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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL
STATISTICAL WORK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN,
JULY 2005-JUNE 2007**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with the provisions of the resolution establishing the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (SCA-ECLAC) and the agreements adopted at its first meeting, the secretariat of the Conference submits this report to its Executive Committee and to member countries on progress made in the activities of the programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2005-June 2007. At its fifth meeting, the Executive Committee examined and discussed a revised version of the programme of regional statistical work 2005-2007 and ECLAC activities: a consolidated presentation (DDR/2), prepared by the secretariat, taking into account the commitment entered into at the third meeting of the Conference. It combined two documents presented at that meeting: one on the programme of regional statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.2294(CEA.2005/4)) and the other on the programme of statistical work of the ECLAC system (LC/L.2316(CEA/2005/6)).

2. The secretariat presents for information and discussion a progress report on the activities of the programme of regional statistical work of ECLAC, which covers activities during the period from July 2005 to July 2006, resulting from joint actions by Governments, national statistical offices, other members of national statistical systems, regional and international bodies and ECLAC. The Executive Committee will also have before it the report on the activities of the working groups established on the occasion of the third meeting of the Conference (LC/L.2595).

3. The present report is in two parts. The first highlights the main advances and achievements in regional cooperation activities which are organized or coordinated directly by any part of the statistical system of ECLAC. They are presented in an order reflecting the four major objectives contained in the strategic plan 2005-2015: institution-building, human resources, development of statistical capacities, and strengthening of international cooperation. The second part presents a consolidated summary of all the activities conducted by ECLAC: technical assistance and advisory services, holding of expert meetings, training activities, publications, and updating and development of databases. This is not an exhaustive list; there are a number of ECLAC statistical activities which are not mentioned in this document, relating to agreements between ECLAC and various Governments, the United Nations system and other international bodies.

**II. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME
OF REGIONAL STATISTICAL WORK FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN, JULY 2005-JULY 2007**

Strategic objective 1: To strengthen the strategic and operational management practices and organization of the national statistical offices and national statistical systems in order to ensure the quality of their outputs and the satisfaction of users

4. This objective includes guidelines for action for institution-building in national statistical offices and systems, including legal and budgetary frameworks, strategic planning and operational management systems, the promotion of official statistics as a public good, and relations with users.

5. *The role of ECLAC as the secretariat of the Conference.* ECLAC's main institutional activity in this area is its role as the secretariat of the Conference. ECLAC provided substantive and institutional assistance for the preparation and holding of the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference, which took place in Mexico City from 14 to 15 November 2005. During the period covered by this report, ECLAC supported the Chairperson of the Executive Committee in the follow-up to the agreements and decisions reached at that meeting. In accordance with the guidelines of the Strategic Plan relating to the promotion of a regional vision in international forums, the member countries of the Conference which attended the thirty-seventh session of the United Nations Statistical Commission met in New York on 6 March 2006 at the invitation of the Chairperson, to consider matters of mutual interest. The secretariat began preparations for the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee, including the production of substantive documentation and of reports on the progress of activities and the results of the work programme defined by the Conference.

6. Following up the third meeting of the Conference, the secretariat expanded and developed substantive discussions relating to opportunities and challenges facing national statistical systems in seeking to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The study published in December 2005¹ is based on an analysis of information from the region's national statistical offices and of national and international statistical documentation, and concludes with a set of recommendations focusing on the planning and coordination of national statistical systems, increasing the availability of sources, and improvements in access, in the use of statistics for policy design, and in international capacity for follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals. The secretariat is preparing an updated English-language summary of that document.

7. Lastly, the secretariat continued its coordinating role with multilateral agencies and technical cooperation with member States and statistical bodies in the region. These activities include participation in international technical forums, some of which are organized jointly with ECLAC (such as the meeting of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (Santiago, Chile, 2-5 April 2006) and the preparation of reports for experts in the region on the results and progress achieved in statistical development and international cooperation, and collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on statistics and tourism satellite accounts.

¹ José Luis Cervera, "El seguimiento de los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio: oportunidades y retos para los Sistemas Nacionales de Estadística", *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series, N° 39 (LC/L.2458-P/E), Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), December 2005. United Nations publication, sales No. S.05.II.G-204.

Strategic objective 2: To promote the training of staff in producing statistical information, managing national statistical systems and carrying out research into statistical methodology

8. This strategic objective includes lines of action to identify and document institutional needs and the work skills required for producing statistical information and for strategic management, and to promote cooperation and coordination in human-resources training in the region and research efforts on statistical innovations which are important for the region.

Population censuses and demography

9. *Courses and workshops.* In the area of training in demographic analysis, a workshop on census evaluation and population projections was held for technical staff from the national statistical offices of Barbados and Belize, and two technical reports were produced, containing estimates and projections for those States. Collaboration was also provided for the holding of a national course in demographic analysis in the Dominican Republic and for a Regional Demographic Analysis Workshop for the member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Following up the course in the Dominican Republic, a proposal is to be prepared for a workshop on population projections.

