Peru
- Information and communication technologies: Dominican Republic
- Institution-building: Mexico

As undertaken at the third meeting of the Conference, the secretariat will present a report identifying those activities included in the draft programme of work of the ECLAC system (2006-2007) that are consistent with the aims of the Conference. This will be supplemented by activities identified by the Chairperson and the respective working groups, which will combine to form the final revision of the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007.

The Executive Committee will make a decision on the revised draft programme of regional statistical work.

(a) Activities of the working groups for the period 2005-2007

The Chairperson will present an oral report on the progress made by working groups. Multilateral agencies will also have the opportunity to offer their participation and support in this context.

(b) Coordination with the statistical activities of ECLAC

The activities aimed at achieving the targets of the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007, will be carried out with the support of ECLAC in particular. The secretariat will give countries an oral report on participation and contributions to the respective working groups set up for 2005-2007.

Background document

- Programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007: consolidated presentation (DDR/2)
- Implementation and monitoring of the programme of regional statistical work, July 2005-June 2007: responsibilities of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, and tentative terms of reference of the working groups (DDR/3)

(c) Coordination with subregional statistical activities

Emphasizing the importance of regional harmonization and integration efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Conference considers it necessary to make the participants in the Conference aware of the initiatives agreed at the various subregional levels in order to avoid the duplication of effort and to support these initiatives and ensure their consistency with the regional goals established in the strategic plan for 2005-2015.

Member countries representing their geographical areas will provide the Executive Committee with oral reports on the priorities of statistical development in their respective subregions and the main ongoing projects linked to the aims and activities of the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007.

(d) Follow-up modalities

The Chairperson has stressed that proper implementation of the programme of work requires constant communication and coordination between members of the Executive Committee, working group representatives and the secretariat. Within the Executive Committee, responsibility will be assigned for following up activities carried out under the various subprogrammes and providing the Conference with progress reports on their implementation.

The Committee will also define practical ways of streamlining communication and discussion within the Committee and between working groups, such as an Internet forum.

5. Mobilization of the resources necessary for the implementation of the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007

(a) Project relating to regional public goods

As discussed during the third meeting of the Conference, the success of the working groups largely depends on their capacity to mobilize the technical and financial resources needed to carry out their activities. In accordance with the proposal from the Inter-American Development Bank, the Committee will review projects put forward for funding as part of the regional public goods programme.

(b) Other initiatives

The Committee will also review other initiatives aimed at using international and horizontal cooperation to mobilize resources in support of the aims and activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

6. The regional perspective of the international statistical agenda

(a) Preparations for the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (2006)

In the light of wishes expressed by country representatives at the third regular meeting of the Conference, the Committee considers that the Conference should be a significant forum for discussion of the substantive topics that are of concern to the statistical community in the region.

At the request of the Chairperson, the secretariat will present the Executive Committee with a report on the items to be discussed at the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, due to be held in March 2006.

Bearing in mind regional characteristics and priorities, the Committee will examine issues on the international agenda as defined on this occasion by the Statistical Commission and will analyse ways to develop its participation in such discussions.

(b) Selection of the substantive issues for the fourth Statistical Conference of the Americas (2007)

In line with the modus operandi used at the first meeting of the Executive Committee, which was aimed at making the work of the Conference more efficient and taking full advantage of the opportunities offered by that forum for in-depth analysis of the substantive items chosen by the countries, the Executive Committee will discuss issues of potential interest and decide which ones should be considered at the fourth meeting of the Conference, to be held in 2007.

At the request of the Chairperson, the secretariat will present an oral report on the substantive items analysed by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

- Substantive topics considered at the Conference of European Statisticians (DDR/1)
- Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission (DDR/5)

7. Agreements and decisions

The Executive Committee will take decisions as appropriate and will determine the place and date of the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

8. Other matters

Under this item, the delegations will consider any other issues they may wish to raise.