

PARTICIPANTS ONLY
REFERENCE DOCUMENT
DDR/1

8 June 2016

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF ECLAC*
WHICH ARE OF INTEREST FOR THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE
OF THE AMERICAS OF ECLAC**

* Mexico City, 23 - 27 May 2016.

**700(XXXVI) MEXICO RESOLUTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FORUM
OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 695(PLEN.16-E) adopted by the Committee of the Whole at its sixteenth extraordinary session held in Santiago on 16 April 2015, in which the Committee decided to launch a regional consultation process aimed at establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016,

Recalling also resolution 696(PLEN.31) adopted by the Committee of the Whole at its thirty-first session, held in New York on 28 April 2016, in which the countries welcomed the successful conclusion of the regional consultation process aimed at establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development,

Having examined the draft report of the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole,

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in accordance with the outcome of the thirty-first session of the Committee of the Whole, as set forth in the annex to this resolution.

Annex

RESOLUTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FORUM OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 695(PLN.16-E) of its Committee of the Whole, through which, inter alia, a regional consultation process was launched with the aim of establishing the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development at the thirty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and reaffirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions —economic, social and environmental— in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, encourages all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage, as well as United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting Member States in this regard, and establishes guiding principles for follow-up and review processes at all levels, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, respecting policy space and priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments, and recognizing that the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review will be primarily based on national official data sources,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 69/313, entitled “Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development”, which, inter alia, commits Member States to fully engage, nationally, regionally and internationally, in ensuring proper and effective follow-up of the financing for development outcomes and all the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the United Nations regional commissions, in cooperation with regional banks and organizations, to mobilize their expertise and existing mechanisms, which could focus on thematic aspects of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 61/16 and 68/1, which, inter alia, urge the United Nations regional commissions to contribute, within their mandates, to the review of progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and resolution 66/288, in which countries agreed to strengthen the Economic and Social Council as a principal body in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 67/290, which, inter alia, acknowledges the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, and invites the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, including through annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Emphasizing the importance of establishing a regional forum to follow up and review progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for, inter alia, strengthening coherence and coordination, promoting cooperation and providing policy guidance, fostering national capacity-building, hosting voluntary State-led national reviews, identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets, fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned, helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation, encouraging participation of all relevant stakeholders, providing a platform for partnerships, favouring people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability, and promoting the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies,

Recognizing that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development; and reaffirming that planet Earth and its ecosystems are our common home and that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in a number of countries and regions,

Emphasizing the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support by the United Nations development system for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the financing for development processes, including at the regional level, taking into account other regional and subregional processes promoting the impact of international development cooperation,

Taking into consideration the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries, and recognizing the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the Note by the secretariat of the Commission,¹ prepared in fulfilment of resolution 695(PLN.16-E) adopted by the Committee of the Whole,

1. *Decides* to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional mechanism to follow up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its means of implementation, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

2. *Decides also* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be State-led and open to the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries, and that it should provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, the sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets, benefiting from the cooperation of regional and subregional commissions and organizations, in order to guide an inclusive regional process drawing on national-level reviews and contributing to follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the global level, including at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and at the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as appropriate;

¹ LC/L.4123.

3. *Reaffirms* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be guided by the principles established for all follow-up and review processes by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will build on existing platforms and mandates, avoiding duplications and the creation of additional structures, and that within existing resources it will promote coordination and coherence within the United Nations development system, and invite other relevant regional and subregional entities and international financial institutions to be involved in its meetings, as appropriate, while addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated and balanced manner, and in these regards further decides that:

- (a) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be informed by the following subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as appropriate:
 - (i) The Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - (ii) The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,
 - (iii) The Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning,
 - (iv) The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - (v) The Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - (vi) The Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies,
 - (vii) The Committee on South-South Cooperation,
 - (viii) The Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,
 - (ix) The Committee of High-Level Government Experts, and
 - (x) The Central American Economic Cooperation Committee,
- (b) Other relevant intergovernmental regional mechanisms, including the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Forum of Ministers of Social Development of Latin America, are invited to provide inputs and contributions and inform the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, within their existing mandates, on their work related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,
- (c) The regional offices of the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in a coordinated manner, including through the submission of contributions to be reflected in annual progress reports of the Commission, and the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

- (d) Relevant international financial institutions, including regional and subregional development banks, are also invited to participate and engage in the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, including through the presentation of their efforts in supporting and assisting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as appropriate,
- (e) The Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will take into account, as appropriate, the outcomes related to sustainable development agreed by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, including its 2025 Plan on Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger;

5. *Stresses* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will recognize the special needs and particular challenges of landlocked developing countries, and the special sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States, middle-income countries, least developed countries, countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict countries, in order to address the universal character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. *Highlights* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and that it will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by, inter alia:

