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**REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 4-6 April 2017

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in Santiago, from 4 to 6 April 2017.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States serving as members of the Executive Committee: Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Conference: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Italy, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

4. Representatives of Anguilla, Curaçao and Montserrat, associate members of ECLAC, were also present.

5. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

6. The following United Nations funds and programmes were also represented: the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

7. Also present were representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

8. The following intergovernmental organizations were also represented: the Andean Community, the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO).

¹ See the complete list of participants in the annex.

Chair

9. The Vice-President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico chaired the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

B. AGENDA

10. The Executive Committee adopted the following agenda:
1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Activities of the Conference regarding follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals.
 3. Review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of activities 2016-2017 of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
 4. Information regarding subregional and international cooperation activities.
 5. Other matters.
 6. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

11. At the opening session, statements were made by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Mario Palma, Vice-President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, and Pascual Gerstenfeld, Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC.

12. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC welcomed the participants and underscored the role of the Statistical Conference of the Americas as the primary platform for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, saying that timely and good-quality statistical information was the basis and set the course for future progress. She also called for national statistical systems and offices to be strengthened in order to achieve better comparability, cooperation and peer learning at the regional and international level and highlighted their importance in generating data for evidence-based policy design. Lastly, she reiterated the full commitment of ECLAC to the Conference and to the statistical development of the region.

13. The Vice-President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, reflected on the traditional challenges and new demands that national statistical offices faced, he underscored the importance of their independence and autonomy, and spoke of the benefits of bringing

together statistics and geography. He noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development summarized the challenges ahead, allowing efforts to be focused on a specific goal, and highlighted the region's response to those challenges.

14. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC said that statistics were a key navigation tool in the pursuit of the development envisioned by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He said that joint action would be needed to move forward and noted the remarkable will of the Statistical Conference of the Americas as the main driving force needed to achieve the strategic goals set out in its strategic plan, 2015-2025.

Activities of the Conference regarding follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals (agenda item 2)

15. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC reported on the activities related to the 2030 Agenda that had been undertaken at the forty-eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. He drew particular attention to the empowerment of national statistical offices as key players in defining the framework for follow-up indicators of the 2030 Agenda, which had consolidated their technical work and provided essential support to political aspects of the process. Another significant event had been the joint meeting of permanent representatives and directors of statistical offices of Latin America and the Caribbean on activities around the Sustainable Development Goals, which had brought together ambassadors and data producers in one room, consolidating the regional space composed of governments and United Nations system agencies. He also referred to the draft resolution² on the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that confirmed that the process for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda would be based on data from national statistical systems and urged international organizations to base the global review on data produced by national statistical systems.

16. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, as the technical secretariat, then presented the report on the activities of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Coordination Group, created at the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference, was composed of the five countries of the region that were members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDG) plus the five countries that belonged to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In early 2017, the Executive Committee had launched the process to elect new members to both of those Groups and he listed the countries that would represent the region from June 2017. Activities undertaken by the Coordination Group included completing the first phase of the inventory of national capacities for producing statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals, the preliminary results of which would be presented at the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. On the basis of that information, an online platform had also been created to provide access to microdata and to process the aggregated results. Among the activities planned for 2017 was the development of a proposal for a regional framework of Sustainable Development Goal indicators that would take into account the regional context, the availability of information, measurement strengths and developments in the area of the Sustainable Development Goals.

² Adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session and recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council at a forthcoming meeting. See [online] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/48th-session/documents/Resolution_on_Indicators_Clean_Version-E.pdf.

17. In addition to the presentation, the secretariat shared information about the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, due to take place in Mexico City from 26 to 28 April 2017.

18. In the discussion that followed, the representative of Chile said that observer countries should be able to attend the Coordination Group's meetings. The representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported on the creation of the inter-agency Sustainable Development Working Group, in the framework of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG-LAC), and asked that the coordinators of that mechanism be allowed to participate in the Coordination Group's meetings. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) asked the Executive Committee to grant international agencies access to the results of the national capacities inventory. The representative of Peru suggested that the Knowledge Transfer Network should be used to discuss issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of activities 2016-2017 of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

19. Under this agenda item, the representatives of the countries coordinating the working groups of the Conference presented the main activities carried out by the groups between June 2016 and March 2017.

