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Thirteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the  
Statistical Conference of the Americas of the  
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 12-14 August 2014

**AGREEMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STATISTICAL  
CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AT ITS THIRTEENTH MEETING**



*The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*, at its thirteenth meeting, held in Santiago, from 12 to 14 August 2014,

*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 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,

*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 ECLAC**

1. *Takes note* of the report of the chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas on the status of the working groups<sup>1</sup> and endorses the proposal that the Executive Committee monitor their progress by means of executive reports systematizing the reports that the coordinating countries of the working groups will submit every four months, which shall give an explicit account of expected outputs and deadlines and contain a self-assessment of the progress made towards accomplishing the planned activities in order to enable the Executive Committee to provide appropriate, timely support to the working groups;
2. *Endorses* the Report on the activities of the working groups in the first half of 2014,<sup>2</sup> commends the working groups on the achievements made, takes note of the challenges that have arisen and urges the groups to continue to pursue their fruitful work until their terms of reference have been fully discharged;

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<sup>1</sup> LC/L.3862(CE.13/5).

<sup>2</sup> LC/L.3861(CE.13/4).

3. *Takes notes* of the need to implement mechanisms, on the basis of the information contained in the executive reports, by which the Executive Committee and the secretariat can administer the support needed by the working groups to carry out their activities;
4. *Thanks* the international organizations whose respective technical secretariats have contributed to the activities of the working groups, for their support and collaboration;
5. *Urges* the working groups to seek cooperation modalities and synergies in order to optimize the use of resources and achieve common goals;
6. *Calls upon* the authorities of the statistical institutes that are members of the working groups to designate focal points to expedite and improve communication and discussions within the groups, and to channel needs and raise the profile of the working groups' activities and outputs;
7. *Urges* the States members of the Conference, the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other international organizations to make an active contribution to the work to be carried out under the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for the biennium 2014-2015;

#### *Censuses*

8. *Reiterates* the importance of countries which have yet to conduct the census of the 2010 round doing so at the earliest opportunity and, like those countries beginning to prepare the 2020 census, of their considering and, as far as possible, incorporating in the next steps the recommendations arising from the discussions held and consensuses reached in the framework of the Conference;
9. *Expresses its satisfaction* concerning the Second Latin American and Caribbean Course on Population Estimates and Projections, which is being organized by the National Statistical Institute of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, and will be held in Caracas from 8 to 13 September 2014;
10. *Commends* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC on the development of a new version of the intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications between August and December 2014, urges the United Nations Population Fund and other specialized agencies to continue to support this important activity, and thanks the statistical offices and other institutes for their efforts to enable their staff to take part in the course;
11. *Welcomes* the importance that the Latin American Population Association is affording to censuses in the region at its sixth Congress, being held from 12 to 15 August 2014 in Lima, and urges the Working Group on Censuses to disseminate the conclusions arising from the discussions at that event;

12. *Invites* the United Nations Population Fund and other specialized agencies to continue supporting the activities of the Working Group on Censuses and the work being done by the countries to identify lessons learned and to prepare for the 2020 census round;

*Harmonization of poverty statistics*

13. *Approves* the programme of work presented by the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers, which covers activities relating to both monetary poverty and other methods of poverty measurement, and consents to the proposal to change the name of the group to “Working Group on the Harmonization of Poverty Statistics”, in keeping with the expansion of its sphere of activity;
14. *Welcomes* the proposal of joint coordination of the group by Colombia and Uruguay, and urges the group to begin the activities planned for the biennium in short order, with a view to their being accomplished within the estimated timescales;

*Monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals*

15. *Urges* the countries to step up their efforts to generate the information necessary to produce indicators for the Millennium Development Goals using international standards and regional and national benchmarks, especially in view of the information that will be needed for monitoring the post-2015 development agenda;
16. *Recognizes* the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as the technical forum in which the countries can identify, from a regional perspective, appropriate measurement indicators in connection with the post-2015 development agenda and its sustainable development goals;
17. *Reiterates* the need for national statistical offices to take an active part in the production of national reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, in order to ensure that the correct statistical information is used for monitoring purposes, and to participate increasingly in reflections and processes leading towards the preparation of the monitoring framework for the post-2015 development agenda;
18. *Reiterates also* the concern expressed by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its seventh meeting regarding the practice of some international organizations which publish country data such as composite indices and models that do not take into account the official information produced by the national statistical offices and which hire private research firms whose studies are based on inadequate sample designs and methodologies that fail to respect the fundamental principles of official statistics, such as quality and transparency in the use of methodologies, sources and programming;