10. *Training in the use of the REDATAM software and creation of census databases.* As of the first half of 2006, three basic workshops on REDATAM had been held in Argentina, Chile and Nicaragua, and a workshop was held on the creation of census databases and the use of applications for the dissemination on the internet of data for the countries of the Caribbean. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC has provided technical advisory services for the creation of census databases and the use of the xPlan application in countries both within and outside the region, including Gabon, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, and has received interns from two countries (Gabon and Kenya) and advisers from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Support Team in Harare, Zimbabwe. REDATAM was also presented in Africa through a workshop organized jointly with UNFPA and its Country Support Team, with participants from 14 countries.

Household surveys

11. *Workshops and courses.* The Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), which is part of ECLAC, organized the fourth and fifth international courses on the use of socioeconomic indicators for impact assessment of poverty alleviation programmes. The fourth course was held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 4 to 15 July 2005, and the fifth in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, from 15 to 26 May 2006. These activities benefited from the collaboration of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI), the University of Alcalá, Spain, and instructors who included ECLAC staff members and specialized consultants.

Environmental statistics

12. In the framework of the project "Strengthening the capacity of the Latin American and Caribbean countries to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals," and jointly with Universidad Rafael Landívar (Guatemala), ECLAC has organized a course on statistical bases for the development of indicators for Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, to be held in Guatemala City from 5 to 8 September 2006.

Strategic objective 3: To promote the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to generate high-quality statistical information in the region

13. This strategic objective aims to promote cooperation and sharing of experiences on best practices and methodological documents to enable national statistical offices and systems to deal appropriately with the main challenges of the next stage, which is the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the development of sociodemographic and gender statistics needed for follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation in all the countries of the region of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA), and the methodology review scheduled for 2008. At the same time, this strategic goal aims to develop capacities to ensure that countries, taking account of the specific conditions in each one, have access to statistics and indicators on their natural resources and environment and on science and technology.

National accounts

14. *Workshops, seminars and meetings.* ECLAC has constantly worked to build technical capacities in areas such as national accounts and external-sector statistics in the countries of the region, and to this end, it has organized international workshops, seminars and meetings, the subject matter of which relates to international classifications, recommendations on data collection procedures and processing methods, promoting standardization and consolidation of results region-wide.

15. *Economic statistics.* The use of new methodological tools and compliance with international recommendations requires constant efforts to update and develop technical and methodological capacities in the field of economic statistics. In that perspective, and in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Division, ECLAC organized the Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services (Panama City, 13-16 September 2005), with some 20 participants representing Latin American countries. As for the area of external-sector statistics, ECLAC hosted the meeting of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (Santiago, Chile, 2-5 April 2006). Responding to a request from the Central Bank of Nicaragua, ECLAC organized an internship for its officials on methods of calculation for external trade indices (Santiago, 13-15 April 2006); it also held a capacity-building workshop on the use of specialized trade databases (Santiago, 16-17 March 2006) for officials who negotiate trade agreements on behalf of a number of Latin American countries.

16. *Implementation of SNA 1993.* One area of particular interest has been support for the implementation of SNA 1993 in the countries of the region, and the holding of yearly meetings and seminars at which technical staff working in that field can find a useful opportunity to discuss methodological issues relating to the modernization of their systems of national accounts. ECLAC has organized yearly seminars in the Dominican Republic (2002), Uruguay (2003) and Ecuador (2004), and the annual Latin American Seminar on National Accounts, from 24 to 28 October 2005 in Caracas; participants included about 40 experts from all the States of Latin America and some Caribbean countries. The outcomes of these yearly meetings contribute to progress in harmonizing the methods and results of national accounts in the countries of the region.

17. *Tourism satellite accounts.* ECLAC signed an agreement with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) the basic objective of which is to provide methodological support for countries in setting up and strengthening their systems of tourism statistics and creating their tourism satellite accounts. ECLAC played an active part in the World Conference on the Tourism Satellite Account, held in Foz de Iguazú from 3 to 6 October 2005, where it organized a workshop on links between tourism and the environment in the framework of systems of statistical synthesis. ECLAC also took part in the meeting of the

Statistical Committee of UNWTO (Madrid, 27 and 28 March 2006) and, together with UNWTO, the Tourism Studies Institute (IET) of Spain and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), contributed to the organization of the eighth Ibero-American meeting on the measurement and analysis of tourism (Cartagena, Colombia, 16-19 May 2006). The participants in these meetings included technical experts from institutions responsible for creating and strengthening statistical systems and tourism satellite accounts in the countries of the region (national tourism offices, national statistical institutes and central banks). The assessments made by the participants demonstrate the notable progress that the countries of the region have made in statistical work in the area of tourism, and the ever-increasing number of experimental exercises in tourism satellite accounts in the Latin American countries, making it possible to standardize and consolidate statistical outputs at the regional level.

Population and housing censuses

18. *Technical assistance for census preparations:* CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC provided advisory services to Colombia, Nicaragua and Peru in preparation for their population censuses conducted in 2005, and to El Salvador in the preparation of its census schedule. It also took part in census evaluation in Nicaragua, beginning with the department of Managua, and completing the process in the second half of 2006 with a full census evaluation. CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC continued to advise five Caribbean countries which have not yet finished processing their 2000-round population censuses. It also took part in a meeting held by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics of Mexico (INEGI), and one organized in May 2006 in Rio de Janeiro by the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), on alternative methods for demographic censuses; and the meeting held in July 2006 in Buenos Aires on the 2010 round of censuses, in the framework of the Statistical Conference.

