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**REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 26-28 May 2015

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The fourteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in Santiago from 26 to 28 May 2015.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States serving as members of the Executive Committee: Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Spain and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Conference: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

4. A representative of Curaçao, an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), was also present.

5. The following United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were also represented: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

6. Also present were representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

7. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented: Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

Chair

8. The Executive Director of the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Ecuador chaired the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

¹ See annex.

B. AGENDA

9. The Executive Committee adopted the following agenda and agreed that the representative of Ecuador would present a report on the process of building the Agenda of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) to 2020 after item 6.

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of the countries that will participate in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring (HLG-SDG).
3. Review of progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 - (a) Report of the working groups of the Conference.
4. Information regarding subregional cooperation activities.
5. Presentation of the proposed Strategic Plan, 2015-2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
6. Place and date of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
7. Adoption of agreements.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

10. At the opening session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, José Rosero, Executive Director of INEC of Ecuador, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, and Pascual Gerstenfeld, Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC.

11. After welcoming participants, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC emphasized that the Statistical Conference of the Americas, being a forum for developing ideas and proposals, was an extremely important entity for the region and indeed for the rest of the world. In view of the post-2015 development agenda, the work of the subsidiary body of ECLAC was crucial, since good-quality statistical data would be needed to negotiate the agenda and monitor its execution. The measurement of inequality was one of the challenges encountered in the pursuit of equality. Lastly, she mentioned some of the outstanding matters in the field of statistics, such as improving data quality, strengthening national statistical systems and assisting the Caribbean countries in tackling the challenges posed by their island geography.

12. The Executive Director of INEC of Ecuador, in his capacity as Chair of Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, reminded participants that the automated mechanism for working groups to submit their progress reports was up and running, and had been used on the previous occasion. The mechanism would facilitate decision-making by providing a clear overview of the current situation and constituted a regional public good. He underscored the fundamental role of the Conference at a historic time when a new global development agenda was being debated, past errors were being corrected, and the very paradigm of development was changing. In that setting, he believed that statisticians should prepare a set of indicators that could be monitored over time to measure progress and setbacks in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

13. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC emphasized the role of international civil servants serving the region and the countries in the field of statistics, and the importance of regional statistical bodies. As for what needed to be measured, that would be determined by whatever the region was collectively seeking to achieve, and thus the challenge for the Latin American and Caribbean countries would be to work together to define the exact nature of that goal.

Election of the countries that will participate in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring (HLG-SDG) (agenda item 2)

14. The Chair of the Conference reported on the election of the countries that would participate in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring (HLG-SDG), whose creation had been approved at the forty-sixth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. Also at that session, the Statistical Commission had accepted a proposal for the two groups to be led by the national statistical institutes, rather than by the international organizations as originally proposed. In addition, it was agreed that the regional forums would be responsible for selecting the representatives of each region for the two groups. On the basis of those decisions, the Bureau of the Statistical Commission, composed of five countries (Barbados being the representative of Latin America and the Caribbean), decided that the region could elect five representatives to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators, taking into account the M49 classification for the subregions.

15. On the basis of those criteria, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas established a mechanism for selecting the representatives. Country groupings were created to ensure greater subregional representativity: one slot was assigned to Central America, a second to northern South America, and a third to southern South America. A mechanism was also devised for nominating candidates and casting votes, whereby each country could become a candidate for its subregion and vote for the nominees. The process was set out in a handbook.

16. Given that no more than one candidature was received per subregion, there was no need to count the votes, as the countries that had expressed interest in representing their subregion by completing the relevant form were automatically elected. In cases where no countries had put themselves forward, the Executive Committee filled the remaining slots via a consultation process.

17. The following countries were elected to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico. The countries elected to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity building for post-2015 monitoring (HLG-SDG) were Argentina, Bahamas, Ecuador, El Salvador and Saint Lucia.

18. The Chair and the secretariat emphasized that the selection process had been democratic and transparent, and commended the countries on their support. The mechanisms for holding consultations and reporting on the decisions taken should be promoted to ensure that all countries remained informed and were duly represented.

Review of progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (agenda item 3)

19. The countries serving as coordinators of the various working groups delivered presentations on the status of implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for 2014-2015.

Working Group on Censuses

20. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the coordinating country, summarized the group's activities, which had focused on evaluating and analysing the 2010 census round. The seminar "Sharing experiences on developing the censuses for the 2020 round" had taken place on 25 May 2015 with support from the National Institute of Statistics of Chile, ECLAC and UNFPA. Activities planned for the second half of 2015 included the Third Latin American and Caribbean Course on Population Estimates and Projections, to be held in Caracas,² and an edition of the intensive regional course on demographic analysis, which would be supported by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC. He said that financial constraints had limited the activities of the Working Group on Censuses and other working groups, and greater efforts would need to be made by the region to obtain financing for programmed projects. He also suggested finding ways to cut costs and facilitate the exchange of information, such as online forums. Greater communication was needed in the region, given that it was halfway through a census period, so that countries could report on the activities they were carrying out and exchange suggestions and recommendations on the basis of the agreements and themes planned for the following census in each country.

21. Several representatives suggested that the cost of activities should be calculated so that financing could be managed more effectively. The representative of Brazil said that censuses and household surveys were an essential tool for tackling the sustainable development goals, and proposed that the respective groups should identify two or three priority areas on which fundraising efforts would be concentrated; she also mentioned the importance of sharing experiences and technical skills via horizontal cooperation. Administrative records were mentioned several times as a source of information that could supplement censuses or represent an alternative to them.

22. The ECLAC representative said that the working group had carried out fewer activities than in previous years, as most countries had completed their censuses and no financing was available for a final evaluation of the 2010 census round. Regional workshops would be very useful, since some 10 countries would conduct a census between 2016 and 2017. A joint workshop would be run with the United Nations Statistics Division on vital statistics principles and recommendations. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reiterated his organization's commitment to provide ongoing support and stressed the rising importance of vital statistics records as well as horizontal and South-South cooperation for sharing experiences and technical assistance. Furthermore, the data revolution needed to be analysed from each country's perspective. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that, as a result of the data revolution, it would be important to generate statistics that reflected new ways of organizing the population at the local level, such as the communes, communal councils and urban land committees in his country.

² Following the meeting of the Executive Committee, the coordinating country said that the course would not be run for budgetary reasons.