Working Group on Institution-building

20. The representative of Colombia referred to the activities carried out with a view to creating a mechanism that would ensure continuity in the group's work, and those that strengthened and consolidated national statistical systems and legal frameworks to ensure compliance with the principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean in the countries of the region. He said that there were 15 potential donors that might finance the group's activities and identified the main strengths in national legal frameworks for professional independence and the principles of the Code. The bank of good statistical practices had been updated and the questionnaire related to the Code of Good Practices had also been revised and updated.

21. The representatives of the countries expressed their general concerns about the need for better planning of activities with countries and among the groups, as several questionnaires had been sent out at the same time, overwhelming national statistical offices which did not have the capacity to respond to them all simultaneously. They also called for better dissemination of country evaluations, as it would be useful to incorporate them into national policy frameworks.

22. The representative of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) suggested that proper consultations should be held with the countries to present the results of the evaluations. The group could also prepare a document that summarized the results of the global assessments and identified the best practices and the most widespread difficulties.

Working Group on Censuses

23. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela referred to the activities carried out by the group during that period, which included holding a workshop on the principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system for Mexico and the countries of Central America; preparing for publication the survey on the progress of the 2020 census round in the countries of the region; presenting the document and

holding a seminar on the 2020 census round and its relationship with the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development; and setting up working subgroups on the content of censuses, cartography, the integration of censuses with other data sources and census technologies, as recommended by the Executive Committee.

24. Country representatives said that the group must continue to coordinate efforts with the Working Group on Administrative Records, with a view to improving complementarity between both sources in the future, in particular for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicators with a suitable level of disaggregation. The representatives of Costa Rica and Mexico said that their countries wished to join the Working Group on Censuses. The representative of Mexico said that his country also wished to join the Working Group on Administrative Records

25. The representative of UNFPA asked that the coordination between the aforementioned groups be extended to their technical secretariats. The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) asked whether variables related to the labour market and income would be included in the next census round in order to estimate poverty using the income method. The representative of ECLAC said that for the agencies responsible for geospatial information in each country should be involved in the next census round. The representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC said that the recommendations for the 2020 census round did not include income information and that most of the experiences of the 2010 census round had been positive.

Working Group on National Accounts

26. The representative of Peru reported on the progress made by the working group in each of the 11 activities planned for the biennium, including the group's webpage, which was close to completion. He also summarized the results of the survey conducted by the task force on quarterly national accounts that carried out its functions in the framework of the group.

Working Group on Administrative Records

27. The representative of Ecuador, the country responsible for coordinating the group, talked about the importance of moving forward with the compilation of information from the inventory of administrative records of each country, asking the group's members to complete the form that they had been sent. He said that the Sustainable Development Goal framework must be taken into consideration when calculating and measuring indicators from administrative records and referred to the tools proposed by the group to assess the quality of administrative records and national statistical offices' capacities to produce them. He said that the group would hold a mid-point meeting soon, at which it would evaluate the results of the data-collecting process, and that the group's work must be coordinated with other working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, given the cross-cutting nature of the topic.

28. Several participants welcomed the progress made by the group and highlighted usefulness of inputs such as the guide for implementing activities related to administrative records in their countries. The Chair of the Executive Committee and the representatives of the Dominican Republic and Guatemala reflected on the importance of linking censuses with administrative records. The representative of Guatemala also said that his country wished to join the working group. The country representatives said that the legal aspect of national statistical offices' access to administrative records must be analysed in order to make progress in data governance. The representative of Ecuador highlighted the lead role played by national statistical offices in overseeing the production of statistics from administrative records, particularly when the statistics were produced by outside offices.

Working Group on Poverty Statistics

29. The representative of Colombia gave an account of the progress made by the group with regard to regional experiences of multidimensional poverty measurements and of preparing an assessment of the availability and comparability of non-monetary indicators. He said that communication between countries must be improved and that ECLAC should provide technical support in response to countries' questions regarding the production of poverty statistics using that new approach. He called on the countries to move forward with both the implementation of multidimensional poverty measurements and the harmonization of measurements, and noted the challenge of extending coverage to subnational levels.

30. The representatives of Chile, Ecuador and the Plurinational State of Bolivia stressed the importance of having multidimensional poverty statistics. The representative of Chile said that analysis should focus more on methodology than on results. The representative of Colombia offered to share the experiences of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), as the body responsible for producing poverty data. The representative of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) called for age to be considered as a variable when measuring poverty and the representative of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) highlighted the importance of developing gender-sensitive poverty measurements, of moving towards individual poverty measurements and of coordinating with other groups. Lastly, the representative of ECLAC said that a multidimensional approach was crucial, as were the group's activities to improve the measurement of variables usually included in poverty indicators and to include variables that reflected other relevant dimensions of poverty.

Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators

31. The representative of Chile referred to the progress made by the countries of the working group in identifying harmonization gaps in the measurement of labour statistics with respect to the recommendations of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians of the International Labour Organization (ILO). He also said that the Sustainable Development Goals global framework must be applied when producing national indicators. The fifth face-to-face meeting of the working group, in which countries had actively participated, had been successfully held in Lima in December 2016 and he urged countries to participate, through the group, in the ILO revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93) with a view to forming a regional stance in preparation of the next meeting of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Lastly, he noted that the Plurinational State of Bolivia had recently joined the group.

32. The representative of ILO recognized the good work done by the group and drew attention to its importance as a vehicle for supporting statistical harmonization at the regional level, developing new indicators and systematizing the region's position on employment-related issues promoted by ILO at the international level.

Working Group on Gender Statistics

33. The representative of Mexico gave an account of the activities undertaken by the group during the period under consideration, in particular the dissemination and translation into English of the time-use classification for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL) and the process of developing a conceptual and methodological framework for the violence against women surveys. He also drew attention to the time-use survey carried out in 19 countries of the region and the technical assistance among countries, notably the assistance provided to the Plurinational State of Bolivia by Ecuador and Mexico.

34. The representatives of a number of countries referred to the work carried out by the group and recognized the need to disseminate the results more widely and to optimize and promote the use of information for statistical purposes. The representative of Peru said that statistical activities must be carried out in order to develop satellite accounts. The representative of UN-Women undertook to promote dissemination in order to improve the use of time-use survey information for statistical purposes. The representative of UNFPA referred to the financial support that the Fund would provide for a project on national transfer accounts. Lastly, the representative of the technical secretariat welcomed Peru's request to join the working group and underscored the positive progress made in the group's activities.

Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence

35. The representative of Mexico spoke about the progress made with regard to the group's programme of work, drawing attention to the objectives achieved in four areas of action: the development of technical capacities and methodologies for generating Sustainable Development Goal indicators linked to childhood; the use of administrative records; the accessibility of statistics on childhood; and cooperation and the sharing of experiences. He said that methods for collecting data on violence against children had been mapped and a regional workshop on measuring disability in childhood and a series of virtual conferences on vital statistics on childhood and open government had been held, among other activities. In particular, he noted that countries were more interested in participating in the group, that synergies with other working groups (for example, the Working Group on Disability Measurement) had been created and that national childhood statistics were more widely available.

36. The representative of UNICEF confirmed that progress had been made with regard to the group's programme of work and said that statistical data on violence against children and early child development was needed. The measurement of children's situations must also be improved through census information.

Working Group on Disability Measurement

37. The representative of Mexico outlined the group's programme of work, drawing attention to the progress made in disseminating and adopting the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) by national statistical offices; creating a directory of disability statistics officials; and organizing a regional seminar for training on ICF. A digital library on disability was in the process of being set up and a regional network of ICF experts would be created. Disability measurement based on administrative records was a pending matter.

38. The representative of Costa Rica spoke of the need for technical support for measuring disability in multipurpose surveys. The representative of UNICEF underscored the importance of generating more synergies between the Working Groups on Disability Measurement and on Childhood and Adolescence, given the particularities of measuring both issues.

Working Group on Environmental Statistics

39. The representative of Mexico, the coordinating country of the working group, presented the report on the activities carried out in each of the six areas considered by the group and highlighted the support for carrying out those activities provided as part of the project entitled "Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean: perspectives and challenges", undertaken in the framework of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

40. The representative of Chile said that her country wished to join the working group. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said that the agency stood ready to support the working group by seeking to coordinate the various initiatives on environmental statistics and indicators. The representative of ECLAC reiterated the commitment of the Commission to continue to pursue activities related to the dissemination of the set of methodological and technical tools to support the development and improvement of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and capacity-building tools after the completion of the project.

Working Group on Agricultural Statistics

41. The representative of Brazil introduced the activities of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics aimed at harmonizing those statistics at the regional level and defining the implementation plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. She spoke of the workshops held in 2016, which had reviewed the progress made in the project “Developing a methodology for implementing agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”, implemented in the framework of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of IDB, and addressed the use of electronic devices in collecting agricultural data and the AGRIS Agricultural Integrated Survey. She also announced that one of the planned consultancy reports had been finalized and that a web page had been set up for the agricultural statistics network of Latin America and the Caribbean.