19. *Technical assistance for the processing, use and dissemination of census data.* CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC continued to advise the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on the use of the system for retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM) for the dissemination and use of census data. As a result, the census databases of 11 countries (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago) can be processed on line using the REDATAM server. Furthermore, the databases for several countries are available via intranet and can be processed internally using REDATAM. In addition to population census databases, a national vital-statistics database for Chile was produced (2004).

20. *Technical assistance for assessments and estimates of demographic data.* As part of the technical assistance it provides to countries in the assessment and projection of demographic data, CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC has advised the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay and Peru on the preparation of their population estimates and projections based on data from the 2000 round of censuses. Guatemala received advice on projections relating to urban and rural areas and the economically active population.

21. *Studies on indigenous population groups.* CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC has continued its activities on the project "Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: relevance of sociodemographic information to policies and programmes", The censuses of Bolivia, Ecuador and Panama were used along with REDATAM and census data from the 2000 round to produce and analyse sociodemographic indicators for indigenous population groups in the three countries. The corresponding sociodemographic studies prepared by the countries' own consultants, with advice

from CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC, have been published. The studies led to the publication of three indigenous population maps, one for each country, the final versions of which are also available.

22. *Technical advice on standardizing the acquisition of data on ethnic groups.* Technical advice was provided on acquisition of data on ethnic groups for Peru's national statistical system, and research proposals have been presented. On the basis of data from the 2000 round of censuses, a system of sociodemographic indicators for indigenous peoples is being developed for 11 countries: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay.

23. *International seminar entitled "Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: relevance of sociodemographic information to policies and programmes."* This seminar was held from 27 to 29 April 2005 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile. It was organized by CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, and sponsored by the Government of France and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), with the cooperation of the French Centre for Population and Development (CEPED). The following countries were represented at the seminar: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and the United States of America. The papers presented were published as a book.²

24. *Research on ageing and migration.* In the Dominican Republic and Uruguay, in the second half of 2005 and early 2006, profiles relating to ageing and the situation of older persons and ageing were prepared using data from censuses (1990 and 2000 rounds) and household surveys from the countries concerned. Those inputs were included in the country reports on those two countries in the framework of the project entitled "Follow-up to the agreements reached at the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing: Towards a Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Santiago 2003." The purpose of the project is to develop strategies to support the design of policies for the application at the country level, in the Dominican Republic and Uruguay, of the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. A comparative study of internal migration in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico in the past two decades, at the level of major administrative divisions, is due to be completed by late 2006. This study is intended to assist development policies at different geographical levels through the standardization of available census data and to offer a methodological alternative for the identification of the sociodemographic impacts of internal migration.

Social statistics

25. *Technical assistance in social statistics.* Since the second half of 2005, ECLAC has conducted a number of technical assistance activities in the production and analysis of social statistics, relating to sample design, data acquisition in the field and the use and analysis of household survey data to follow up government action in the social sphere. In particular, technical assistance has been provided to the following bodies: the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Bolivia, for consistency analysis of the Survey of Living Conditions (24-29 July 2005); the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala, in the analysis of data from the National Employment and Income Survey and the generation of labour-

² Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *"Indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean: relevance of sociodemographic information to policies and programmes," Documentos de proyectos*, No. 72 (LC/W.72) Santiago, Chile, May 2006.

market indicators (21-26 August 2005); the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, for the analysis of data from the Labour Force Survey (23 October-5 November 2005); the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Costa Rica, in the statistical and economic analysis of the 2004 Household Income and Spending Survey (13-17 March 2006); the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala, in the statistical design of the Continuous Employment Survey 2007 and the supervision of the Survey of Living Conditions 2006 (20-24 March 2006); the National Statistical Office and the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, for the conceptual and statistical design of the Household Income and Spending Survey 2006-2007 (2-21 July 2006); and the Social Cabinet attached to the office of the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic, in the analysis of the Single Beneficiary Identification System, designed for the selection of the beneficiaries of social programmes.

26. *Workshop on household satellite accounts.* On 5 and 6 June 2006, jointly with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), ECLAC conducted an "International Workshop on Household Satellite Accounts: Gender and Health. Measuring Women's Unpaid Work Contribution to Health and Economic Development" at its headquarters in Santiago. The purpose of the workshop was to present and discuss conceptual and methodological progress and empirical results in measuring the contribution of household members' unpaid work to national economic activity and to the development of countries' human and social capital. Emphasis was placed on presenting and discussing progress and results in the development of health satellite accounts for households and of time use surveys, particularly stressing the significance of unpaid health care in households.

27. *Capacity-building for monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals.* ECLAC is conducting a project entitled "Strengthening the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals." The project activities include the formulation of a proposal for adapting the Millennium Development Goals to the region's particular characteristics, by including complementary indicators to improve the monitoring and analysis of the Goals. There are currently proposals in the areas of education, gender and the environment, which have been discussed at a number of expert meetings. The project also includes a comparison of statistics from country reports and those used for monitoring at the international level, as a basic ingredient for progress towards improved harmonization of data between countries and international bodies. On 5 and 6 December 2005, in Santiago, ECLAC organized the first meeting of experts on Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals ("Ensure environmental sustainability"). A proposal was discussed at that meeting, and was subsequently revised and discussed again at the second meeting of experts, held on 8-10 August 2006, also in Santiago. On 12 and 13 June 2006, a meeting of specialists took place in Santiago, also organized by ECLAC, on the gender perspective in the MDG Indicators. In the area of education indicators, ECLAC organized a meeting of experts entitled "Towards a broadening of the framework of analysis on education in the context of follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals", on 3 and 4 August 2006, in Santiago, to discuss a proposal for complementary indicators relating to Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals.