Working Group on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics

23. The representative of Colombia reported on the activities and objectives of the Working Group on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics, referring both to the measurement of monetary poverty, a component coordinated by Uruguay, and to multidimensional poverty, a component coordinated by Colombia. In the area of monetary poverty, a revision was under way of the classification of income measured by household surveys. With regard to multidimensional poverty, an exchange had been initiated between the countries in the working group to identify the dimensions of poverty in which the differences and similarities of data collection methods should be systemized, even when participation had not been very active. The working group would be unable to carry out some of its planned activities before the end of the biennium.

24. Several representatives asked the working group to share with all the countries in the region the status of products under development. They emphasized that more precise definitions of poverty would be needed for the measurement of multidimensional poverty, and its implementation would require inter-institutional support to confer technical and political legitimacy. Peru described its successful experience of forming a public-private advisory committee led by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI). The representative of Ecuador reported that a multidimensional poverty index was being created and presented a list of existing measurements that had been prepared as part of that process.

25. The representative of ECLAC, as technical secretariat, pointed out that the working group was not seeking to harmonize poverty measurements, but rather to provide inputs so that countries had the most appropriate data collection tools at their disposal to implement poverty measurements.

26. The representative of UN-Women said that her organization was interested in supporting the group and suggested that the multidimensional measurement of poverty should include a gender perspective. Lastly, the representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) said that his organization was conducting a regional comparative exercise and expressed interest in reading the document being prepared by the working group, a view shared by the UNFPA representative.

Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

27. In her presentation, the representative of Argentina, the coordinating country of the working group, highlighted the strides made in strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems to monitor and report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in developing internationally and regionally comparable indicators, and in expanding the indicators at the subnational level. A new programme of activities had been submitted on the basis of the post-2015 development agenda, which proposed to analyse the experience of MDG follow-up and the challenges that would be posed by the sustainable development goals, such as their cross-cutting nature and the huge demand for information from national statistical institutes that would follow. In addition, it would be necessary to generate synergies with the groups created recently within the framework of the Statistical Commission.

28. The representative of Brazil said that the theme of the sustainable development goals would require a mechanism other than a working group, and suggested that a different form of governance should be used in the context of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. In that connection, the representative of Mexico said that the sphere of action for the sustainable development goals should not be confined to a working group but rather should be set out as a regional strategy. He also suggested that the creation of subnational indicators should be explored and a final document prepared on the transition

from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals. In the same vein, the representative of Canada said that a working group should be set up composed of the countries that were members of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring (LHG-SDG), which would represent any opportunity for members to report to the region's countries on the work carried out and receive comments.

29. The Chair of the Executive Committee said that it was important that the countries elected to participate in the two groups created by the Statistical Commission establish a mechanism for consulting the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. He also accepted the suggestion that the working group's tasks should remain aligned with the theme of the Millennium Development Goals.

30. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC emphasized the development of inter-institutional coordination within countries for reporting on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and urged that this should continue to be strengthened in order to be able to cope with the huge demand for information that would result from implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Working Group on National Accounts

31. The representative of Peru, coordinating country of the Working Group on National Accounts, summarized the group's activities, which had been aimed at contributing to the development of the countries' national accounts and strengthening basic statistics. Having headed the working group for several years, he thought it would be a good time for another country to take on the role of coordinator.

32. Among the comments made by participants, the representative of Brazil said that the post-2015 development agenda had to be taken into consideration in the group's work, especially given the challenges posed by the implementation of environmental accounts and the production of consistent data. The representative of Mexico highlighted the group's links with the Working Group on Environmental Statistics. The representative of Ecuador said that progress had been made on the institutional accounts, the regional accounts and the input-output matrix, and the satellite accounts for tourism, health and time use. The representative of Costa Rica highlighted the challenge of stepping up the work on the satellite accounts, regarding which the demand for information was very high and greater inter-institutional coordination was needed.

33. The representative of UNISDR said that national accounts were useful for assessing the economic and environmental impacts of natural disasters. The ECLAC representative noted that tools for constructing environmental accounts were lacking.

Working Group on Labour Market Indicators

34. The representative of Chile, the working group's coordinating country, said that the focal points' active participation and constancy was a key factor in the effective implementation of the programmed activities. Current tasks included updating a technical data sheet on the measurement of informal work to send to the region's countries, preparing a technical brief on trends in informal work indicators, organizing the fourth face-to-face meeting to assess the impact of the new guidelines issued by the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, follow-up of the submission of the regional public goods project, which had been approved by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and organizing a meeting with the member countries of the group to discuss future challenges.

35. The representative of Argentina suggested that, looking ahead to the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, to be held in 2018, it would be important for the region's countries to find common positions. In response to a question from the representative of Brazil regarding the new International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE) and its links to the activities of the Working Group on International Classifications, the representative of Mexico, the country coordinating that working group, said that a decision would be taken at a later date.

36. The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the working group's technical secretariat, emphasized that significant progress had been made regarding the measurement of informality and the indicators of decent work, and said that the working group would play an important role in implementing the resolution adopted at the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies

37. The representative of the Dominican Republic, the working group's coordinating country, reported on activities, objectives and progress in the work plan. Both the survey on the production of statistics on information and communication technologies (ICTs) in ministries and government institutions responsible for national digital agendas and the survey on harmonized statistics on ICTs in national statistical institutes had been completed. With support from the Working Group on Gender Statistics, coordinated by Mexico, and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, a methodology was being developed to measure gender and ICT indicators in household surveys and administrative records, and support had been requested from UNESCO to revise the ICTs in education module. A module on e-government and ICTs was being developed and a workshop regarding the module on ICTs for the health sector was scheduled for the end of the year, with the support of CETIC.br. He welcomed the technical and financial support received from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to hold a meeting on ICTs and their measurement in the Caribbean countries. Lastly, he requested technical support from ECLAC for the group's activities and suggested that the focal points of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) should be invited to the fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to increase the synergies with national statistical offices.

38. In response to a query from the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, it was clarified that the working group's aim was to develop ways to measure access to information technologies, rather than to exploit non-traditional information sources, which were referred to in the context of the data revolution and big data. In that regard, the UNFPA representative offered support for the creation and coordination of a forum to discuss the data revolution at the following meeting of the Conference.

39. The representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of the Executive Committee, invited the working group to use the web platform to report on the status of its activities. The representative of the Dominican Republic explained why it had not been used and said that it was important to give due recognition to the working groups' considerable efforts.