19. *Urges* the international agencies to use the official information produced by the national statistical offices when conducting their studies and programmes and to comply with the technical requirements contained in the fundamental principles of official statistics by applying appropriate sample designs and ensuring that their methodologies, sources and the programming used to calculate their indicators are transparent;
20. *Approves* the proposal to change the name of the Working Group on Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals to “Working Group on Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals”;

#### *National accounts*

21. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress achieved on implementing the programme of work, 2014-2015, and the success of the annual seminar on national accounts held in Santiago from 4 to 6 August 2014;
22. *Insists upon* the need to promote integrated economic statistics in the context of the process of improving and updating national accounts, particularly in countries with a fragmented institutional structure in the area of statistics;
23. *Calls for* redoubled efforts to secure the financial resources needed in order to accomplish the activities of the biennial programme of work;
24. *Reiterates* the importance of the Working Group on National Accounts preparing a project on developing basic statistics and integrating them more strongly with the system of national accounts, in order to mobilize resources from the member States and donor agencies;

#### *Information and communications technologies (ICTs)*

25. *Stresses* the importance of the efforts of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies in developing the ICT module for the health sector, composed of indicators and basic standards for generating statistical information on access to and use of ICTs in health facilities, and recognizes the organization of the expert workshop on ICTs and health that was held in the first half of 2014 in São Paulo, Brazil, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization, the Regional Centre of Studies for the Development of the Information Society (CETIC.br) of Brazil and the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean as technical secretariat of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015);
26. *Welcomes* the launch of the group’s activities to adapt the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on information and communications technologies in the government institutions of the countries participating in the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), and urges those institutions to cooperate by completing the survey in coordination with the secretariat of eLAC2015;

27. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the participation of the coordinating country of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies in the high-level event of the 10-year review process of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10), at which it was represented in a panel discussion at the meeting held by the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development;
28. *Highlights* the importance of the support provided by the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies in the process of monitoring and evaluating the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) through the collection of statistical indicators relating to information and communications technologies;

#### *Labour-market indicators*

29. *Welcomes* the holding of the Regional workshop on harmonizing indicators for the statistical measurement of the informal economy in Montevideo in April 2014, and expresses its satisfaction regarding the progress made in drawing up technical specifications on the measurement of the informal sector and informal employment for the member countries of the working group;
30. *Recognizes* the importance of the new guidelines issued at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians relating to the measurement of types of work, the labour force, and employment and underemployment of the labour force, and notes with appreciation the activities put forward by the group to identify the challenges involved in applying these new guidelines and the impact they will have;

#### *Institution-building*

31. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the activities conducted by the Working Group on Institution-building in this period, which include a regional assessment report on statistical planning and results-based management, a training workshop on statistical planning and results-based management held in Bogota in May 2014, the review of the assessment methodology of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the preparation of the overall assessments of the Code;
32. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the six countries in the region whose compliance with the Code will be assessed during the course of this year;
33. *Thanks* the Inter-American Development Bank for having provided financial support for the group's activities;
34. *Takes note* of the incorporation of Chile as the newest member of the Working Group on Institution-building;

*Environmental statistics*

35. *Takes note* of 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, and requests that the Executive Committee of this project continue to implement the respective components;
36. *Takes note also* of the initiative by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will shortly yield a Spanish-language version of the handbook *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012. Central Framework* that will contribute to human and technical capacity-building in the sphere of economic and environmental accounting, and thus facilitate the regional strategy for strengthening environmental statistics;

*International classifications*

37. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the holding of the third meeting of the Working Group on International Classifications;
38. *Welcomes* the initiative to hold an online course on nomenclature;
39. *Commends* the subcommittees of the working group on the translation into Spanish of the implementation guide for the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), revision 4, and of the Central Product Classification, version 2;

