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

Quito, 2-4 July 2012

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS

1. Coordinating country

Mexico (National Institute of Statistics and Geography, INEGI).

2. Member countries

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Plurinational State of Bolivia.

3. Technical secretariat and other participants

Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

4. Programme of work 2012-2013

(a) Objectives

General objective:

For the period 2012-2013, the Working Group on Gender Statistics is maintaining its goal of promoting the production, development, systematization and consolidation of statistical information and gender indicators for the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies.

Specific objectives:

These remain the same as in 2010-2011:

- Provide training to national statistical offices in order to promote the development of technical, methodological and analytical capacities with regard to gender statistics.
- Strengthen partnerships between national statistical offices and mechanisms for the advancement of women.
- Foster cooperation, international technical assistance and regional collaboration for the development and dissemination of gender statistics.

(b) Main activities proposed for the period 2012-2013

The Working Group has focused its activities on three key areas relating to the development of gender statistics:

- time use and the measurement and valuation of unpaid work in the System of National Accounts;
- statistics on violence against women; and
- the measurement of poverty from a gender perspective.

For the period 2012-2013, particular attention will be paid to devising economic statistics that reflect advances in the empowerment and economic autonomy of women. The Working Group will also carry out a conceptual revision of the regular sources of socioeconomic information to standardize terminology and harmonize theoretical and methodological frameworks.

It is particularly important that the different groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas work together. In particular, closer cooperation is needed with the Working Group on National Accounts, the Working Group on Institution-building and the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

Special attention will be paid to human resources training on gender statistics in national statistical offices. To that end, courses will be organized that involve classroom-based, distance and blending learning.

International meetings

The programme of work includes the following international meetings:

Ninth International Meeting on Time Use, scheduled for 11-12 October 2012 in Mexico City.

Thirteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics, scheduled for 8-10 October 2012 in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

Technical assistance and horizontal cooperation with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

Both ECLAC and UN Women provide technical assistance to countries and promote horizontal cooperation between respective institutions, such as the cooperation established between the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico and the National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC) of Ecuador concerning the calculation of the unpaid work satellite account. In this context, a meeting on gender statistics, time use and unpaid work was held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago on 20-21 February 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to agree on a set of methodological guidelines relating to the technical assistance given to mechanisms for the advancement of women and national statistical offices for the production of gender statistics and time-use surveys, as well as for the use of classifications and gender analysis.

During the meeting, the Working Group, in conjunction with ECLAC, INEGI and UN Women, revised its programme of work and established lines of action for the provision of technical assistance to member countries of the Group and non-member countries who request it.

To improve the quality of technical assistance, it is necessary to:

- have access to information
- have access to databases in the following formats: Retrieval of Data for Small Areas by Microcomputer (REDATAM), Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) and Statistical Analysis System (SAS)
- assess good technical practices
- establish communication with other Statistical Conference working groups

- include documents and presentations on the Statistical Conference website
- extend invitations to absent countries
- include time-use surveys on the ECLAC website
- consider giving technical assistance relating to training for decision-makers

The Working Group participated in the meeting of experts on time-use surveys organized by the Andean Community, which was held in Lima in April 2012.

In 2011, three online courses were held for officials from mechanisms for the advancement of women and national statistical offices on statistics and gender indicators: an introduction; time-use surveys; and measuring violence against women.

In 2012, the courses on statistics and gender indicators: an introduction and time-use surveys will be repeated.

(c) Expected outcomes for the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (November 2013)

By November 2013, the Group expects to have developed its programme of work for the period 2012-2013 and carried out the following actions:

- four international meetings
 - two on gender statistics in Aguascalientes and
 - two on time-use surveys in Mexico City
- theoretical and methodological review
- training of staff in the national statistical offices of member countries
- technical assistance and horizontal cooperation with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean
- incorporation of the Bahamas, Brazil, Guyana and Jamaica into the Working Group further to their invitation
- increase the number of member countries of the Group as a result of the Group's commitment to generate gender statistics and develop public policies designed to improve the living conditions of women in Latin America and the Caribbean
- disseminate all the Group's events by means of the Knowledge Transfer Network.

5. Progress to date

- The meeting on gender statistics, time use and unpaid work has been held.
- Two international meetings are being planned for October 2012: the thirteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics and the ninth International Meeting on Time Use.