Working Group on Institution-building

40. The representative of Colombia, the coordinating country of the Working Group on Institution-building, described past and future activities. He highlighted the progress made in strengthening and implementing the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean in national statistical institutes, which had benefited from specific horizontal technical assistance and from a visit from peer evaluators. Thanks to an efficient use of resources, two additional countries, Jamaica and Peru, had been

able to participate in 2015. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) had provided financial support for the evaluation exercises, and a large number of countries had participated, including some Caribbean countries, in the workshop to follow up on implementation of the Code. More resources were needed to finance evaluations in the long term, and the working group was preparing a proposal to form a consortium, which would be presented at the following meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

41. The Chair said that the working group's agenda should go beyond implementation of the Code and that it should contribute to strengthening the role of the statistical offices in the context of the sustainable development goals. The IDB representative said his organization was interested in continuing to support an agenda for strengthening national statistical capacities.

42. The representative of ECLAC, as technical secretariat, said that a workshop would be held in July 2015 to share experiences regarding the evaluation of national statistical systems in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by Eurostat in cooperation with ECLAC.

Working Group on Environmental Statistics

43. The representative of Mexico, the working group's coordinating country, described the tasks performed for each component of the regional public goods project "Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean". He indicated that the first stage, which had been coordinated by Mexico, had been completed, and a consultant was being hired for component 2, which was being coordinated by Bahamas and Colombia.

44. The representative of Guatemala suggested that the group's work should be coordinated with the global partnership Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) to prevent the duplication of work. The representatives of Cuba and Ecuador said that faster progress was needed on environmental statistics, in particular considering the region's weaknesses in that area and the demands that would arise from the post-2015 development agenda.

45. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, as technical secretariat of the working group, highlighted the completion of the Spanish-language version of the handbook "System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. Central Framework", and mentioned that the Division would provide financial support to six pilot countries as part of the United Nations Development Account project aimed at promoting the implementation of the environmental accounts in the countries. The representative of FAO offered her support for the group's activities and said that environmental and agricultural statistics were closely linked.

Working Group on International Classifications

46. The representative of Mexico, the working group's coordinating country, provided general information about the group's composition, noting that UNESCO had joined in March 2015, and went on to describe the progress made from August 2014 to March 2015. Activities had included the third meeting of the working group on 4-8 August 2014 in Bogota, the headway made in the translation into Spanish of the Implementation Guide for International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Rev. 4 (parts 0, 1, 2, 4 and 5), the support provided for other translations, the horizontal cooperation activities carried out among the group's countries, and coordination with various organizations. Lastly, he said that it was a challenge to secure the funding needed to implement the work plan.

47. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that it was important to harmonize and adapt classifications, referring by way of example to the national adaptation of the international classification of crimes. The representative of ILO highlighted the work being carried out to translate the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO). The representative of UNESCO reiterated the offer to support national institutes in the implementation of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) if required, which some of the region's countries had already benefited from.

Working Group on Gender Statistics

48. The representative of Mexico, the working group's coordinating country, highlighted the joint efforts undertaken by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, the Working Group on Gender Statistics, UN-Women and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC. He mentioned the thirteenth international meeting of experts on time-use surveys and unpaid work, held in Mexico City on 4-5 June 2015, and the revision of the time-use classification for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL), taking into consideration the decisions regarding the classification of labour statistics developed by the United Nations (International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS)). The sixteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics would be held in Mexico in September 2015 and the results of a research project on time poverty led by Mexico would be presented at the seventeenth International Meeting in 2016. He also highlighted the technical assistance provided to national statistical offices to make progress on incorporation of the gender perspective and dialogue with users. With regard to training, he said that the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC had delivered distance courses in 2014 and was hoping to run four courses in 2016.

49. Some representatives referred to the support received for the preparation of surveys and studies that could serve as a guide for other countries in the region. The representative of Peru requested support from the working group to generate the pilot satellite account using time-use surveys and with regard to CAUTAL implementation. The representative of Uruguay said that time-use surveys and measurements of violence in the framework of national statistical systems needed to be carried out more regularly.

50. The representative of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, as technical secretariat of the group, highlighted the coordination work undertaken by Mexico. She reiterated the invitation extended to the Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to attend the fifty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and she requested that the documents on gender prepared by the delegations should be submitted for publication on the working group's website. The representative of UN-Women reiterated that her organization offered support in an advisory capacity and emphasized that links with other groups and measurements were important, in particular with regard to the indicators that would be required for the post-2015 development agenda. The representative of IDB said that his organization would continue to coordinate activities with the working group, particularly in the framework of a project to use specialized household surveys to measure violence against women.

Working Group on Household Surveys

51. In her presentation on the activities carried out during the period, the representative of Ecuador said that a report had been prepared on the status of integrated household survey systems (IHSS) in the region and said that it was vital that the digital library containing the group's methodological and technical documents be kept up to date. She said that Ecuador would be interested in sharing its experiences of structuring IHSS, constructing a sampling frame, generating the master survey and continuous cartographic updating. Lastly, she said that a regional workshop would be held in the second half of 2015, which would be supported by ECLAC and ILO, and whose aim was to foster the exchange of experiences.

52. The representative of Argentina requested that the members of the group should interact more frequently to discuss the issues and asked for invitations to events to be sent out earlier to maximize participation. The representative of Brazil agreed and added that it was important to share experiences between countries and build up a picture of the headway made on household surveys. The representative of Canada stressed the need to modernize the systems for collecting and processing data and better integrate the various regular household surveys in order to meet the increased demand for information that would arise from the post-2015 development agenda.

53. The representative of UNICEF made available to the group a tool consisting of modules of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) linked to childhood. Lastly, the Chair of the Executive Committee stressed the importance of household surveys for the United Nations Statistical Commission and their link to the post-2015 development agenda.

Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence

54. The representative of UNICEF, as technical secretariat and on behalf of Panama, the coordinating country of the working group, said that one of the group's activities had consisted of an analysis of information gaps in the indicators of childhood and adolescence prepared on specific themes using international data. She noted that many Caribbean countries and members of the working group had participated in a workshop in Panama in October 2014. Several MICS surveys were being planned in the region and the statistical status of the indicators of childhood and adolescence was still under analysis with a view to harmonizing national and international estimates. Lastly, she said that it was important to achieve a higher degree of interaction with other working groups and reliance on funding would be a constraint on future activities.

