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**E C L A C**

**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Joint Meeting OAS/ECLAC on Statistical Matters**

**Santiago, Chile, 11-14 October 1994**

**PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK FOR  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 1995-1996**

**SUBPROGRAMME 4: DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION \*/**

\*/ This document was prepared by the Division of Statistics and Projections of ECLAC.  
It has not been submitted for editorial revision

### Integrated presentation

The subprogramme presented in this document forms part of a proposed programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-1996, which ECLAC is submitting to the Joint OAS/ECLAC Meeting on Statistical Matters, for consideration by the participants.

This is the first time that a proposed programme of this nature has been prepared. This is called an integrated presentation, in so far as it assigns specific responsibilities to different countries and international organizations for carrying out statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean during the 1995-1996 period. The countries and entities involved in the programme have not been consulted in all cases, since this is the first time such a mechanism has been used. However, it is expected that the details will be worked out at the meeting and that all involved will agree on an integrated programme for submission to the following meeting.

The subprogrammes are presented in four separate documents, with the following titles:

- Subprogramme 1:** Adaptation and production of basic statistics in the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993
- Subprogramme 2:** Environmental statistics and indicators
- Subprogramme 3:** Social and poverty indicators
- Subprogramme 4:** Dissemination of statistical information

Each subprogramme has been divided into a certain number of programme elements, which can be described as follows: i) Objectives: a broad outline of what the execution of each subprogramme is expected to achieve; ii) activities and agencies: description of the main activities, identifying as far as possible the countries or entities that will execute them; iii) meetings in the next two years: tentative purpose, place and date of each meeting; iv) expected output: specific results expected by the countries.

**SUMMARY OF THE SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMME  
OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN, 1995-1996, PROPOSED BY ECLAC**

<u>Subprogramme</u>	<u>Programme element</u>
Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics in the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA 1993)	<p>1.1 Provision of access to technical documentation in Spanish to those responsible for implementing SNA 1993 and to Spanish-speaking producers of basic statistics.</p> <p>1.2 Dissemination of international recommendations concerning SNA 1993 and the production of basic statistics, and support for countries of the region in adopting them.</p> <p>1.3 Training of national accounts experts and producers of basic statistics.</p> <p>1.4 Improvement and extension of the production of basic statistics for the implementation of SNA 1993.</p>
Subprogramme 2: Environmental statistics and indicators	<p>2.1 Diagnostic analysis of the status of environmental statistics and indicators in the countries of the region.</p> <p>2.2 Transference of international experiences, training and cooperation in statistics and environmental indicators.</p>
Subprogramme 3: Social indicators and poverty surveys	<p>3.1 Improvement of household surveys.</p> <p>3.2 Use of household survey data.</p> <p>3.3 Construction and use of databases from population and housing censuses taken around 1990.</p>
Subprogramme 4: Dissemination of statistical information	<p>4.1 Policies, strategies and institutional organization for disseminating statistical data.</p> <p>4.2 New technologies and services for data dissemination using remote network connection.</p> <p>4.3 Platforms and recording media in the dissemination of statistical data.</p>

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## INTRODUCTION

Since the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile in September 1987, the theme of disseminating statistical information has been included in all the regional meetings in which the authorities of national statistical offices of the countries members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) have participated.

These meetings, along with the seminars and workshops dedicated to this issue, have stimulated the production of useful and valuable technical and management documents on many aspects associated with this area of statistics. An analysis of the contents of the documents listed in Annex 1 gives a concrete view of the systematic treatment being given in the region to almost all the aspects connected with disseminating statistical information. Copies of these documents will be available during the Joint Meeting for those who want them.

The dissemination of statistical information has undoubtedly been constantly and rapidly facilitated to the extent that forms of institutional organization and procedures for dissemination have been updated. Technologies related to this activity have advanced tremendously with respect to increasing their potential and lowering their costs, which has made it possible to provide users with statistical information in timely fashion, using simple computer procedures but, at the same time, powerful in its capacity of storage and processing. Thus, information that up to a few years ago required specialized computer knowledge is now accessible with a minimum of training in this field.

### SUBPROGRAMME 4: DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Since 1985, ECLAC has been closely following different aspects of computer technology that have special repercussions on the quality and timeliness of the work of the national statistical offices. At each meeting of the Directors of Statistics of the Americas and the Interamerican Statistical Conference (CIE), reports were presented on the state of the question and prospects related to the generalized computing processing of statistical data, highlighting those points of greater interest to the region. Likewise, close contact has also been maintained with the national statistical offices between meetings, in order to communicate the results of their own experiences and to learn about and disseminate among the countries the more successful achievements along these lines both by the national statistical offices of the region and by the more advanced countries and international bodies dedicated to these tasks.