- (a) Strengthening coordination, promoting cooperation and providing political guidance through recommendations for sustainable development at the regional level,
- (b) Fostering the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner, with a particular focus on the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the promotion of sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth, including sustainable consumption and production patterns, the reduction of inequalities and the promotion of social inclusion, the recognition of cultural diversity and of the role of culture as a crucial enabler of sustainable development, the protection and sustainable use of the environment, and the promotion of good living in harmony with nature,
- (c) Assessing progress on the regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through the consideration of annual reports issued by the secretariat of the Commission to be based, as appropriate, on the global indicators framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets agreed upon by the United Nations Statistical Commission, and on other relevant indicators for regional, national and subnational levels of monitoring developed at the regional and national levels, taking also into account the indicators encompassed under the operational guidelines for implementing the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, as appropriate. All indicators should be based to the greatest extent possible on comparable and standardized official national statistics provided by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and, when other sources and methodologies are used, these will be reviewed and agreed upon by national statistical authorities and presented in a transparent manner,

- (d) Following-up and reviewing the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (Samoa Pathway) at the regional level,
- (e) Assessing the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 at the regional level,
- (f) Promoting international cooperation and national capacity-building for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, and other modalities of cooperation in order to strengthen and complement traditional modalities of cooperation,
- (g) Hosting voluntary State-led national reviews,
- (h) Identifying regional gaps, emerging challenges and shared targets for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,
- (i) Fostering peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned,
- (j) Helping to mobilize the necessary means of implementation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and targets,
- (k) Encouraging the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,
- (l) Providing a platform for partnerships for sustainable development,
- (m) Favouring people-centred policies and actions, transparency and accountability,
- (n) Promoting the coordination and coherence of national development plans and strategies with global frameworks,
- (o) Contributing to the guidance provided by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly, as well as of the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as appropriate,
- (p) Promoting, at the regional level, the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and stepping up regional cooperation and collaboration in science, research, technology and innovation, including through public-private and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit, focusing on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

7. *Decides* that the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development will be convened annually, as appropriate, by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole of the Commission. It will be supported by the secretariat of the Commission, and aligned with the schedules, working programmes and themes of the Economic and Social Council, of the latter's Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, and of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as appropriate;

8. *Requests* the secretariat of the Commission to issue an annual progress report, four weeks in advance of the respective meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The report will be considered a regional contribution for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of Economic and Social Council and its forum on financing for development follow-up, as appropriate, and will assess the regional progress and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the basis of agreed indicators and other relevant contributions from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, and on national-level reviews, as appropriate, and it will provide policy recommendations to be considered by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development;

9. *Also requests* the secretariat of the Commission to prepare a quadrennial progress report, to be considered by the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly, consolidating and building on the progress and challenges identified in the preceding annual reports, in order to provide a broader analysis of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level;

10. *Encourages* the Latin American and Caribbean countries to submit, through the Forum, its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, and a summary produced by its Chair, as appropriate:

- To the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
- To the Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, as part of the regional contributions to the global follow-up process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,
- To the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism;

11. *Highlights* the participatory and inclusive character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encourages the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, and in this regard encourages the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to ensure institutionalized multi-stakeholder participation following the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Economic and Social Council;

12. *Encourages* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to volunteer for national reviews, and the Forum to further develop modalities for hosting them in accordance with the related principles and guidelines provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**702(XXXVI) STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, whereby the Council approved the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity,

Bearing in mind also that the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean include the preparation of a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the needs of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources,

Taking into account that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its eighth meeting in Quito, from 17 to 19 November 2015, and on that occasion gave the Executive Committee a mandate to adopt the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2016-2017 at its fifteenth meeting, and adopted the Strategic Plan 2015-2025 to guide the activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in support of the development of official statistics in the region,¹

Taking into account also that, since the preceding session of the Commission, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its thirteenth meeting in Santiago, from 12 to 14 August 2014, and its fourteenth meeting in Santiago, from 26 to 28 May 2015,

Taking into account further that, on those occasions, a number of agreements were adopted which are reflected in the respective reports,²

¹ See Report of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.4154).

² See Report of the thirteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3936), 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 (LC/L.4063) and Report of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.4154).

Recognizing the major challenges facing official statistics in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the growing demand for statistical data and indicators in areas such as the environment, economic and social development, the labour market, gender affairs, information and communications technologies, public safety and justice, and South-South cooperation, as well as the challenges involved in analysing the strengths and weaknesses of different sources of information and assessing their appropriateness and relevance for measuring the multiplicity of Goals and targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing also the increasing importance of reliable, good-quality, timely, disaggregated public statistics and the growing need to provide these for the sake of transparency, accountability of the public authorities and the evidence-based evaluation of public policy outcomes, which are key elements for sustainable development and for enhancing democracy in the region,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and of the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of its Executive Committee;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Mitad del Mundo Declaration adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its eighth meeting;

3. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the increasing consolidation of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission as the intergovernmental body that coordinates international statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean and fosters the strengthening of national statistical offices and national statistical systems;

