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**PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE STATISTICS AND ECONOMIC
PROJECTIONS DIVISION, 2012-2013 ***

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SUBPROGRAMME 11: STATISTICS

Presentation

Although economic, social, demographic and environmental statistics have improved significantly, the quality and transparency of national statistics systems have yet to be brought in line with international best practices and their use by economic agents, social actors and decision makers must be promoted. These targets were defined in the Strategic plan 2005-2015 for regional statistical development, adopted at the third meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC in June 2005.

In order to achieve these objectives, countries must address different challenges, some of which were discussed at the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas held in Bogota in August 2009. Countries must strive to implement the System of National Accounts (1993 and 2008 recommendations). In addition, the 2008-2009 economic crisis highlighted the need to foster the production of short-term economic statistics and develop a system of early-warning indicators. Countries must also strengthen their capacity to monitor the indicators to follow up on internationally agreed development goals, particularly those contained in the Millennium Declaration. The region's statistical systems will also need to tackle other challenges including implementation of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the production of statistical data and indicators in new areas (such as the environment and gender). In addition, the harmonization of statistical data remains a key issue.

Socio-economic and environmental statistics and indicators are vital resources to inform and support sustainable development. Therefore the quality, timeliness and integrity of statistics must meet the most rigorous standards. The production and publication of accurate statistics also help to reinforce democracy by contributing to the process of public participation and enhancing the transparency and accountability of the political system. Reliable and easily accessible information systems are not only a concern for statisticians, but a prerequisite for good governance at the country level. Economic, social and environmental statistics, produced on a regular basis, are crucial for public policies. They provide evidence of underlying economic and social conditions and help to identify the main problems and constraints for the design of policies, programmes and projects. Moreover, they are the main inputs for appropriate monitoring and evaluation of public actions.

Harnessing best practices in statistical activities was recommended by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, at its fifth meeting, as a key element for design and for enhancing the reliability and quality of public statistics and building sound and robust legal and institutional frameworks. The subprogramme will seek to adapt these best practices to the Latin American and Caribbean context, and to assist countries in implementing them.

Such considerations underpin the conceptual and methodological content of the programme of work for the 2012-2013 biennium. The purpose of the subprogramme is to support Latin American and Caribbean countries in their efforts to build, strengthen and harmonize statistical information and the decision-making systems underlying the design, monitoring and assessment of development policies. In particular, the subprogramme proposes to provide support to countries in the improvement of national capacities to enable them to generate, analyse and disseminate, in a timely manner and in keeping with internationally accepted standards and best practices in the field, the statistical information and indicators vital to the design and monitoring of economic and social development policies.

The proposed activities seek to pursue the medium-term objectives of the subprogramme and to achieve the expected accomplishments during the biennium. Progress achieved will be measured by the indicators described below.

Logical framework of the subprogramme:

Objective of the Organization: To foster the generation, use and incorporation of accurate, timely and relevant statistical information in economic, social and environmental development policies in countries of the region	
Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	(a) (i) Increased percentage of compliance by countries of the region with the System of National Accounts and incorporated satellite accounts, in accordance with international recommendations and their own requirements
(b) Increased technical capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to monitor economic, social and environmental trends and to formulate evidence-based policies	(ii) Increased number of countries of the region that have established indicators to follow-up on the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of the region
	(b) (i) Increased number of countries that take action to implement ECLAC recommendations to monitor economic, social and environment trends and formulate evidence-based policies
	ii) Increased number of downloads from the <i>Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean</i> and CEPALSTAT, the ECLAC consolidated online repository of economic, social and environmental databases in the region
	iii) Increased number of users that acknowledge that they have benefited from the information contained in CEPALSTAT

Strategy

The Statistics Division will be responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme. Given its interdisciplinary nature, it will work in close collaboration with all other ECLAC offices and divisions.

The strategy for reaching the established objective will be based on three main lines of activities. The first is the promotion of best practices and the dissemination and adaptation of internationally comparable methodologies. Seminars, courses and meetings will be organized and technical documentation will be prepared. Secondly, the subprogramme will provide specialized advisory and technical cooperation services to strengthen the countries' technical and institutional capacities in the statistical field as well as to organize meetings and seminars to facilitate the sharing of experiences and promote horizontal cooperation. Support will also be given for the development of networks to strengthen the harmonization and coordination of statistical data among countries. Lastly, the subprogramme considers carrying out activities of methodological development (proposal and adaptation of indicators). The main direct beneficiaries of the subprogramme will be national statistics institutions, central banks

and specialized governmental agencies in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Moreover, the reach of the subprogramme will encompass a broad audience in the private sector, academia and civil society.