55. Some representatives said that it would be important to use administrative records for statistical purposes as household surveys would be unable to provide the level of disaggregation required by the sustainable development goals, and suggested considering the work of groups dealing with cross-cutting themes such as gender and childhood, and applying standard criteria to census and household survey variables. The representative of Argentina said that her country had made progress on using administrative records to produce data on violence against women and offered to share details of the process with anyone who was interested. In that regard, the representative of UNICEF pointed out that, while important, administrative records were not part of the working group's current work plan. Lastly, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of the Executive Committee, invited the members of the group to use the web platform to report on the status of their activities.

Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice

56. The representative of Mexico, the working group's coordinating country, presented the progress report. He highlighted the conclusion of the concept paper on crime and criminal justice statistical systems, which was available on the website of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Public Security, Victimization and Justice. Many of the indicators relating to the sustainable development goals came from victimization surveys, which would further the group's work as it would make it necessary to conduct such surveys in the region. He thanked the countries for their participation in various international forums and hoped that the remaining countries would respond to the questionnaire in order to be able to finalize the regional assessment.

57. The next speaker was the coordinator of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Public Security, Victimization and Justice. She shared details of the new International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission and by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and said that UNODC priorities were to make the document available in Spanish, prepare a global implementation plan and supporting materials, deliver training, and set up a technical group to implement the new classification system. She reiterated her organization's interest in continuing to support the group as technical secretariat.

58. In response to a query from the representative of Brazil regarding the links between the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and the Working Group on International Classifications, the representative of Mexico said that the new classification did not form part of that working group's work plan. The representative of Cuba was grateful for the horizontal cooperation furnished by INEC of Ecuador, which had enabled her country to make progress towards the working group's objectives. The representative of Peru said that his country would be interested in an integrated system of justice and security statistics to inform public policy, and said that an event would be held in Lima that year, with IDB cooperation.

59. The representative of UNFPA stressed the importance of disseminating the data and promoting public access among sectors not traditionally associated with the production of statistics, and disaggregating the data to inform public policy.

Task force on the quantification of South-South cooperation

60. The representative of Colombia, coordinating country of the task force, presented the activity report. A face-to-face workshop had been held in April 2015 as a follow-up to the virtual forum in December 2014. Forthcoming activities included the preparation of a draft glossary, which would be submitted to the members of the group for their consideration and presented in July 2015; a methodological proposal for measuring South-South cooperation and a draft basic instrument for capturing data on cooperation activities would be prepared for the meeting in November 2015.

61. The representatives of Argentina and Brazil expressed their concern at the position of national statistical institutes with regard to South-South cooperation, as their role encompassed political as well as technical responsibilities, and suggested that the working group's objectives should be revised. The representative of ECLAC, the group's technical secretariat, said that contact had been made with the Presiding Officers of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, which was chaired by Peru, and the response received would be shared.

62. Lastly, the Chair of the Executive Committee said that the working group's duties were established in its mandate and that any reformulation would have to be considered at the Conference's subsequent meeting. The representative of Colombia commended the joint work undertaken by the cooperation agencies and national statistical institutes.

Task force on disability statistics

63. The representative of Mexico, coordinating country of the task force, said that disability was difficult to measure, since a diagnosis was required, and administrative records should be considered as a source for that kind of information, without prejudice to the data provided by population censuses. Contact had been made with the Washington Group on Disability Measurement and with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to look into possible cooperation opportunities. Future activities included workshops, securing funding, and the preparation of an up-to-date list of regional organizations that produced disability indicators.

64. The representative of Brazil said that methodological convergence towards standard definitions and comparable figures should be sought. She added that administrative records suffered from coverage problems in her country, and therefore recognized the usefulness of the census as a source of key information for disability statistics. The representative of Guatemala described the difficulties in his country stemming from the fact that the national statistical institute was legally required to produce disability statistics. In that connection, the representative of Argentina offered to share the experience of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement, of which her country was a member.

65. The representative of the Social Development Division of ECLAC, as technical secretariat of the group, described some of the activities pursued by ECLAC, which reflected the importance of the subject for the organization. The IDB representative said that administrative records needed to be improved and recommended that a unified regional stance should be taken in light of the 2020 census round, with a view to enhancing measurement harmonization and comparability.

Knowledge Transfer Network

66. The representative of Colombia presented the activity report and the work plan for 2015. He highlighted the commitment to continue consolidating the position of the Network as a leading forum on the web for storing, exchanging and sharing specialized information, countries' experiences and innovative initiatives, making it possible to bring together needs, solutions and potential sources of funding, which facilitated resource targeting and helped improve projects. He invited the countries to increase their participation by furnishing relevant information and using the electronic forums.

67. The representative of Brazil and the Chair of the Executive Committee voiced their agreement with the last point. The representative of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) said that learning communities could be a useful way to encourage more participation among the member countries of the Conference and invited the Network to set up those kinds of forums.

Working Group on Agricultural Statistics

68. The representative of Brazil presented the group's progress report. Activities carried out included the preparation of a standard questionnaire for evaluating national agricultural statistics systems, which had been completed by 14 countries, and analysis of the results; the preparation of a second version of the Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean; and the launch of activities for the project "Developing a methodology for implementing agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean", financed by IDB, which included a workshop coordinated by FLACSO.

69. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the group's technical secretariat, emphasized the strong support received from the countries and asked that they should respond to the questionnaire if they had not already done so, in order to be able to begin the task of evaluating the status of agricultural statistics, which varied widely across the region.

Information regarding subregional cooperation activities (agenda item 4)

70. Under this item, the various coordination agencies in the Caribbean and Central America, the Andean Community (CAN) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) reported on their work plans and their contribution to implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

71. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of CAN, referred to the activities carried out as part of the Community's statistical programme, 2015-2020. Its objectives included providing harmonized information on trade integration, electricity and transportation interconnectedness, and Andean citizenship and identity; consolidating the functioning of the Community Statistical System (SEC) and its relationship with the institutions that made up the Andean Integration System (SAI); and strengthening the capacities of member countries to use administrative records for the production of statistical information on population and property. She reiterated the need for a self-assessment tool to evaluate the use of records in the production of statistical data and the interest in implementing an integrated system of statistical records on population and property for the members of CAN. In that connection, the representative of Ecuador said that it was important that the Statistics Committee of the Andean Community had resumed its activities in view of its valuable contributions.