4. *Calls once again upon* the Governments of the region to acknowledge the importance of the work of national statistical systems and the challenges they face in producing relevant, timely and good-quality empirical information for evidence-based public policy design and evaluation, and in providing accountability to citizens to enable them to take informed decisions; and accordingly requests that the necessary resources be made available and a suitable legal and institutional framework be consolidated, so that the public departments working on statistics may form an effective national statistical system and operate in a coordinated manner under the leadership of the statistical office or institute;

5. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the conduct of activities for the implementation of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

6. *Also expresses its satisfaction* at the adoption of the time-use classification for Latin America (CAUTAL) with a gender focus and adapted to the regional context;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the regional space as a timely and necessary platform for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlights that the Conference is the appropriate intergovernmental body to conduct such monitoring in the region;

8. *Requests* the secretariat, as technical secretariat of the Conference, to prepare a proposal for a regional statistical monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9. *Urges* the international community and the United Nations General Assembly to strengthen the strategic role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as secretariat of the Conference, by providing additional resources with a view to creating regional and national capacities through institution-building, training and exchange of experiences, and to incorporating a geospatial perspective, including linkages to georeferenced statistics, into the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the inclusion in the activities of the Conference of the analysis of new thematic areas and methodologies that enable better tracking of economic, social and environmental matters, such as different approaches to the measurement and analysis of poverty, inequality and well-being, the development of basic economic and environmental statistics, and those involved in the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and the System of National Accounts, the dissemination of the use of international classifications, the improvement of statistics on time use and unpaid work, the measurement of public safety and justice, the measurement of disability, and the quantification of South-South cooperation, among other relevant topics addressed by the working groups of the Conference.

712(XXXVI) REGIONAL INTEGRATION OF STATISTICAL AND GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, whereby the Council approved the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as a subsidiary body of the Commission,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24, which established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States through the holding of regular high-level multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global and regional forums,

Recalling also resolution 70/1 of the General Assembly, in which it adopted the document entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which recognizes the need to adopt new approaches for the production, acquisition and integration of data so as to enhance the availability, quality and timeliness of disaggregated information, with a view to supporting the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels, exploiting the contribution made by a wide range of data, including Earth observation, geospatial information and big data, and ensuring national ownership and leadership in supporting and tracking progress,

Recalling further the Declaration of the Third High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, held in Beijing in October 2014, on which occasion the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management committed to take deliberate measures to close the gap in geospatial information technologies and associated implementation challenges between developing and developed countries, by establishing frameworks to build capacity through sharing of data, best practices, technical knowledge, tools and workflows in the collection, production, management and dissemination of geospatial information in countries requiring such assistance,

Recalling moreover that, as part of a regional geospatial information management architecture, in August 2013 the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas was created in alignment with the global agenda of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, with 38 member countries and an explicit mandate to forge links and develop cooperation mechanisms with other United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, with a view to pursuing synergies and preventing the duplication of efforts,

Taking into account that, at its fifth session, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management acknowledged the importance and need for the integration of geospatial information as an essential base for effective and efficient information systems to support official statistics with a view to contributing to the design and monitoring of public policies for sustainable development and overall economic, social and environmental well-being, for which the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, headed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, had been created,

Bearing in mind agreement 1 of the second meeting of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, in which the Committee decided that the formal format of United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas was no longer necessary and recommended that the Economic and Social Council consider removing the Conference from the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings and transferring its international mandates and obligations to the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, with regional and national technical and substantive activities to be assumed by the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas,

Acknowledging the importance of geospatial information for timely, evidence-based decision-making, and the need for capacity-building, particularly in developing countries and vulnerable regions, to be able to supply this information,

Taking into account that the integration of statistical and geospatial information may provide support for many aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as their targets and indicators, and will be essential in guiding countries and regions in their efforts to monitor progress and ensure respect for the rights and opportunities of citizens at both the national and local levels,

Considering that the United Nations regional commissions are fundamental for advancing, from a regional perspective and in intergovernmental and global forums, in the follow-up and discussions of the member countries' vision in respect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sustainable Development Goals and other important issues,

Taking into account that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and its subsidiary bodies have been widely recognized as a platform for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind that, in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Commission, the Statistical Conference of the Americas held its eighth meeting in Quito, from 17 to 19 November 2015, and on that occasion authorized the Executive Committee to adopt the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2016-2017 at its fifteenth meeting, and adopted the Strategic Plan 2015-2025 to guide the activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in support of the development of official statistics in the region,

Bearing in mind also that one of the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is to prepare a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the needs of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources,

1. *Recommends* that a forum for dialogue be established between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, in order to coordinate efforts and define a joint agenda for the integration of statistical and geospatial information, through cooperation between these two entities;

2. *Recognizes* that the immediate overarching goal of the regional agenda on geostatistical integration is its use in the measurement, monitoring and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and in conducting and analysing the 2020 round of censuses;

3. *Recommends* the exploration of joint mechanisms for projects such as the Integrated Map of the Americas of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, containing statistical information on population, and an atlas of information on gender matters for the Americas;

4. *Welcomes* the holding of regular joint meetings between the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. *Decides* that the first joint meeting will be held on 17 June 2016 in Santiago.