42. The representatives of Brazil and Colombia offered to provide assistance with carrying out agricultural sector censuses and surveys. The representative of FAO said that all the project material was available from the web page for the Regional Public Goods Initiative of IDB and thanked the countries for their work and efforts.

Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice

43. The representative of Mexico presented the activities carried out by the Working Group on Public Security and Justice. From among the main results of the group’s work, he drew attention to the importance that the matter had taken on in the region, its link with Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the role that the group played in disseminating and raising awareness of the importance of public security and justice statistics among governments. Various countries were adopting the international crime classification when carrying out surveys and generating indicators on the matter.

44. The representatives of Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Panama and Uruguay, among others, shared their experiences of victimization surveys. The representatives of Chile and Peru said that it was important to have historical, comparable and good quality series, and to produce georeferenced security statistics. The representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said that the agency had helped Guatemala and Ecuador to carry out the survey and she invited countries to participate in the next working group meeting, which would be held in June 2017, to discuss the quality and technical aspects of the design of statistics and thus ensure that the data would be useful for reports on Sustainable Development Goal 16. Lastly, the Chair of the Executive Committee drew attention to the importance that the issue had gained in the region and the role that the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Public Security, Victimization and Justice of UNODC had played in the progress made by the group and on the issue in the region.

Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies

45. The representative of the Dominican Republic presented the activities carried out by the working group. She called on the countries to support the digital agendas and to contribute with information technology measurements in the areas of the Sustainable Development Goals. She asked the countries to respond to the questionnaire prepared as part of the planned activities and said that she appreciated the support provided to the group.

46. The representatives of Chile, Cuba, Paraguay and Peru thanked the group for the contribution it had made on the matter and the inputs provided for their national surveys. The representatives of Paraguay and Peru also said that the group's efforts must be coordinated with other international bodies that used questionnaires to collect similar information from countries, in order to minimize duplication of effort by and the workload of national statistical offices. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that his country wished to join the working group.

Working Group on International Classifications

47. The representative of Mexico outlined the activities undertaken by the group in 2016 and those planned for 2017, drawing particular attention to the online survey on the adoption of classifications that had been carried out; the preliminary translation into Spanish of the Central Product Classification (CPC), version 2.1, and of other concept documents and related classifications; the development of training materials; research on agricultural products known by different names in different countries; and the fifth group meeting, which had been held in Panama City.

48. Several delegates welcomed the group's efforts, which had been a great help for statistical work at the national level and many countries had already published their classifications online on the respective bodies' websites. The representative of ECLAC recalled that the Commission was once again applying for funds from the Regional Public Goods Initiative of IDB and urged the countries to respond to the notes sent in support of the application.

Knowledge Transfer Network

49. The representative of Colombia spoke about the activities carried out in the framework of the Knowledge Transfer Network. He reported that virtual sessions, known as "Conectados RTC", had been held every month, in which between 6 and 12 countries had participated and at which reports had been systematically prepared. In addition, the database had been updated and improved and part of the website had been programmed using PHP, an open source programming language.

50. The country representatives noted the importance and momentum of the Knowledge Transfer Network as a means of sharing countries' experiences with regard to different matters. They asked that the communication mechanisms foreseen be improved, while highlighting the characteristics of this space as a repository of documents that would enrich the groups' work and encourage participation, as delegates would not need to attend all events in person.

Information regarding subregional and international cooperation activities (agenda item 4)

51. Under this agenda item, the various subregional coordination bodies and international organizations that carried out statistical activities in the region reported on their programmes of work and their contribution to the implementation of the 2016-2017 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

52. The representative of the Central American Statistical Commission (CENTROESTAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA) spoke of the activities carried out in the framework of the regional statistical development strategy aimed at disseminating and harmonizing statistics and developing the regional statistical system, and of the workshops on institution building and human resources training.

53. The representative of the Andean Community presented the statistical activities undertaken during the period under consideration, which included harmonizing statistics and their dissemination at the Community level; working with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) to prepare national strategic plans for statistical development for the period 2017-2021; and setting up the Andean Centre for Statistical Training and Education to provide high-level training to member countries of the Community.

54. The representative of the MERCOSUR specialized statistical meeting set out the meeting timetable foreseen in that framework, which covered activities in the field of statistics on foreign trade in services, labour force statistics, classification and nomenclature commissions, national accounts and the inventory of statistical operations.