72. The representative of Brazil spoke on behalf of the MERCOSUR statistical group. She welcomed the incorporation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the group, and said that it was interested in continuing to pursue the harmonization of member countries' statistics, which had focused on international trade and services activities, and on some specific aspects of the national accounts. That included an end product consisting of the harmonization of the classification of international trade activities prepared by a permanent working group on classification. Lastly, she emphasized the group's commitment to draw up a draft list of all statistical operations, led by Argentina, on the basis that it would highlight the broad scope of the national institutes' work. The representative of Argentina said that the list was available on the websites of the institutes and that of MERCOSUR, and the 2014 version was being updated.

73. The representative of Guatemala, on behalf of the Central American Statistical Commission (CENTROESTAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) reported that work had focused on standardizing statistics in the framework of the regional strategy on statistical development. With regard to the production of statistics, he mentioned the food and nutrition security project, the standardization of the basic food basket, and the development and integration of economic statistics on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Lastly, he said that Guatemala, as Chair pro tempore of SICA, would hold a meeting in June 2015 to review progress on the regional strategy and evaluate integration of the subregion's environmental statistics.

Presentation of the proposed Strategic Plan, 2015-2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (agenda item 5)

74. In his presentation of the proposed Strategic Plan, 2015-2025 (LC/L.4009(CE.14/4), the representative of the secretariat said that comments from the countries would be a very important part of preparation of the final document, which would be presented at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. He welcomed countries' interest in tackling the challenges posed by the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, and reiterated the commitment of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC to help generate human and financial resources with a view to narrowing the gaps in institutional capacity. In response to a request from the members of the Executive Committee, a review would be undertaken of the previous strategic plan, drawing out the best practices that had led to success and analysing the obstacles where goals were not met.

75. The representative of Mexico drew attention to the inaccuracies observed with regard to some themes associated with the specific objectives and said that data sources needed to be specified in order to distinguish between official and unofficial data, and to link statistical production with geography.

76. The representative of Argentina expressed her concern at the lack of financial and human resources and the high turnover of staff in most of the region's statistical institutes, in addition to the gulf between institutes and private companies in their production and use of statistics, in particular with regard to the unofficial statistics generated by telecommunications companies. She suggested reviewing geographical representation within the Executive Committee and the process for selecting the member countries, as well as the number of working groups, and evaluating the possibility of reducing their number and setting limits and deadlines, ideas that were endorsed by Canada and Ecuador.

77. The representative of Ecuador said that it was important that a strong theme should be adopted in the new strategic plan, such as institution-building within the national statistical institutes on the basis of regional convergence, bearing in mind countries' heterogeneity, national agendas and the post-2015 development agenda. Administrative records were an important aspect of statistical production and the data revolution required redefinition, given that it encompassed numerous elements and levels and meant something different in each region. He underscored the idea that the statistical institute was the lead, coordinating body and the data hub, and suggested that a compact should be signed to commit to institution-building.

78. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia considered that data quality had to be guaranteed in order to preserve the credibility of official statistics, especially given the possibility that other data sources might be used.

79. The representative of Brazil added that statistical institutes should appropriate new technology and integrate statistical data with spatial or territorial data. There was concern that the use of private data with insufficient coverage could widen the statistical gap, given that geographical access to telecommunications was uneven. She suggested making explicit mention in the document of the need to strengthen household surveys in view of the future demand for environmental statistics. Lastly, she supported a review of the functioning of the working groups, a view that was shared by the representatives of Chile, Costa Rica and Mexico.

80. The importance of administrative records as a means of strengthening household surveys was emphasized by the representative of Mexico, who said that data could generally be obtained more rapidly from non-traditional sources of information. He stressed that there needed to be a clear distinction between official and unofficial information, and data had to be generated at the subnational level.

81. The representative of Costa Rica suggested that a discussion was needed on the likelihood of improving administrative records, given all their limitations. The representatives of Colombia and Cuba agreed with that point and on the importance of assessing the capacities of the statistical institutes in other respects, such as the production of territorially disaggregated data. In particular, Colombia believed that clear contractual relations needed to be established between public and private producers of statistics, and users should be provided with the new information technologies to encourage them to search institutes' data. The use of official statistics should also be emphasized in the strategic plan.

82. The representative of Chile said that it was vital to provide technical guidelines for administrative records in order to make real progress and target aspects such as access, coverage, and data use and quality, and that it was also important to promote and intensify the lead role of the institutes in national statistical systems, without excluding the private sector, with a view to lessening the competition between official and unofficial statistics. Guidelines should also be drafted on data governance. The risk in trying to define the data revolution for each country was that it could lead to dispersion rather than convergence. Lastly, she, together with the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Cuba, suggested that strategic plan follow-up and management should be evaluated every two years.

83. The representative of Spain said that it would be hard to implement a strategic plan that covered such an extended time frame, since it was difficult to see 10 years into the future, and stressed that the plan would need to be implemented in coordination with the respective operative programmes. He called on national statistical institutes to work on the quality and timeliness of official data and to earn users' trust in light of the challenges official statistics would face in the years ahead, which included a rapid expansion in the production of not always comparable data by the private sector. The representative of Curaçao supported that motion and added that the excessive amounts of data produced by different entities should be seen as an opportunity to forge partnerships and strengthen the leading and regulatory role of the institutes, thereby meeting demand and disseminating timely, comparable and good-quality data.

84. Some representatives believed that it was necessary to discuss the legal framework of the institutes, and the statistical role of the central banks and their importance in the implementation of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008), and suggested that each country should evaluate its own situation in order to make headway in strengthening statistical production. With regard to the matter of the strategic plan's time frame, the representative of Guatemala suggested a five-year period, which should be subject to continual review, given that the demand for information could quickly change.

85. The representative of FLACSO and ECLAC consultant said that great strides had been made in meeting the two objectives originally proposed for the Conference: to operate as a regional forum, and to coordinate tasks that would benefit the countries' statistical institutes. He recalled that the functioning of the working groups was governed by rules of procedure, notwithstanding the need to review and evaluate completion of the tasks in order to be able to tackle new challenges. Learning communities could strengthen the Knowledge Transfer Network, as could expert groups (city groups) at the international level. He emphasized the impact that the data revolution would have on the institutes' statistical production processes. Lastly, he endorsed the proposal put forward by Ecuador, to adopt a strong theme, but said that it must be attractive to stakeholders outside the world of statistics, in particular decision makers and resource managers.

86. The representative of IDB suggested that the matter of administrative records should be made explicit and invited the countries to participate in a workshop on that theme to be run by his organization in September 2015.