28. *Measurement of the Millennium Development Goals in urban areas in Latin America.* ECLAC has conducted a new study relating to the measurement of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in urban areas in Latin America, in the framework of an agreement with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme. The resulting document presents a set of indicators calculated on the basis of microdata from population and housing censuses and household surveys which are comparable at the regional level, for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals in 36 urban areas in nine Latin American countries.

29. *Latin American Compendium of Social Indicators.* In the framework of the project entitled “Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics” (REDESA), a proposal was prepared for a Latin American compendium of social indicators, based on agreements reached at a number of United Nations summits and conferences, and presenting a set of 105 internationally comparable indicators for the monitoring and follow-up of social development in Latin America. In the second half of 2005, the execution of that project was completed with the holding of the closing meeting of the social component of the REDESA project (“results and future prospects”), in Santiago, Chile, on 21 and 22 July 2005. The participants discussed the aforementioned proposal for a minimum set of social indicators, and reviewed the current status of statistics on non-traditional social topics. Participants included national experts from statistical bodies in the Bahamas, Belize, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

30. *Review of the method used for poverty measurement.* ECLAC is implementing a project to review the method used for poverty measurement in the countries of Latin America. The project involves a number of activities such as methodological and empirical research and the construction of new poverty lines, the development of working groups with active participation by the countries of the region, the holding of technical seminars and regional workshops on subjects relating to the measurement of well-being, the holding of a regional training course on the new methodological proposal, and the generation of databases from the new figures on poverty and indigence. The project is currently at the research stage, and the first results are expected in mid-2007.

31. *System of indicators to monitor and assess the degree of social cohesion.* In the framework of the EUROsociAL Programme of the European Commission’s EuropeAid cooperation office, ECLAC is developing a set of indicators to monitor and assess the degree of social cohesion in the countries of Latin America. This project is expected to produce an operational definition of social cohesion which will be relevant to the region, and a set of matching indicators, with their respective technical specifications, and a database containing information on the Latin American countries.

Gender statistics

32. *Gender analysis in population censuses by racial or ethnic group.* ECLAC processed data from the latest censuses available from Bolivia (2001), Brazil (2000), Ecuador (2001), Guatemala (2002) and Panama (2000) in order to conduct a gender analysis, especially in areas where the sample coverage in household surveys is poor and others where census data are especially important in categorizing the population by racial and ethnic background. The tabulation plan included the thematic areas of population, fertility, area of activity and education and the data produced are now being analysed. The information is available on the ECLAC web page on gender statistics (http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles_en/default.htm).

33. *Technical assistance on gender statistics in the Caribbean.* With financial support from UNFPA, and in the framework of the project entitled “Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States”, ECLAC headquarters provided technical assistance to ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, Port of Spain, for the creation of a set of gender indicators for the countries of the subregion, seeking to maximize their compatibility with indicators already existing in the countries of Latin America. It also evaluated a strategy to strengthen the production of gender statistics in the countries of the subregion; this included the organization of workshops with experts from Caribbean countries, and the

formulation of other indicators specific to gender issues. This effort led to the construction of a baseline for the Caribbean countries, integrating data from 1990 for 14 countries, and subsequently processing data from 2000 for five countries, to be complemented in 2006 by data from the 2000 round of censuses, in the framework of a new project financed by the Caribbean regional offices of UNFPA and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). This initial version of the Caribbean database is available on the ECLAC web page on gender statistics (http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles_en/default.htm).

34. *Time use surveys and health satellite accounts.* ECLAC organized an expert meeting on time use surveys, their design and application (Santiago, Chile, 21-23 November 2005), during which international experts discussed and shared their experience of the design and formulation of time use surveys, with a view to generating statistics on both paid work and unpaid domestic work, while at the same time promoting the inclusion of a time use module in existing household surveys in the countries of the region, to facilitate the calculation of key indicators on the allocation of women's and men's time. On that occasion, the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC presented a document on incorporating a time-use module in household surveys: restrictions and potentialities.

35. *Millennium Development Goals indicators from a gender perspective.* ECLAC is currently conducting a project on the follow-up to Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals. A proposal has been prepared for complementary indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, and a cross-cutting gender perspective has been included for other objectives contained in the Millennium Declaration. The aim is to promote and facilitate the integration of the proposed indicators and to design strategies with the producers and users of information, to adapt the Millennium Development Goals to conditions existing in the various countries, while maintaining comparability at the regional level. The project includes the following: a meeting of experts, training activities, technical assistance missions, preparation of documents, and production of a final report on the standardization, monitoring and dissemination of results, in collaboration with various bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to facilitating policy discussions based on appropriate information.