55. As there were no representatives from the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), there was no detailed presentation on statistical cooperation activities in Caribbean countries. However, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda shared details of some of the activities carried out in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals, agricultural and population censuses and the action plan on statistics launched in that subregion.

56. The representative of ILO referred to the activities carried out in the framework of implementing new directives on measuring the labour force, adopted at the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, and to various training activities planned for 2017 in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

57. The representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) summarized the activities undertaken to implement follow-up indicators for both the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2030 Agenda.

58. The representative of UNFPA spoke about the assistance activities conducted in countries in the region in connection with responding to the questionnaire on national statistical capacities for producing Sustainable Development Goal indicators and defining regional follow-up indicators for the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development. He also drew attention to the activities carried out in the framework of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, and to the events organized for the 2020 census round. Lastly, he referred to other technical assistance activities undertaken in various countries of the region.

59. The representative of UNODC summarized the assistance activities undertaken in the countries of the region by the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Government, Public Security, Victimization and Justice of UNODC. She drew particular attention to the support provided in connection with the definition and calculation of indicators based on administrative records; the development of methodologies for indicators based on victimization, corruption and illicit financial transaction surveys; and the work carried out as the technical secretariat of the Working Group on Public Security and Justice.

60. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) presented the agency's assistance activities, drawing particular attention to those aimed at developing indicators for the follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals and at building national capacities to implement national monitoring frameworks, as well as the agency's contribution to the formulation and harmonization of governance, peace and security indicators.

61. The representative of UNICEF spoke about the scope of the sixth round of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) programme and the statistical advances in measuring functioning and disability in childhood and parental involvement in education and learning.

62. The representative of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean presented the cooperation activities carried out by agencies in the countries of the region. He referred to the work on definitions undertaken by the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development and their harmonization with the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and the technical meetings that had taken place in the second half of 2016.

63. The representative of FAO spoke of the agency's participation in defining and following up the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the activities carried out at the national and regional levels, which, among other things, sought to support the implementation of those indicators and the promotion of activities related to the World Census of Agriculture 2020 and to improve agricultural and rural statistics.

Other matters (agenda item 5)

Preparation of the working groups' work plans for the next biennium

64. The secretariat said that countries would be asked to submit proposals for the working groups' work plans for the biennium 2018-2019 in due course. Those proposals would then be assessed by the Executive Committee and submitted for approval at the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to be held in November 2017.

65. The representative of UNISDR said that he hoped that statistics on disaster risk reduction could be the subject of a working group. Meanwhile, the Chair said that the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America had expressed interest in establishing a working group on statistics on youth. The representative of ECLAC said that as the matter of city statistics for the follow-up of Sustainable Development Goal 11 had not been addressed to date, it would be a good idea to include it in the programme of activities for the next biennium. Lastly, the representative of Chile said that her country wished to present a proposal to reactivate the Working Group on Household Surveys.

International Comparison Programme

66. Under this agenda item, the representative of ECLAC reported that the new round of the International Comparison Programme would start shortly, outlining the governance structure that would be adopted for that new round, as well as the steps that would be taken to start the process of gathering data for 2017 and 2018.

Updating the regional poverty measurements used by ECLAC

67. The representative of ECLAC reported on the work undertaken by the Commission to update the poverty measurements, which would be disseminated at the end of the year. He said that, in addition to

updating expenditure structures on the basis of the most recent surveys, some aspects of the methodology had also been revised, such as the selection of the reference population and the adjustment for underreporting. As part of the process, documents and data processing procedures had been sent to the national statistical offices and bodies responsible for calculating poverty in the countries of the region and meetings had been held with experts from the region.

Message from the Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia

68. The representative of Colombia read a message from the Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of his country, Mauricio Perfetti, in which he reiterated that DANE continued to strive to improve statistical production processes and to ensure that they were of a high quality. In the message, he said that work to consolidate the 2030 Agenda and to make administrative records a basic tool for producing statistics must continue, as must efforts to promote the development of rigorous methodologies to obtain comparable regional statistics on key issues. Lastly, he reaffirmed the importance of the working groups' efforts, which encouraged national statistical offices to carry out their mission.

Place and date of the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas

69. The Chair said that the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean would be held in Aguascalientes (Mexico), during the week of 13 to 17 November 2017.

Closing of the meeting

70. In closing, the Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC expressed his satisfaction with what had been a fruitful meeting. He said that there was a before and an after to the 2030 Agenda and that the Sustainable Development Goal indicators must be refined, bearing in mind that the main responsibility of the statistical community was to enable policymakers to use those indicators in order to improve public policy. Lastly, he thanked the Government of Mexico for offering to host the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in November 2017.