87. The representative of Brazil insisted on the need to revise and recast the rules of procedure of the working groups, to establish specific lines of action, time frames and objectives, to reduce the number of participants, and to provide an estimate of the cost of activities prior to their approval by the Executive Committee. The representative of Mexico echoed that comment and added that horizontal cooperation should be taken into consideration to prevent the duplication of work. In response to that request and the request made by Argentina and other countries, the Chair of the Executive Committee said that a mechanism would be devised to decide on the Committee's composition and new rules of procedure for the working groups would be drafted for the following meeting of the Conference.

88. After thanking the participants for their comments, the representative of the secretariat reiterated the importance of strong ideas that would enlist the support not only of statisticians, but also of decision makers and the rest of society, and would boost the credibility of official statistics, given their key role in development and coexistence within a democracy.

89. As a separate item, the representative of Ecuador delivered a presentation on the process of building the Agenda of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) to 2020.

Place and date of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
(agenda item 6)

90. The representatives of the countries present at the meeting welcomed Ecuador's offer to host the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, to be held from 17 to 19 November 2015 in Quito.

Adoption of agreements (agenda item 7)

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its fourteenth meeting, held in Santiago, from 26 to 28 May 2015,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, in which the Council approved the proposal on the establishment, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind also that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee shall carry out the following functions: draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; follow up on 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 decide on the documentation required for its meetings,

Bearing in mind further resolution 8(VII) adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its seventh meeting, and the agreements adopted by the Executive Committee at its thirteenth meeting,

Having reviewed the reports on the progress of the activities of the working groups and those of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015, of the Conference,

Taking into consideration the agreements adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-fifth session,

Taking into consideration also the views expressed and the contributions provided by the Governments of the States members of the Conference and by the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the international organizations represented at the meeting,

Review of progress in the implementation of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. *Endorses* the report on the activities of the working groups, August 2014-March 2015,³ and urges the groups to continue pursuing their fruitful work until their terms of reference are fully discharged;

³ LC/L.4015(CE.14/6).

2. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador, in its capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee, for developing and implementing an online system for following up on the activities of the working groups, requests the secretariat to continue maintaining and improving that tool and urges the countries to continue using the system to submit their four-monthly reports in order to furnish the Executive Committee with appropriate, up-to-date information for monitoring the activities of the working groups;
3. *Also thanks* the international organizations whose technical secretariats have provided support and collaboration for the activities of the groups;
4. *Urges* member States of the Conference, the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to contribute actively to carrying out the activities envisaged in the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015;
5. *Also urges* the countries to generate synergies between the Statistical Conference of the Americas and other subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to strengthening statistical systems in the region;

Censuses

6. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the various activities planned or held in relation to censuses and vital statistics, such as the seminar Sharing experiences on developing the censuses for the 2020 round, organized by the National Institute of Statistics of Chile, with support from the United Nations Population Fund and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC; the Third Latin American and Caribbean Course on Population Estimates and Projections, to be organized by National Statistical Institute of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC in Caracas in July 2015; and the Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, which will be held from 9 to 12 November 2015 and organized by the United Nations Statistics Division and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC;
7. *Urges* the countries of the region to take part in the new edition of the intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications between August and December 2015, and requests the United Nations Population Fund and other agencies to continue to support this important activity;
8. *Also urges* the countries to strive to modernize the methods used to conduct their censuses, in particular by aiming to use a wider range of administrative data sources;
9. *Acclaims* the forthcoming second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be held in Mexico City from 6 to 9 October 2015;
10. *Welcomes* the decision by several countries to conduct intercensal surveys or censuses corresponding to the 2010 round, reiterates the importance of incorporating, as far as possible, the recommendations emanating from the activities of the Conference in census exercises, and requests the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean to continue supporting the countries in planning and analysing their population and housing censuses and to promote activities to continue identifying

and evaluating the lessons learned from the 2010 round, with a view to applying them in the next census round;

11. *Notes* the importance of carrying out preparatory activities for the 2020 census round sufficiently in advance;

Harmonization of Poverty Statistics

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuing to improve instruments for measuring monetary and multidimensional poverty, including poverty relating to time use, in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;
13. *Welcomes* the activities of the working group to identify dimensions of well-being that lend themselves to harmonized measurement and invites the member countries to provide the support necessary to ensure the successful conclusion of the activities still pending;

Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

14. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the proposed reprogramming of the activities of the working group in order to meet its specific objectives and urges the working group to take action as required to carry out these activities within the time estimated;
15. *Requests* the countries to redouble their efforts to generate the information necessary to produce indicators for the Millennium Development Goals in order to obtain solid evidence for assessing achievement of the Goals deriving from the Millennium Summit;
16. *Restates* the need for national statistical offices to take an active part in discussion forums and in the preparation of the indicators for the post-2015 development agenda in order to ensure that appropriate statistical information is used for monitoring purposes;
17. *Recognizes* that the sustainable development goals merit special attention and proposes that the best way to address them should be discussed at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

National accounts

18. *Takes note of* the start-up of activities under the Development Account tranche 9 project “Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin American, Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries” and of the progress made on the first phase of national and regional evaluation;
19. *Encourages* the countries, especially the pilot countries, to offer their full support for future activities relating to the Development Account project as regards application of the main recommendations of the System of National Accounts, 2008;
20. *Calls upon* experts on national accounts in the region to discuss, at the upcoming seminar on national accounts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the future activities and the composition of the working group, for presentation at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

21. *Restates* the importance of continuing to raise the profile of the working group's activities vis-à-vis potential donors and interested partners;
22. *Notes* the important links between national accounts, gender statistics, environmental statistics and risk management, and the potential benefits resulting from those links;

Measurement of information and communications technologies (ICTs)

23. *Calls upon* the national statistical offices to respond in a timely manner to the ICT surveys conducted by the working group, which are aimed at offering the countries updated, harmonized data that will serve the purposes of public policy decision-making geared towards tapping information technologies to improve health care, raise education quality, galvanize the labour market, contribute to the development of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, promote public services through e-government and contribute in general to expediting social and economic progress;
24. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the commencement of activities to develop a methodology for measuring gender and ICT indicators in household surveys and administrative records, which is being carried out in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, the coordinating country of the Working Group on Gender Statistics, and the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
25. *Emphasizes* the importance of this working group's efforts to integrate the English-speaking Caribbean countries through activities such as support for holding a meeting in the Caribbean aimed at promoting the measurement of ICT in accordance with these countries' priorities, which will have technical and financial support from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
26. *Expresses its appreciation* for the valuable support that the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) has always afforded to this working group within the framework of the collaboration agreement, and expresses its interest in including reference in the eLAC 2018 Digital Agenda to the importance of promoting and strengthening the measurement of ICTs through national statistical plans, and in inviting the focal points of eLAC2015, on the occasion of the Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, to reinforce the measurement of ICTs in their digital agendas and to increase synergies with national statistical offices, in order to work together to generate good-quality, timely statistics on ICTs, also bearing in mind the strong increase in demand for information arising from the sustainable development goals;