36. *Workshop for experts on the Millennium Development Goals and gender equity.* ECLAC organized a meeting of specialists on the gender perspective and the Millennium Indicators (Santiago, Chile, 12 and 13 June 2006), held in the framework of the project entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve the Millennium Development Goals." For that meeting, the Women and Development Unit prepared a document on the Millennium Development Goals and gender equity, describing a series of complementary indicators designed to monitor and evaluate the situation in the region in relation to gender equity, in addition to the official indicators provided for in Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals, "promote gender equality and empower women." (See <http://www.cepal.cl/mujer/default.asp>.)

Environmental statistics

37. *Technical assistance in environmental statistics.* ECLAC has provided assistance on environmental statistics to the following bodies: since March 2006, to the National Environment Commission of Chile (CONAMA) and the Chilean Ministry of Health, in the development of their environmental indicators relating to solid waste; in May 2006, to the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, in the development of national indicators for water resources; in June and August 2006, it trained staff in various organizations in Brazil on progress and methodology in statistics and environmental indicators in the region; and in September 2006, it provided technical assistance to a number of bodies in Guatemala on environmental information systems, statistics and indicators, in the framework of the project "Cuenta con Ambiente."

Strategic goal 4: Promote coordination and cooperation between the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and international agencies

38. The lines of action required to achieve this strategic goal are geared to promoting regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral cooperation as a very effective tool for achieving the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and, in particular, for supporting a regional programme to harmonize statistical information in key areas.

International Comparison Programme

39. *Data collection, harmonization and consolidation activities.* ECLAC has taken on responsibility for activities relating to the collection, harmonization and consolidation of data on national accounts, the external sector and some other sectors. These activities have included the joint coordination, with Statistics Canada, of work on domestic prices for the International Comparison Programme, which in the 2005 round covered 10 South American countries (Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay). The first results on household consumption were presented in Rio de Janeiro on 28 June 2006.

40. *Expert workshops.* Frequent meetings of price and national accounts experts were held in order to evaluate the results of each quarterly measurement of prices and weighting harmonization, taking into account the comparability and representativeness of the products included in the basket of goods and services defined at the beginning of the International Comparison Programme. In the second half of 2005 and the first half of 2006, regional meetings were held in Montevideo (8-16 August 2005), Buenos Aires (14-19 November 2005) and Santiago, Chile (3-12 April 2006). The meetings were usually attended by two experts (one on national accounts and one on prices) from each of the countries involved and also experts from the project's coordinating organizations in South America. As a result of these activities, purchasing power parity exchange rates will be available, as well as a vast quantity of data that will be used to prepare studies of exchange-rate policy, productivity and international competitiveness as well as poverty studies.

41. *Technical meeting for harmonization of the consumer price index (CPI) and parity calculation.* In order to extend the geographical coverage of the programme and prepare the Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua), plus the Dominican Republic and Panama, a technical meeting was organized jointly with the Central American Monetary Council on harmonization of the consumer price index and calculation of purchasing power parities in Central America. At this meeting, held in San José, Costa Rica, from 13 to 17 March 2006, a programme of work to achieve the project's goals was drafted, in cooperation with experts on prices and national accounts.

Cooperation on demography

42. *Updating of the database on spatial distribution and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean (DEPUALC).* *Demographic Bulletin* No. 75 of January 2005 contained updated data from the DEPUALC database, using the information available up to 2004 for 13 countries (Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay). It also included information at the major administrative division level on the number of inhabitants in populated areas and identified all those population centres with more than 20,000 inhabitants at any given moment of time during the period studied (1950-2000). It also included information on the total, urban and rural population and the group of localities with between 2,000 and 20,000 inhabitants in each major administrative division.

43. *Updating of information for the programme on Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA)*. The information for this programme was updated. It is used to study the population enumerated outside the country of birth, and information is currently available on the foreigners included in the most recent censuses of Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay. The IMILA databases may be consulted online and downloaded free of charge from the web page of CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC. Information on the dissemination of IMILA programme data was also published in *Demographic Observatory* No. 1.

44. *Updating of population estimates and projections*. ECLAC has updated the estimates and projections for the urban and rural population using information available from the new population censuses published in *Demographic Bulletin* No. 76 of July 2005 and available in the population estimates and projections database on the website of CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC. In the second half of 2006 the database of estimates and projections for the economically active population will be updated and published in: *Latin America and the Caribbean: Demographic Observatory* No. 2 of October 2006 and the corresponding database on the website will be updated.

45. *Updating of the Database on Internal Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIALC)*. In the reference period work continued on updating this database, which is currently published on the web page of CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC and may be downloaded rapidly and free of charge by any user (http://www.eclac.cl/migracion/migracion_interna/). It includes standardized tabulations with the processing results, the REDATAM programmes employed and copies of published official matrices (initial back-up for the new calculations). It also contains useful results on aspects of migration flows and migrants, many of which have never been previously obtained or disseminated.

46. *Updating of census databases in the countries of the region*. The census databank was updated with the databases of the 2000 round of population censuses. During the period studied, definitive data from Barbados, Belize, Chile, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Santa Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay was added to the census data bank. An online regional indicator databank has also been created.

47. *Technological development in REDATAM*. In 2005 a new version of REDATAM was developed with better management and display facilities. It included an update of specific applications developed to strengthen the analysis of data from censuses and other sources such as indirect mortality estimates; indirect fertility estimates; and concentration measurement indices (Gini). The Beta R⁺ Linux version was also developed and presented at a specialized workshop that was held in the second half of 2005. A French-language version of the REDATAM programme has also been made available to users.