Two important features of the subprogramme strategy should be stressed. On the one hand, the activities will be carried out in close coordination with the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. The subprogramme activities reflect the thematic priorities identified by the Conference, as it considers national accounts, economic and environmental statistics, the Millennium Development Goal indicators, social indicators and the organization of statistical systems. Each area includes conventional statistical development activities as well as new methodologies demanded by Governments and civil society for addressing emerging issues. The activities of the subprogramme will, be coordinated as much as possible with those of the Conference's working groups. The subprogramme will act as coordinator of regional and global activities at regional and global levels, including joint activities with the Statistical Division of the United Nations of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Collaboration with other international agencies (for example IMF, WTO, PAHO) and other regional commissions is also envisaged. Furthermore, through an active participation of the Division in global events (especially, but not limited to, the United Nations Statistical Commission), the experience, special features and positions of the region will be conveyed to global forums. The subprogramme also includes activities that are part of global projects, such as the International Comparison Program (ICP).

The subprogramme will also place its pool of statistical and methodological information at the disposal of a wide range of stakeholders: government agencies of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as business and labour organizations, technical and professional institutions with links to productive sectors, universities, research centres, regional and subregional integration bodies and other public or private entities that require comparable information on the countries of the region. In addition, the subprogramme seeks to disseminate economic, social and environmental data and indicators on a comparable basis and supporting other ECLAC divisions in the provision and analysis of statistics and data.

Cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners will be enhanced in order to provide additional resources to the subprogramme to strengthen the implementation of its programme of work and maximize its impact in beneficiary countries. Emphasis will be placed on promoting the adoption of the new recommendations relating to the System of National Accounts for the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC; improving basic economic statistics; facilitating the participation of countries in the International Comparison Programme; enhancing the systematization of environmental statistics; and developing poverty and social cohesion indicators.

Lastly, member States will benefit from increased visibility of the subprogramme's work through the continuous update and development of the Commission's website and its online economic, social and environmental statistics and indicators database, CEPALSTAT. The Commission's main publications and findings will also be widely disseminated among policymakers, academics and other stakeholders both within and outside the region at international events and key forums.

External factors

The objectives and expected accomplishments of the subprogramme will be achievable based on the following assumptions:

(a) The socio-economic and institutional environment in the region remains stable or improves, thereby allowing national statistical systems to function normally and make progress.

(b) The international community continues to support the work of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the priorities it sets for statistical development in the region, in response to the specific needs and concerns of ECLAC member States in this field. It continues to be guided, in this connection, by the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council mandates and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the agreements adopted at major world economic and social summits and conferences.

(c) International agencies and organizations working in the region support the coordination efforts aimed at increasing the efficiency and relevance of their statistical cooperation activities.

List of activities

Subject area 11.1: Technical cooperation among Member States and within regional and global statistical bodies

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

(i) Seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. This activity includes the coordination and monitoring of technical cooperation agreements for the development of statistics, the preparation of reports on the activities of the ECLAC secretariat and on outputs and advances in statistical development and international cooperation, as well as the preparation of substantive documentation for presentation at the Conference (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Two meetings of the Executive Committee of the Conference, including the preparation of progress reports on advances and outputs of the programme of work defined by the Conference (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. Intermediate activities

(i) Provision of support to the working groups created by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. This activity includes the organization and servicing of the working groups' meetings, preparation of background documents and other materials, preparation of meeting reports and monitoring of the tasks assigned to each working group (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1);

(ii) Preparation, upon request and in collaboration with other agencies, of substantive inputs supporting and channelling the view of Latin American and Caribbean countries in international forums and in global conferences on statistics and indicators, such as the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC or the sessions of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

Subject area 11.2: Statistical databanks and dissemination of regional statistics and indicators

1. Recurrent publications

Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean (two issues during the biennium) (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

2. Other substantive activities

Technical materials

Development, maintenance and updating of the CEPALSTAT system and the databases under direct responsibility of the Statistics Division, and coordination with other divisions of the activities relating to the maintenance of their databases.