Labour market indicators

27. *Acknowledges* that this is a good time for the region to strengthen its systems of labour statistics, given the existence of new recommendations issued by the International Conference of Labour Statisticians at its nineteenth session, which are aimed at better measurement of employment and labour underutilization, and commends the working group for promoting technical discussion on ways to approach these new recommendations and their impacts on the main labour market indicators;
28. *Commends* the efforts made by the working group to secure financing for its activities, in particular its submission of the project "Regional adaptation of new international guidelines for measuring labour statistics through the design of questionnaires and methodological guides" to the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank;

29. *Notes* the existence of issues related to the preparation of labour statistics that the group should tackle in due course, including the review of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93), the effects of the new population projections on estimations of labour market indicators and the construction of gross flow statistics for analysing labour market dynamics;

Institution-building

30. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the broad participation of the countries in the various activities undertaken to disseminate and implement the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and invites them to continue engaging in forthcoming activities;
31. *Commends* the working group on conducting an additional two overall assessments on Code compliance, further to the six that were initially planned;
32. *Urges* the working group to finalize a proposal, to be presented to the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its eighth meeting, for securing ongoing financing for assessing and monitoring the implementation of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to raise the quality of statistics in the region, and also urges the countries and international organizations to support regional projects in that connection;

Environmental statistics

33. *Notes* the progress achieved regarding the project “Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean”, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank;
34. *Welcomes* the completion of the Spanish-language version of the handbook “System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. Central Framework”, by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and calls for it to be printed to improve its dissemination in the region;
35. *Recognizes* the importance of environmental statistics for the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals;
36. *Notes* the start-up of activities under the Development Account tranche 9 project “Strengthening statistical capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators in Latin American, Caribbean and Asia-Pacific countries”, and the progress made on the first phase of national and regional evaluation;
37. *Encourages* the countries, especially the pilot countries, to offer their full support for future activities relating to the Development Account project as regards application of the main recommendations of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA 2012);

International classifications

38. *Takes note* of the progress achieved on the planned activities of the working group, and underscores the importance of securing funding for another meeting at the end of the biennium;

39. *Welcomes* the project proposal “Latin American Cluster for the Promotion of Standard Information and Classification Systems (CLASIC)”, which was submitted under the 2015 Call for Proposals of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank;

Agricultural statistics

40. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the commencement of the project “Developing a methodology for implementing agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean” in the framework of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank, with the workshop held in Santiago on 25 and 26 May 2015, at which the project’s Steering Committee agreed to complete the assessment of the status of agricultural and rural statistics in the countries, develop a conceptual framework for a regional integrated system of agricultural and rural statistics, develop a strategy for capacity-building on related issues in the region, and hold a first workshop in February 2016 to endorse the assessment and set the priorities for component 1 of the project, and a second workshop later that month to establish the training programme to be pursued;
41. *Urges* the national statistical offices and the ministries of agriculture of the countries to complete, if they have not yet done so, the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistics system, with a view to obtaining a full assessment of the status of agricultural and rural statistics in the countries;
42. *Reaffirms* that the project entitled “Developing a methodology for implementing agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”, implemented in the framework of the Regional Public Goods Initiative, represents a valuable contribution to the implementation in the region of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, but draws attention to its limited scope and thus to the pressing need for the Global Office of the Global Strategy to adopt the regional implementation plan;

Gender statistics

43. *Welcomes* the availability of the Spanish-language version of the *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys*,⁴ urges the countries to access them through the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and to apply them in future statistical events on the subject, and encourages them to make good use of other sources, such as administrative records for this specific area;
44. *Hails* the commencement of joint activities by the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and the Working Group on Gender Statistics to implement their respective work plans and build indicators on ICT use and gender issues;
45. *Notes with pleasure* the invitation extended by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to the Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to attend the fifty-second meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women, which will be held from 29 to 31 July 2015 in Santo Domingo, in fulfilment of agreement 2 adopted by the Presiding Officers at their fiftieth meeting (Santiago, May 2014), on facilitation of coordination and synergies between the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC;

⁴ ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/110.

46. *Encourages* the countries to include shortcomings relating to time use in their multidimensional poverty estimates, in view of their association with gender inequality;

Household surveys

47. *Notes with satisfaction* the preparation of an assessment of the status of integrated household survey systems (IHSS) in the member countries of the group, and the continuing compilation of information on the stratification of the sampling frame;
48. *Appreciates* the importance of modernizing and continuing to enhance the integration and efficiency of household survey methodologies, particularly in view of the growing demand for information arising from the monitoring requirements of the post-2015 development agenda;
49. *Urges* the countries to use the electronic forum and to contribute to the working group's digital library;
50. *Also urges* the working group to identify the competences of the statistical institutes of the region in respect of household surveys, with the goal of promoting South-South cooperation;

Statistics on childhood and adolescence

51. *Welcomes* the progress report on the biennial programme of activities of the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence, which describes the activities carried out and the outcomes achieved;
52. *Commends* the holding of a workshop on the analysis and dissemination of data on childhood, in Santo Domingo in November 2014, and a workshop on the design of household surveys using the multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) methodology in Panama in October 2014;
53. *Urges* the countries to participate in the activities of the working group and to redouble their efforts to compile the information needed to produce indicators on children and young persons, and asks for greater collaboration with the other working groups to address the issue of statistics on childhood and adolescence in a cross-cutting manner;
54. *Notes* the importance of administrative records for generating statistics on childhood and adolescence and suggests that these be considered as a possible future topic for the working group;

Statistics on public security and justice

55. *Notes with satisfaction* the holding of various group coordination activities and commends the progress achieved under the established work plan;
56. *Applauds* the recent joint adoption of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;
57. *Recommends* that the States members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas consider drawing up national plans for the gradual adoption of the Classification, with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and, specifically, the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Government, Public Security, Victimization and Justice, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the working group;