Preparation of economic projections for Latin America and the Caribbean

48. *Economic Projections*. ECLAC is carrying out extensive work for the preparation of economic projections and analysis and modelling on issues of interest to the region. These activities strengthen the technical capacity of statistical users both within the national statistical offices and in other institutions. ECLAC has continued to publish economic projections in the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 editions of the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* and the 2004 and 2005 editions of the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean*. The Economic Projections Centre provided external-sector projections for *Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy, 2005. Trends 2006*. Work continued on methodological issues and was disseminated in the following publications: *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series No. 31, *Metodología de proyecciones económicas para América*

Latina y el Caribe, Centro de Proyecciones Económicas, 2005. Projections for 2006-2007 were published in *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series No. 42, Latin America and the Caribbean: Projections 2006-2007, Economic Projections Centre, July 2006. Lastly, a new digital platform was developed for online presentation of ECLAC projections in the *Atlas del crecimiento 2006* available at <http://www.eclac.cl/>.

49. *Modelling*. Progress has been made in this area with the analysis of the statistics available and in studies on the effects of free trade agreements in the region. A working meeting was held on modelling, input-output matrices and fiscal harmonization at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, on 29 and 30 August 2005. The results were included in the following publications: *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series No. 37, *Tópicos sobre el Modelo de insumo-producto: teoría y aplicaciones*, December 2005 and *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series No. 38, *Elementos teóricos del ajuste estacional de series económicas utilizando X-12-ARIMA y TRAMO-SEATS*, December 2005. Steel demand in Latin America was modelled in a joint programme of the Latin American Iron and Steel Institute (ILAFA) and the ECLAC Statistics and Economic Projections Division. The document *Estimación del índice de producción industrial ponderado por consumo de acero, SWIP*, Economic Projections Centre, July 2006, provides an estimate of the real steel consumption of the six main producers in Latin America: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Peru, and on the basis of that data, for the region as a whole.

50. *Business surveys*. ECLAC, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the European Commission jointly organized the seminar on business surveys which took place on 8 and 9 May 2006, at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile. The meeting was attended by delegates from 10 countries in the region. This was the fifth seminar on business accounts in the context of cooperation between ECLAC and OECD, and the first with the participation of the European Commission. The objectives of the meeting were: to evaluate progress in the harmonization of business surveys in the region and to formulate a plan of work for the construction and dissemination of regional composite indicators on the basis of data from harmonized business surveys in the manufacturing sector. With regard to the construction of regional indicators, the countries agreed that ECLAC would be responsible for the substantive work. This work will include both the selection of a specific methodology and the construction of a regional composite indicator. For this purpose, the countries agreed to send ECLAC the historical series of reports on surveys of the manufacturing sector.

Cooperation on gender statistics

51. *Use of gender indicators for public policymaking*. The activities carried out by ECLAC through the project "Use of gender indicators in public policymaking" include maintaining a web page on dissemination of gender statistics (<http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles/default.htm>). At present, users have access to 22 profiles of countries in the region, based on a minimum set of indicators, as well as a series of socioeconomic indicators that are comparable at the regional level and refer to the following topics: population, fertility, household and family, education, work and income, poverty; health, violence and political participation. A group of comparative indicators at the regional level, based on a historical timeline that included the years 1994, 1999 and 2002, were updated to include 2004.

52. *System of indicators for follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo*. ECLAC, with financial support from UNFPA, developed the regional system of indicators for follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action, using the R+G4xPlan application of the REDATAM programme. This was made available to Internet users at the end of June 2005, together with regional systems of indicators for follow-up to the programmes of action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and

the Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 2002), prepared by the CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC. Methodological notes on construction of the indicators were also included.

Social statistics

53. *Updating of the Social Indicators and Statistics Database (BADEINSO) and Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG)*. The Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC has continued to update BADEINSO, which is available free of charge from the ECLAC website. This database contains data for 29 series of indicators in the areas of education, health, employment, remuneration, economics and the Millennium Development Goals, for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Meanwhile, work has continued with BADEHOG, a fundamental input for preparing studies and constructing economic and social indicators for Latin American and Caribbean countries. BADEHOG is available for use by all ECLAC divisions, national offices and subregional headquarters through the ECLAC Intranet, and offers both an information tabulation module and data for a more disaggregated analysis.

54. *Harmonization of social statistics*. Some of the projects mentioned in relation to strategic goal 3 are intended to support harmonization in the production of social statistics at the regional level. They include the proposal for a Latin American social statistics compendium, based on the agreements reached at various United Nations summits and conferences and prepared in the context of the project entitled "Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics" (REDESA). Moreover, the project "Strengthening the capacity of Latin America and the Caribbean countries to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals" includes the formulation of a proposal to adapt the Goals to the characteristics of the region by including complementary indicators that would improve the follow-up and analysis of the Goals, and that could be calculated on the basis of information produced by the countries. In addition, the ECLAC project to review the poverty measurement method in Latin American countries is intended to generate a new, income-based measurement standard that can be applied at the regional level, in order to move towards a higher degree of comparability of poverty statistics. Last, in the context of the EUROsociAL programme launched by the European Commission Cooperation Office, ECLAC is developing a standardized system of indicators to monitor and assess the level of social cohesion in the countries of Latin America.