It should be noted that the work proposed for this subprogramme during the next two years, focussed in statistical dissemination, are inserted in a wider horizon. In this occasion, they are limited to three areas considered priorities for an institutional and technical development that allows the national statistical offices to successfully meet their immediate responsibilities in the field of disseminating statistical information. These areas are: i) policies, strategies and institutional organization; ii) adoption of new technologies and services; and iii) use of computer platforms and recording media for the dissemination of statistical information. To achieve the expected outputs, technical development has to be attained coherent with the state of the art of statistical information dissemination at the international level.

Given the experiences in the region gathered by ECLAC, it can be said with a high degree of certitude that the objectives of this subprogramme are feasible, considering the technical and organizational level reached by most of the national statistical offices of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Programme element 4.1: Policies, strategies and institutional organization for statistical dissemination**

Objectives

Support the national statistical offices of the countries of the region in adopting organizational forms, policies and strategies that allow them to efficiently perform their tasks of disseminating national and international statistical information.

Activities and means

ECLAC will coordinate the preparation of a document on a case study. This document will present the different aspects related to the institutional organization for the dissemination of statistical information; at the same time, it will propose alternative policy and strategy elements guides that could be adapted to the characteristics of the national statistical offices of the countries of the region. Because of their experience in this matter, the following institutions could contribute to this document: the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, the Statistical Office of Canada, the National Bureau of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, the National Statistical Institute (INE) of Spain, and the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) of Mexico.

ECLAC will cooperate, with the national statistical offices that so request, in seeking technical assistance for studying in the field their present situation and the possibilities of improving their capacity to disseminate statistical information. In this context, solutions will be proposed coherent with available and potentially accessible resources, taking into account the legal and regulatory aspects of each national statistical office in the organizational scheme of the country's public administration.

Expected output

A document that can serve as a guideline for the national statistical offices of the countries of the region in adapting their institutional organization to the needs of statistical information dissemination and in applying policies and strategies for that same end.

Establishment of policies and strategies for dissemination of statistical information in the countries which lack them.

### Meetings in the next two years

Under the auspices of the European Training Centre for Economic Statisticians of Developing Countries (CESD-Madrid), a meeting of representatives of national statistical offices of the region that need to carry out in the short term organizational reforms and implement policies and strategies to improve the dissemination of statistical information. Place: to be determined; date: third quarter of 1995.

### Possible participating organizations

INDEC of Argentina, Statistical Office of Canada, DANE of Colombia, INEGI of Mexico, INE of Spain and ECLAC.

## **Programme element 4.2 New technologies and services for the dissemination of statistical information using remote interconnection of networks**

### Objectives

Promote in the region the connection of computer platforms of the national statistical offices to international communication networks for electronic mail, exchange of data and remote access to available computer equipment for this kind of services.

Establish a mechanism to constantly analyze and assess new technologies and communications services, in order to recommend the best applications of integrated information management that are appearing, especially from private enterprises specialized in this field.

### Activities and means

ECLAC will diversify the operational characteristics of its INTERNET server, in order to incorporate all available resources in this network of international communication.

National statistical offices interested in studying the organization and technological platform of ECLAC, as a model for their access to INTERNET, can request a stay for their experts at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile.

### Expected output

Connection of the computer platforms of the national statistical offices to an international communications network in the countries which lack it. In this regard, INTERNET seems to be one of the best options currently available. In other cases, potentiate such connection to take advantage of their install capacity.

Access for the national statistical offices to the information and services available in the INTERNET node of the Computer Centre of ECLAC.

### Meetings in the next two years

This matter could be discussed in a joint meeting, as proposed in the following programme element 4.3.

### Possible participating organizations

National statistical offices and ECLAC.

## **Programme element 4.3: Computer platforms and recording media for the dissemination of statistical information**

### Objectives

Analyze and assess computer platforms, especially those integrated into local and remote networks, as well as computerizable recording media for multimedia strategies that provide great capacity and flexibility for disseminating statistical information.

Assist the national statistical offices of the region in using CD-ROM supports in disseminating statistical information by computer.

### Activities and means

ECLAC, in conjunction with INDEC of Argentina, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile and the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), will prepare a document presenting different available technological alternatives in these areas. They will be based on the concrete experience of these institutes as well as on the experience available at national and international statistical offices that are highly developed in this field.

ECLAC will systematically inform the national statistical offices of the region about new technological alternatives as they appear on the commercial market and in the national statistical offices and bodies of countries advanced in the dissemination of statistical information. It will also stay in close contact particularly with the Statistical Office of Canada, INE of Spain, the Statistical Office of Sweden, and the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), in order to follow closely activities carried out in this by these centres of advanced technology.