58. *Calls upon* national statistical offices to forward information relating to the assessment of the status of crime and criminal justice statistics in the region's countries, as defined in the work plan of this group, in order to plan actions to improve the performance of these systems;
59. *Encourages* the member countries of the Conference to persevere with their efforts to harmonize victim survey questionnaires and methodologies in the region, under the coordination of this working group and with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular, the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Government, Public Security, Victimization and Justice;

Quantification of South-South cooperation

60. *Welcomes* the progress achieved in discussions to identify and agree upon elements for measuring South-South cooperation in technical and financial terms, and thanks the National Administrative Department of Statistics and the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia for providing financial and technical support for the performance of the task force's activities;
61. *Invites* the member countries of the task force to complete the planned activities, and to continue to develop methodologies, build instruments and establish common processes to measure and systematize information on South-South cooperation, through close collaboration between national statistical offices and the agencies responsible for coordinating international cooperation in each country;
62. *Notes* the need to review the scope for continuing discussions on the measurement of South-South cooperation and to foster knowledge-sharing between the different initiatives that are addressing the issue in the region;

Disability measurement

63. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the initiatives by Mexico, in its capacity as coordinator, to secure funding for the task force to carry out its activities as set forth in resolution 8(VII), adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its seventh meeting;
64. *Recognizes* the need for a regional agreement on the most appropriate ways to measure the situation regarding disability and on suitable instruments for this purpose;

Knowledge Transfer Network

65. *Thanks* the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia for its work in coordinating the Knowledge Transfer Network;
66. *Acknowledges* the network's role as a key platform for sharing knowledge and experience between national statistical offices and for generating common solutions to statistical challenges;
67. *Reiterates* the need for all member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to collectively and actively engage in building the Knowledge Transfer Network, and requests that they update information and contribute to promoting innovation and the dissemination of services on a continuous basis;

Information on subregional cooperation activities

68. *Notes with satisfaction* the activities carried out by the subregional statistical cooperation agencies;
69. *Commends* the Statistics Committee of the Andean Community upon the resumption of its activities and recognizes its valuable contribution to the development of statistics in the Andean subregion;

Proposed strategic plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas

70. *Thanks* the secretariat for preparing the proposed Strategic Plan, 2015-2025,⁵ of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and requests it to proceed with the preparation of the final document, taking into account the suggestions and comments contained in the report of the present meeting of the Executive Committee, with a view to its submission for review and adoption at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;
71. *Requests* the working groups to prepare their respective draft biennial work plans on the basis of the ground lines established in the new strategic plan;
72. *Pledges* to submit draft rules of procedure on the functioning of the working groups, as well as criteria for the formation of the new Executive Committee, at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

Election of the countries that will participate in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring

73. *Welcomes* the election of Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico as representatives of the region to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators;
74. *Also welcomes* the election of Argentina, the Bahamas, Ecuador, El Salvador and Saint Lucia as representatives of the region to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring;
75. *Urges* the countries serving as representatives to seek prior consultation mechanisms and to report to all the countries of the region on the progress of the work carried out in both groups;
76. *Calls upon* all the countries to actively participate and engage in the process;

Place and date of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

77. *Welcomes* the offer extended by the Government of Ecuador to host the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place from 17 to 19 November 2015;

⁵ LC/L.4009(CE.14/4).

78. *Also welcomes* the proposal by Canada to hold a seminar on 16 November 2015, as a side event at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, to examine the outcomes in the region of the International Statistical Fellowship Program of Statistics Canada;
79. *Takes note* of the proposals to hold substantive seminars at the eighth meeting of the Conference, including a seminar on the data revolution proposed by the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund, a seminar on censuses proposed by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as the coordinator of the working group on that topic, and a seminar proposed by Brazil on indicators for monitoring the progress of the sustainable development goals, and requests the secretariat to consult with the countries to determine other topics of interest to be discussed in the substantive seminars.

Annex

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
States member of the Commission****ARGENTINA**Representante/Representative:

- Ana Nora Feldman, Directora Nacional de Planificación y Coordinación Estadística, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC), email: afeld@indec.mecon.gov.ar

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

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Associate members**

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**C. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies**

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

- Lara Blanco, Deputy Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean,
email: lara.blanco@unwomen.org

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Mirella Hernani, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Panama, email: mhernani@unicef.org

Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Pablo Salazar, Regional Advisor on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama, email: salazarcanelos@unfpa.org

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas para la Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres (UNISDR)/United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Ricardo Mena, Head of the Regional Office for the Americas, email: rmena@eird.org

Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito (UNODC)/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

- Salomé Flores Sierra Franzoni, National Programme Officer, Liaison and Partnership Office, Mexico, email: salome.flores@unodc.org

Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR)/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- Magda Medina, Jefa Oficina Nacional, Santiago, email: medinam@unhcr.org

**D. Organismos especializados
Specialized agencies**

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- David Glejberman, Asesor Regional en Estadísticas del Trabajo Decente, Escuela de Trabajo Decente y Países para el Cono Sur de América Latina, Chile, email: glejberman@ilo.org
- Bolívar Pino, Coordinador del Sistema de Información Laboral para América Latina y el Caribe (SIALC), Panamá, email: pinob@ilo.org

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Verónica Boero, Estadística Regional, Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, Santiago, email: veronica.boero@fao.org

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- Juan Perusia, Asesor Regional, América Latina y el Caribe, email: jc.perusia@unesco.org

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Intergovernmental organizations**

Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI)/Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)

- Carlos Landauer, Director de Información y Estadísticas, Uruguay, email: clandauer@aladi.org

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

- José Antonio Mejía Guerra, Especialista Líder en Modernización del Estado, Washington, D.C., email: joseam@iadb.org
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Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA)/Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA)

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Instituto Interamericano de Estadística/Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)

- Evelio O. Fabbroni, Director Ejecutivo, email: fabpan@cwpanama.net

Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR)/Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)

- Gustavo Cohener, Asesor Técnico, Unidad Técnica de Estadísticas de Comercio Exterior (UCETEM), email: gcohener@mercosur.org.uy

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Norberto Girón, Jefe de Misión, Chile, email: ngiron@iom.int

Secretaría de Integración Económica Centroamericana (SIECA)/Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration

- Eduardo Espinoza Valverde, Director de Inteligencia Económica, email: eespinoza@sieca.int

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