55. *Compendium of best practices for poverty measurement*. In the context of the work of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics (Rio Group), ECLAC and the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE) produced the Compendium of Best Practices in Poverty Measurement, which was presented at the eighth meeting of the Rio Group, held in Rio de Janeiro on 24 and 25 August 2006. This document reviews existing poverty measurement methods at the global level and discusses their main advantages and disadvantages, as well as contextual factors to be taken into account in their implementation.

56. *Social Panorama of Latin America 2005*. The English version of the *Social Panorama of Latin America 2005* was launched at the beginning of 2006. It covers various topics of interest to the countries of the region. In particular, it analyses recent poverty trends, the increase in remittances from abroad and their impact on the well-being of the population. It also considers trends in social spending and their impact on income distribution. There is also an exploration of the question of whether the demographic transition that has been taking place in the Latin American countries over the past 15 years has helped to narrow the long-standing gaps in mortality and birth rates between socioeconomic groups and regions. Attention is also drawn to the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Caribbean countries, together with a summary of the main changes in the health sector, and the policies and programmes being used to cope with them.

III. CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

Technical assistance and advisory services

- Technical assistance for consistency analysis of the Survey of Living Conditions (Bolivia, 24-29 2005).
- Technical assistance with the analysis of data from the National Employment and Income Survey and the generation of labour-market indicators (Guatemala, 21-26 August 2005).
- Technical assistance in projection and national accounts techniques (British Virgin Islands, 19-23 September 2005).
- Technical assistance in the analysis of information from the National Labour Force Survey (Dominican Republic, 23 October-5 November 2005).
- Technical assistance for analysis of methodology to calculate social services as a proportion of GDP in Cuba (Havana, 7-9 November 2005).
- Technical assistance for the development of environmental indicators relating to solid waste (Chile, from March 2006).
- Technical assistance for statistical and economic analysis of the 2004 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey (Costa Rica, 13-17 March 2006).
- Technical assistance for the statistical design of the 2007 Current Employment Survey and monitoring of the 2006 National Living Standards Survey (Guatemala, 20-24 March 2006).
- Technical assistance for the development of national indicators for water resources (Dominican Republic, May 2006).
- Training on new developments and methodologies for environmental statistics and indicators in the region (Brazil, June and August 2006).
- Technical assistance in the conceptual and statistical design of the 2006-2007 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey, and in the analysis of the Single Beneficiary Identification System (Dominican Republic, 2-21 July 2006).
- Technical assistance on systems of environmental information, statistics and environmental indicators (Guatemala, September 2006).
- Technical assistance to the Government of the British Virgin Islands for analysis and collection of economic and social data, including projections and modelling.

Expert meetings

- Regional workshop: closing meeting of the social component of the REDESA project entitled “results and future prospects” (Santiago, Chile, 21-22 July 2005).
- Regional meeting of the International Comparison Programme (Montevideo, 8-16 August 2005).
- Working meeting on modelling, input-output matrices and fiscal harmonization (Santiago, 29-30 August 2005).
- World conference on the tourism satellite account (Iguazú, 3-6 October 2005).
- Annual seminar on national accounts of the Latin American countries (Caracas, 24-28 October 2005).
- Regional meeting of the International Comparison Programme (Buenos Aires 14-19 November 2005).
- Regional meeting on the design and implementation of time-use surveys (Santiago, Chile, 21-23 November 2005).

- First meeting of experts on the environmental module relating to Millennium Development Goal 7 “Ensure environmental sustainability” (Santiago, Chile, 5-6 December 2005).
- Meeting on harmonization of CPI and PDA calculation in Central America (San José, Costa Rica, 13-17 March 2006).
- Working meeting on growth, productivity and ICT, ECLAC/IVIE/OECD (16 March 2006).
- Seventh Meeting of the Committee on Statistics and Macroeconomic Analysis of Tourism of the World Tourism Organization (Madrid, Spain, 27 and 28 March 2006).
- Regional meetings of the International Comparison Programme (Santiago, Chile 3-12 April 2006).
- Seminar on business surveys in Latin America (ECLAC/OECD/EU, 8-9 May 2006).
- Seventh Ibero-American meeting on the measurement and analysis of tourism (Cartagena, Colombia, 16-19 May 2006).
- International Workshop on Household Satellite Accounts: Gender and Health. Measuring Women’s Unpaid Work Contribution to Health and Economic Development (Santiago, Chile, 5-6 June 2006).
- Expert meeting on the gender perspective in the Millennium Indicators (Santiago, Chile, 12-13 June 2006).
- Expert meeting on expansion of the analytical framework for education in the context of follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (Santiago, Chile, 3-4 August 2006).
- Second meeting of experts on the environmental module relating to Millennium Development Goal 7 “Ensure environmental sustainability” (Santiago, Chile, 8-10 August 2006).

