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Sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the
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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE STATISTICAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR THE 2030 AGENDA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean has been progressing with some of the activities proposed in the plan of work presented at the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in June 2016, with a view to its objective of coordinating the preparation and implementation of regional indicators and capacity-building for this purpose, within the framework of follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the reporting period, the Group focused particularly on the following activities:

1. Definition of the Group's governance scheme

The countries decided not to choose a coordinating country given the multiple transversal coordination tasks involved, and requested ECLAC, as the Group's technical secretariat, to serve as a coordination hub and as liaison with the Executive Committee of the Conference.

2. Development of an inventory of national capacities to produce the proposed indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals

A questionnaire was designed in Excel format, in view of the challenges involved in the construction of indicators at the national level. The final version was prepared on the basis of a draft questionnaire developed by Ecuador and Mexico, which incorporates comments and suggestions by the member countries of the Group. The questionnaire also includes a module for identifying national needs and strengths as regards building statistical technical capacities in the different topics addressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as a first attempt at ascertaining which specialized technical resources are available and which are needed in the region.

ECLAC systematized the inputs for developing the questionnaire, prepared the survey, sent the questionnaire to the member countries, received the responses, processed the information and produced the first results.

To date, twenty-six of the region's countries have responded to the questionnaire and preliminary progress has been presented in various regional forums. The technical secretariat will present the results to the Executive Committee of the Conference at its sixteenth meeting, ahead of their presentation at the first meeting of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries for Sustainable Development as part of the annual report to be produced by ECLAC for the Forum.

The Group requested ECLAC to develop an online platform to access the microdata and process the results (an activity initially proposed by Brazil). The secretariat developed a first prototype, which has been sent to the Group's member countries for comments and suggestions and will be presented as a preliminary version at the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is now expected to establish the next steps regarding the use of the information by other statistical actors in the region related to the Conference, in order to contribute to the preparation of strategies for national statistical capacity-building in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Coordination with the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for the regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus

The Group has referred to the need for progress on the coordination of joint activities with the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on indicators for the regional monitoring of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. In order to identify specific tasks for the two bodies using subsets of common indicators, indicators that are common to the 2030 Agenda and the Montevideo Consensus were specified within the online database containing the results of the questionnaire on national statistical capacity for the production of SDG indicators. It is hoped that some instance of joint work can be established in the short term.

4. New representatives of the region in global groups

At the conclusion of the first mandate of the member countries of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG), the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas requested the member countries representing Latin America and the Caribbean in these bodies to consult with the countries of their respective subregions to nominate the country that will represent them in the new two-year period in each of these global groups.

To this end, and in order to facilitate proper geographical representation, the following mechanisms were agreed upon for the nomination of the new regional representatives in IAEG-SDG and HLG:

- The countries currently serving as representatives of each subregion were requested to nominate, by common agreement with the countries in their group, representatives to the IAEG-SDG and the HLG for this new period.
- According to the United Nations Statistics Division, the M49 geographical classification used in the first election of members will not be applied, allowing a classification of Caribbean countries similar to the one used to define the composition of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, as this subregion had requested for the first nomination.

Accordingly, the subregions, taking into account the reclassification of the Caribbean countries, are as follows:

- Group 1: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.
Current representatives: Colombia (IAEG-SDG) and Ecuador (HLG).
- Group 2: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
Current representatives: Brazil (IAEG-SDG) and Argentina (HLG).
- Group 3: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.
Current representatives: Cuba and Jamaica (IAEG-SDG) and Bahamas and Saint Lucia (HLG).
- Group 4: Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.
Representatives in the last period: Mexico (IAEG-SDG) and El Salvador (HLG).

According to the information received as of 31 March 2017, the countries proposed to represent the region in IAEG-SDG and in HLG (and, therefore, to be members of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean) are as follows:

- IAEG: Colombia (group 1), Brazil (group 2), Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago (group 3) and Mexico (group 4).
- HLG: Ecuador (group 1), Argentina (group 2), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname (group 3).¹

¹ The proposal of the country representative of group 4 for HLG has not yet been received.