*Agricultural Statistics*

40. *Takes note* of the reprogramming of the country assessments that will be used as a basis to begin implementing the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean at the national level;
41. *Urges* the countries that have yet to do so to complete the standard reference questionnaire as soon as possible, for their own benefit and in the interests of cooperation;
42. *Congratulates* the working group on having been considered eligible by the Inter-American Development Bank to receive funding from the Initiative for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods for the project on developing a methodology for implementing agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, which would enable the group to continue its activities;

*Gender statistics*

43. *Hails* the fifteenth anniversary of the international meetings on gender statistics held annually in Aguascalientes, Mexico, and invites the countries to participate in the forthcoming meeting to be held from 5 to 7 November 2014 and in the Global Forum on Gender Statistics to be held in the same city from 3 to 5 November 2014;



44. *Reaffirms* its support for the efforts made by Colombia, Ecuador and Guatemala regarding the economic valuation of unpaid work for calculating the satellite account on unpaid household work;
45. *Urges* the countries to work actively to improve their surveys and the economic valuation of time use as an output of coordinated work between the statistical institutes, central banks responsible for producing national accounts and machineries for the advancement of women;
46. *Recommends* that the countries further the analysis and dissemination of the information gathered in time-use surveys;
47. *Welcomes* the creation of the website of the Working Group on Gender Statistics as a tool to improve the exchange and dissemination of information on its activities and to share the progress made by the countries in the work on gender statistics through documents and presentations;

#### *Household surveys*

48. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the progress achieved in preparing an assessment of the status of integrated household survey systems, in compiling information on the stratification of a sampling frame, and in constructing and continuously updating the master sample in the member countries of the group;

#### *Statistics on childhood and adolescence*

49. *Recognizes* the advances made in identifying information gaps and harmonization issues in the construction of indicators on childhood and adolescence in the member countries of the Conference, and urges them to convey their comments and observations regarding the queries made by the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence;
50. *Urges* the countries to step up their efforts to generate the information necessary for the production of indicators relating to girl and boy children and young people;

#### *Statistics on public security and justice*

51. *Takes note with pleasure* of the various coordination activities conducted by the Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice and expresses its satisfaction at the progress made in preparing the concept paper for a statistical system on crime and criminal justice;
52. *Expresses satisfaction* at the holding, in Mexico City from 18 to 21 June 2014, of the second International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics;
53. *Recommends* that countries familiarize themselves with the International Classification of Crimes for statistical purposes, which will be presented to the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session and is a key instrument for harmonizing statistics on public security and justice at the global level;

54. *Urges* member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to participate in the assessment of the status of crime and criminal justice statistics in the countries of the region, which will afford them information on statistical systems on those matters;
55. *Welcomes* the incorporation of Saint Lucia as the newest member of the Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice;

#### *Quantification of South-South cooperation*

56. *Approves* the programme of work presented by the task force on quantification of South-South cooperation, which will be coordinated by Colombia and will devote itself to preparing a glossary of statistical terms relating to South-South cooperation, to contributing to the international debate on aspects of South-South cooperation that need to be measured, and to strengthening work between statistical institutes and cooperation entities in the countries;

#### *Disability measurement*

57. *Notes with appreciation* the *Regional report on measuring disability: overview of the disability measurement procedures in Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>3</sup> prepared by the task force on the measurement of disability;
58. *Reaffirms* the importance of the role of the task force on the measurement of disability and endorses the composition of the task force with Mexico as coordinator and Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador as members, entrusted with fulfilling the tasks set forth in resolution 8(VII) of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

#### **Other matters**

59. *Welcomes* the publication of the document “Una propuesta regional de estrategia de implementación del Sistema de Cuentas Ambientales Económicas (2012) en América Latina”,<sup>4</sup> and the outcomes of the regional consultation it contains, and recommends that it be presented to the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean at its eighth meeting, for definitive adoption;
60. *Notes with satisfaction* the presentation on the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, which highlighted the progress and challenges regarding the development of indicators on women’s economic autonomy;
61. *Takes notes* of the criteria discussed during the meeting, which will be reflected in the report on the thirteenth meeting of the Executive Committee, as input for the new strategic plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, and undertakes to prepare, with the secretariat, a draft strategic plan for presentation at the fourteenth meeting of the Executive Committee.

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<sup>3</sup> LC/L.3860(CE.13/3).

<sup>4</sup> *Statistical Studies series*, No. 86 (LC/L.3786).