Training activities

- Specialized REDATAM workshop on the Beta R+ version, held in the second half of 2005.
- Fourth international course on the use of socioeconomic indicators for impact assessment of poverty alleviation programmes (Cartagena, Colombia, 4-15 July 2005).
- Workshop on Statistics of International Trade in Services (Panama City, 13-16 September 2005).
- Capacity-building workshop on the use of specialized trade databases (Santiago, Chile 16-17 March 2006).
- Meeting of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (Santiago, 3-5 April 2006).
- Internship for employees of the Central Bank of Nicaragua on foreign trade indicators (Santiago, 13-15 April 2006).
- Working meeting on growth, productivity and ICT, ECLAC/ICIE/OECD (16 March 2006).
- Seminar on business surveys in Latin America (ECLAC-OECD-EU), 8-9 May 2006.
- Fifth international course on the use of socioeconomic indicators for impact assessment of poverty alleviation programmes (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 15-26 May 2006).
- Course on statistical fundamentals for developing indicators for Millennium Development Goal 7 (Guatemala City, Guatemala, 5-8 September 2006).

Publications

- *Social Panorama of Latin America 2005* (LC/G.2288-P/I), Santiago, Chile, March 2006.
- *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2004* (LC/G.2264-P/B), Santiago, Chile, April 2005.

- Rosa Bravo, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género: el caso de Perú”, *Mujer y desarrollo* series, No. 55 (LC/L.2126-P), Santiago, Chile, April 2004. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.04.II.G.53.
- Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género: el caso de México”, *Mujer y desarrollo* series, No. 67 (LC/L.2339-P), Santiago, Chile, June 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.83.
- Isolda Espinoza, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género: el caso de Nicaragua”, *Mujer y desarrollo* series, No. 68 (LC/L.2353-P), Santiago, Chile, June 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No.S.05.II.G.83.
- Rosa Bravo and Daniela Zapata, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género. El caso de Bolivia”, *Mujer y desarrollo* series, No. 71 (LC/L. 2367-P), Santiago, Chile, August 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G. 108.
- Claudia Giacometti, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género. El caso de Argentina”, *Mujer y desarrollo* series, No. 72 (LC/L.2368-P), Santiago, Chile, August 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No.S.05.II.G.109.
- Rosa Bravo, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género. El caso de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela”, *Mujer y desarrollo* series, No. 73 (LC/L.2377-P), Santiago, Chile, September 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.121.
- Isolda Espinosa, “Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género. El caso de Guatemala”, *Mujer y desarrollo* series, No. 74 (LC/L.2378-P), Santiago, Chile, September 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.122
- América Latina: evolución del índice de precios de los principales productos de exportación 1980-2005.
- Cuaderno estadístico: América Latina y el Caribe: Balanza de Pagos 1980-2004.
- Claudia de Camino, “Comercio internacional de servicios en América Latina y el Caribe” (LC/W.46/E) [online] December 2005.
- Claudio Aravena, “Demanda de exportaciones e importaciones de bienes y servicios para Argentina y Chile”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series, No. 36, Santiago, Chile, July 2006, forthcoming.
- Andrés Schuschny, “Tópicos sobre el modelo de insumo-Producto: teoría y aplicaciones”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series, No. 37 (LC/L.2444-P/E), Santiago, Chile, December 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.191.
- Francisco Villarreal, “Elementos teóricos del ajuste estacional de series económicas utilizando X-12-ARIMA y TRAMO-SEATS”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series, No. 38 (LC/L.2457-P/E), Santiago, Chile, December 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G.203.
- José Luis Cervera, “El seguimiento de los objetivos del milenio: oportunidades y retos para los Sistemas Nacionales de Estadísticas”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series, No. 39 (LC/L.2458-P/E), Santiago, Chile, December 2005. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.05.II.G-204.
- Hernán Frigolett, “Cuentas de producción y análisis de insumo-producto, hacia la integración de los datos micro, meso y macroeconómicos”, *Documento de proyectos*, No. 38 (LC/W.68), Santiago, Chile, December 2005.
- “Propuesta para un compendio latinoamericano de indicadores sociales”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series, No. 41, Santiago, Chile, unpublished.
- “Latin America and the Caribbean. Projections 2006-2007”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series, No. 42, (LC/L.2528-P/I), Santiago, Chile, Economic Projections Centre, April 2006.

- Simone Cecchini, Jorge Rodríguez and Daniela Simioni “La medición de los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio en las áreas urbanas de América Latina”, *Estudios estadísticos y prospectivos* series, No. 43 (LC/L.2537-P), Santiago, Chile, June 2006. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.06.II.G.64.

Updating and development of databases

- Updating of the database on spatial distribution and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean (DEPUALC)
- Updating of information for the programme on Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA).
- Updating of databases on internal migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIALC).
- Updating of census databases of the countries of the region.
- Updating of the Social Indicators and Statistics Database (BADEINSO).
- Development of an integrated database of economic, social and environmental statistics: CEPALSTAT.
- Updating of the multilateral projects database (BADEPRO).
- Updating of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG).
- Development of the database of gender statistics for the Caribbean, already available on the ECLAC web page with country profiles and data comparable at the subregional level (see the English version of the site: http://www.cepal.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles_en/default.htm).
- Technological development in REDATAM. In 2005 a new version of REDATAM was developed with a more user-friendly format and improved display facilities.
- Online ECLAC projections in the atlas of growth available from <http://www.eclac.cl/> (in Spanish only).
- Updating of the System of gender statistics and indicators on the web page of the Women and Development Unit and incorporation of comparative information for the Caribbean countries, based on a special processing of information sources at the subregional level (see: www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles_en/default.htm).