3. Intermediate activities

(i) Statistical support for the execution of ECLAC studies and projects in the field of economic, sociology and sustainable development, and for inter-agency work, particularly in the context of the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) Production of one or more chapters on poverty, inequality and related subjects and preparation, in conjunction with the Social Development Division, of statistical indicators for the annual editions of the *Social Panorama of Latin America* (2012 and 2013 editions) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iii) Preparation of the statistical summary for the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* (2011-2012 and 2012-2013 editions) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iv) Preparation of the statistical summary for the *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* (2012 and 2013 editions) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

Subject area 11.3: System of National Accounts and economic statistics

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad-hoc expert group meetings

(i) Two meetings of experts to evaluate the inclusion of new international recommendations in the implementation of the System of National Accounts and its adjustment to the characteristics of the economies in the region, within the framework provided by the Latin American Network of Experts on National Accounts (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1, high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A meeting of experts to analyse the advance of the satellite accounts with respect to development priorities in the region (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1, high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iii) Two meetings of experts to promote and analyse the incorporation of the new international recommendations on classifications and nomenclature in basic statistical practices for national and foreign trade in goods and services (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1, high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

The implementation of activities (ii) and (iii) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Recurrent publications

Cuadernos estadísticos de la CEPAL. Two issues during the biennium on economic statistics (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

3. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on the progress made in the region in implementing the new international recommendations on the upgrades of the System of National Accounts (1993 or 2008) or external sector statistics (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) A study on the regional implementation of satellite and other accounts (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iii) A study on the regional implementation of the recommendations on classification of goods and services in national and foreign trade (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

4. Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to Latin American and Caribbean countries that request them for the harmonization of basic economic statistics and the implementation of the latest revised international nomenclature as well as the System of National Accounts 1993 or 2008 and its satellite accounts (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

5. Technical cooperation projects

During the biennium, it is expected that projects will be under way on the International Comparison Programme (ICP), the Regional Programme to support countries of the region in the implementation of the 2008 SNA and to improve basic economic statistics through the application of the Luxembourg Recommendations on Global Implementation and Outreach for the System of National Accounts, and the implementation of satellite accounts relating to specific sectors such as tourism and health (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

6. Intermediate activities

Support for the Latin American Network of Experts on National Accounts.

The implementation of operational activities including advisory services; training activities and the implementation of technical cooperation projects will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 11.4: Statistics and quantitative analysis of social trends

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad-hoc expert groups

(i) Two meetings of experts to make recommendations on promoting technical and methodological improvements to social information systems and household surveys (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1, high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) Two meetings of experts to make recommendations for improvements to the harmonization and homogenization of social statistics and indicators, with emphasis on the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals and social cohesion (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1, high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Non-recurrent publications

(i) Three methodological and analytical studies on poverty, income inequality and social cohesion in the region (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) Two studies on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

3. Courses, seminars and training workshops

Cooperation with government entities, universities, non-governmental organizations and regional and subregional bodies in support of training activities on topics relating to the Millennium Development Goals, poverty, income distribution, social cohesion and vulnerability (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

4. Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to member States and regional bodies that request them in areas relating to household surveys, social indicators and statistics and in the quantification and analysis of situations of poverty as part of the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Technical cooperation projects

During the biennium, it is expected that projects will be under way in the following areas: monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals and statistics and indicators relating to social cohesion and poverty (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

6. Intermediate activities

Periodic analysis of the poverty situation, social vulnerability and income distribution in the region, for the annual editions of the *Social Panorama of Latin America* (2012 and 2013 editions), in conjunction with the Social Development Division (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

The implementation of operational activities including advisory services; training activities and the implementation of technical cooperation projects will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 11.5: Environmental statistics

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad-hoc expert group meetings

(i) A meeting of experts to analyse advances in the field of environmental statistics and accounts (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1, high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Non-recurrent publications

Two studies on the situation of environmental statistics in the region and on the experience of environmental accounts (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

3. Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to member States and regional bodies that request them in areas relating to environmental statistics, including the principles of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, universities, non-governmental organizations and regional and subregional bodies in support of training activities on topics relating to the development of environmental statistics (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Technical cooperation projects

During the biennium, it is expected that projects will be under way in the area of environmental statistics (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

The implementation of operational activities including advisory services, training activities and the implementation of technical cooperation projects will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 11.6: Institutional organization of the national statistical systems

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad-hoc expert group meetings

A meeting of experts to analyse issues relating to the improvement of the organization of the national statistical offices and/or the national statistical systems (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1, high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Non-recurrent publications

Two studies on best practices regarding the organizational setups of National Statistical Systems relevant for Latin America and Caribbean countries (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

3. Advisory services

Provision of technical cooperation services to member States and regional bodies that request them in the development of the institutional organization of the national statistical system and national statistical offices (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

4. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, universities, non-governmental organizations and regional and subregional bodies in support of training activities on topics relating to the organization of the national statistical systems (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Technical cooperation projects

During the biennium, it is expected that projects will be under way in the area of the organization of national statistical systems (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

The implementation of operational activities including advisory services, training activities and the implementation of technical cooperation projects will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.