In order to accomplish these tasks, ECLAC will install as quickly as possible electronic bulletin boards (BBS) and updated information services in its INTERNET server. This will allow the national statistical offices of the region to establish contact effectively with ECLAC and other national statistical offices connected to that network.

In so far as it is financially able, ECLAC will assist the national statistical offices of the region in producing master CD-ROMs, through pilot applications in those offices and using the equipment available in its Computer Centre in Santiago, Chile.



### Expected output

Technical reports on computer platforms, hardware and software available and accessible to the national statistical offices of the region.

An electronic bulletin board, operated by ECLAC, integrating the national statistical offices of the region.

A master CD-ROM produced at the Computer Centre, for pilot applications in the national statistical offices, at their request.

Enhancement or development, of the technical capacity of national statistical offices to incorporate computer equipment for producing their own "master CD-ROM".

### Meetings in the next two years

Circumstances permitting, the items under programme elements 4.2 and 4.3 could be dealt with at the meeting proposed under programme element 4.1. All issues relating to the dissemination of statistical information as formulated in this subprogramme, could thus be dealt with at one meeting, which could take the form of a seminar.

Considering the three major issues involved, at the seminar 40% of participants' time should be devoted to the sub-themes of programme element 4.1 and the remaining 60% to the components of programme elements 4.2 and 4.3.

### Possible participating organizations

INDEC of Argentina, IBGE of Brazil, INE of Chile and ECLAC.

PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK  
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 1995-1996

SUBPROGRAMME 4: DISSEMINATION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Programme element	Substantive actions by ECLAC	Main entities with which coordination is required	Expected outputs
4.1 Policies, strategies and institutional organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinating the preparation of a document on a case study.</li> <li>- Coordinating meeting.</li> <li>- Organizing and supervising technical assistance missions to the national statistical offices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- INDEC-Argentina, DANE-Colombia, INE-Spain, INEGI-Mexico.</li> <li>- CESD Madrid.</li> <li>- National statistical offices of the countries of the region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Document on a case study, to serve as a guide for activities under programme element 4.1.</li> <li>- Report of the meeting</li> <li>- Establishment of policies and strategies for dissemination of statistical data, in the countries which lack them.</li> </ul>
4.2 New technologies and services using interconnection of networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maximizing the use of options available in INTERNET.</li> <li>- Producing CD-ROM masters by means of pilot applications.</li> <li>- Transmitting the National statistical offices information and services available in CCC INTERNET server.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National statistical offices of the countries of the region.</li> <li>- National statistical offices of the countries of the region.</li> <li>- National statistical offices of the countries of the region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connection of the national statistical offices to the services of ECLAC/INTERNET node.</li> <li>- Production by national statistical offices of their own CD-ROM matters.</li> <li>- Access of National statistical offices to information and services of CCC INTERNET node.</li> </ul>
4.3 Computer platforms and recording media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinating the production of technical reports on alternative computer platforms.</li> <li>- Informing the national statistical offices of the region of new technologies.</li> <li>- Producing based on pilot applications, "CD-ROM masters".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- INDEC-Argentina, IBGE-Brazil, INE-Chile.</li> <li>- Statistical Office of Canada, INE-Spain, EUROSTAT, Statistical Office of Sweden.</li> <li>- National statistical offices of the countries of the region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical reports on the availability and accessibility of computer platforms.</li> <li>- Establishment of an electronic bulletin board for information and discussion.</li> <li>- National statistical offices produce their own "CD-ROM masters".</li> </ul>

## Annex 1

1. **IMPACTO DE LAS NUEVAS TECNOLOGÍAS COMPUTACIONALES SOBRE LAS ACTIVIDADES DE LOS ORGANISMOS NACIONALES DE ESTADÍSTICA**  
Conference document No. 6  
Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas  
Madrid, 11-13 November 1992
2. **MAKING CENSUS DATA ACCESSIBLE**  
Reference document No. 4  
Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas  
Madrid, 11-13 November 1992
3. **DIFUSIÓN DE LA INFORMACIÓN ESTADÍSTICA**  
Document LC/R.940  
Tenth Inter-American Statistical Conference  
Aguascalientes, Mexico, 13-16 November 1990
4. **DIFUSIÓN DE LA INFORMACIÓN ESTADÍSTICA**  
Reference documents Nos. 14 and 15  
Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas  
Santiago, Chile, 26-29 September 1989
5. **REPORT ON SEMINARS CONDUCTED IN SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGN AND PREPARATION OF THE ROUND CENSUSES IN THE 1990s.**  
Document LC/R.1248  
Project on "Support for the design and preparation of the round of censuses in the 1990s"  
Santiago, Chile, June 1993
6. **FINAL REPORT**  
Project RLA 87/001 on "Widely-used computer systems"  
Santiago, Chile, April 1991.