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Seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the  
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Santiago, 5-7 November 2013

**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE 2011 ROUND OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON  
PROGRAMME IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**



## **INTRODUCTION**

This document updates the information provided on the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) under agenda item 3(c) “Report on the progress of regional programmes and projects” at the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (Pucón, Chile, 24-26 April 2013). It describes the work done since then and the steps forward. A brief project timeline is provided for reference.

### **1. Timeline**

The Programme is at its final stage. All participating countries (17 from Latin America and 22 from the Caribbean) have finalized the phase of data collection and compilation for household and special survey prices, as well as national accounts. In-country and intra-country validation of the results has been conducted repeatedly during the past few months. Results have been checked for international and regional consistency by the regional coordinating agencies and a special task force established within the World Bank Global Office, which is managing the Programme. In September 2013, a final meeting of the Regional coordinating agencies and the Technical Advisory Group was held in Washington, D.C. A final meeting of the Executive Board of the Programme is scheduled for the end of October 2013. Based on the outcomes of this meeting, final data will be received by the Global Office at the end of November 2013. The Global Office will release the final data on 19 December 2013. A complete publication of the results is planned in April 2014.

### **2. Activities conducted**

Ongoing data checking and validation has been carried out during the past few months, with frequent interactions between member countries, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Bank. The meetings organized were aimed mainly at finalizing the activities in Caribbean countries, which entered the Programme at a later stage than the Latin American countries. In May 2013, a meeting was organized in Curaçao, with the object of finalizing the activities and questionnaires required by the Programme in relation to national accounts. In September 2013, a high-level meeting was held in Santiago to analyse and discuss the results of the Programme. Activities of in-country technical support have continued in a limited number of Caribbean countries. Two grants have been finalized in the Caribbean for strategic support for activities carried out on a few small islands. In October, ECLAC participated in a meeting of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, providing an overview of the activities carried out and the main results of the Programme in the subregion. A closing meeting with the heads of national statistical offices of Caribbean countries will be organized to sign off on the results of the Programme for the 22 participating Caribbean countries in the framework of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, to be held in Santiago, in November 2013.

### **3. Challenges**

In-country and intra-country checking may continue until the final submission of data to the World Bank, in November 2013. In-house human resources at ECLAC will be still involved in this priority activity until the publication of final results in December 2013. The activities of advocacy and information provision vis-à-vis the main stakeholders will also continue during this period, in order to facilitate the correct interpretation of the final results of the Programme. In close collaboration with countries, stakeholders and implementing agencies, ECLAC will also continue to promote forums and initiatives for discussing and strategizing on the way forward, as well as the governance and the sustainability of the Programme for the forthcoming rounds.