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**CRITERIA FOR THE FORMATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF
THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017**

INTRODUCTION

United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 states that at the beginning of each Conference, the Chair of the Executive Committee, in consultation with the members of the Executive Committee and of the Conference, shall draw up a proposal on the election of the new Committee.

At 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), held in Santiago in May 2015, the Committee pledged to submit criteria for the formation of the new Executive Committee at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (see agreement No. 72).

Pursuant to that agreement, this document outlines the proposed criteria for the formation of the Executive Committee for the biennium 2016-2017, which are hereby submitted to the Conference for approval and adoption for use in subsequent bienniums.

A. COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BETWEEN 2001 AND 2015

According to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7, the Executive Committee shall be made up of a Chair and six members, elected from among the member countries of ECLAC. The resolution specifies that special attention shall be paid to ensuring that the subregional groups of countries are represented on the Committee.

In order to meet the subregional representation requirement, the member States of ECLAC are organized into six mutually exclusive groups, which reflect mainly the spheres within which subregional statistical cooperation usually takes place, namely the Andean Community, the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the English-speaking Caribbean, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and Central America, North America, and members from outside the region.

As shown in table 1, the Executive Committee has always had at least one member from each of these subregional groups. Likewise, no country has been on the Committee for more than three successive terms, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 2000/7. The table also shows that, in most cases, the country that served as Chair in a given biennium continued to serve as a member of the Executive Committee in the following biennium.

Table 1
Composition of the Executive Committee, 2001-2015

Meetings of the Statistical Conference of the Americas	Biennium	Andean Community	Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)	English-speaking Caribbean	Spanish-speaking Caribbean and Central America	North America	Members from outside the region	Chair
First	2001-2003	Peru	Brazil and Chile	Belize	Panama	Canada	Spain	Brazil
Second	2003-2005	Plurinational State of Bolivia	Brazil and Chile	Trinidad and Tobago	Panama	United States of America	Spain	Chile
Third	2005-2007	Colombia	Chile	Jamaica	Honduras	Mexico and United States of America	Spain	Mexico
Fourth	2007-2009	Colombia	Paraguay	Bahamas	Dominican Republic and Honduras	Mexico	France	Colombia
Fifth	2009-2011	Colombia	Uruguay	Bahamas	Cuba and Dominican Republic	Canada	France	Dominican Republic
Sixth	2011-2013	Ecuador	Paraguay	Belize	Cuba and Dominican Republic	Canada	Spain	Paraguay
Seventh	2013-2015	Ecuador	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Belize	Costa Rica and Cuba	Canada	Spain	Ecuador

B. CRITERIA FOR THE FORMATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017

The aforementioned criteria provide robust guidance for determining the composition of the Executive Committee in the future. Two additional criteria should be adopted to establish the composition of the Committee more precisely.

The first criterion should establish which subregion will be allowed to nominate an additional member, to bring the total number of members to seven. It is proposed that the seventh member shall be from the country that served as Chair in the preceding biennium. This proposal is consistent with the historical practice whereby the country that held the Chair may continue as a member of the Committee for an additional biennium, without this affecting the election to the Executive Committee of other countries from the same subregion. This proposal is intended to afford consistency to the operation of the Executive Committee over time and to tap its stock of experience to perform its mandate to the best of its abilities. In the event that the Chair from the preceding period has already served the permitted three successive bienniums, the place on the Committee usually reserved for the Chair shall be occupied instead by another country from the same subregional grouping.

The second criterion should establish the subregional grouping to which each country should belong. To that end, a list dividing the member States of ECLAC into six subregional groups is provided in the annex, for use in the formation of the Executive Committee in the biennium 2016-2017.

This classification is based primarily on the spheres of subregional statistical cooperation and is, therefore, subject to change over time. In order to establish a general criterion that can be used in the future, it is proposed that the list can be altered in the event that a country wishes to be considered part of a different grouping. Countries wishing to change grouping should notify the secretariat prior to the formation of a new Executive Committee. The process of forming the new Committee shall begin with the convening of the regular meeting of the Conference at which the new Committee will be elected.

Annex

**LIST OF COUNTRIES THAT COMPRISE EACH SUBREGIONAL GROUP IN ORDER
TO DETERMINE THE FORMATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS**

Andean Community

- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Colombia
- Ecuador
- Peru

English-speaking Caribbean

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago

Spanish-speaking Caribbean and Central America

- Cuba
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Panama

Members from outside the region

- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Republic of Korea
- Spain
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Chile
- Paraguay
- Uruguay
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

North America

- Canada
- Mexico
- United States of America