71. The Vice-President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, in his capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee, commended the accomplishments of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, its sense of community, its dynamism and the relevance of its work. The Conference had given serious consideration to the matter of the Sustainable Development Goals and the region had taken the lead by broadening the scope of the Conference to include geography. Lastly, he congratulated and thanked those present for their hard work at the meeting.

Annex 1

Adoption of agreements

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its sixteenth meeting, held in Santiago from 4 to 6 April 2017,

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 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas shall have the following duties: carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; 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 on 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,

Taking into account resolution 70/1, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which establishes the commitment of the United Nations Member States to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,

Having reviewed the report on the implementation of the 2016-2017 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean¹ and the report on the activities of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean,²

Taking into account the growing importance of and need for reliable, high-quality and timely public statistics for the exercise of transparency, for the accountability of public authorities and for the assessment of public policy advances, as key elements of institution-building in the region,

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016,

Taking into consideration also the resolution adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session, held in New York from 7 to 10 March 2017,

Taking into consideration further 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 this meeting,

¹ LC/CE.16/4.

² LC/CE.16/3.

Activities of the Conference regarding follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals

1. *Thanks* the organizers and participants of the Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators: Progress in the development of the follow-up framework for the 2030 Agenda of the Latin America and the Caribbean countries for their reflections on and contributions to the work of the region on this matter;

2. *Expresses satisfaction* with the progress made in the preparation of an inventory of national capacities for producing the indicators proposed in the Sustainable Development Goals and the online platform to access the information collected;

3. *Agrees* that the online platform and the information contained therein should be made available to national, regional and international statistical institutions so that they can obtain information on national capacities to produce indicators for the follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals and can coordinate horizontal and international cooperation activities;

4. *Takes note* of the creation of the inter-agency Sustainable Development Working Group, in the framework of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean, as a regional coordination mechanism for Latin America and the Caribbean for the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies operating in this geographical area, with the aim of harmonizing their technical cooperation activities for measuring the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Agrees* that the coordinators of this mechanism may participate, as observers, in the meetings of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to create synergies in the area of technical cooperation with the national, subregional and regional programmes to strengthen statistics carried out by the member countries of the Group, as representatives of all the countries of the region, and by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Group;

6. *Welcomes* the participation of a maximum of two countries as observers at each meeting of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to facilitate the exchange of information on issues of interest;

7. *Agrees* that the technical secretariat of the Statistical Coordination Group shall invite the observers to each face-to-face or virtual meeting and inform them in those instances where, for reasons related to the programme of work, the Group decides to hold meetings attended by its ten members only;

8. *Urges* the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat, to carry out the activities to support the development of a regional statistical monitoring framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the realities, priorities and common challenges of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, while bearing in mind national and subregional differences, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session;

9. *Thanks* Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico, as well as Argentina, the Bahamas, Ecuador, El Salvador and Saint Lucia, for their work as representatives of the region to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring, respectively;

10. *Welcomes* the election of Brazil, Colombia, Grenada, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago as representatives of the region to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators for the next biennium, as of June 2017;

11. *Also welcomes* the election of Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname as representatives of the region to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring for the next biennium, as of June 2017;

Review of the progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of activities 2016-2017 of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

12. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the 2016-2017 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;³

13. *Thanks* the international organizations that have provided support for and collaborated in the activities of the working groups, either by acting as technical secretariats or by providing technical assistance, cooperation and financing for the planned activities;

Working Group on Institution-building

14. *Commends* the activities carried out to create a mechanism to ensure continuity in activities undertaken by the Working Group on Institution-building of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, as well as those aimed at strengthening and consolidating national statistical systems and legal frameworks that guarantee compliance by the countries of the region with the principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

15. *Requests* the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations and international organizations that carry out cooperation programmes with Latin America and the Caribbean to help to create and formalize a mechanism to ensure continuity in institution-building activities in the region;

16. *Suggests* that the group should prepare a synthesis report on good practices and lessons learned from the results of the group's country assessments;

Working Group on Censuses

17. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the preparation of a document on the status of the 2020 census round to identify national needs and a document analysing the accomplishments and challenges relating to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development;

18. *Notes* that the workshop on Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, for Mexico and Central America and the seminar entitled "2020 census round: possibilities and challenges presented by the Sustainable Development Goals and the Montevideo Consensus in the framework of the 2030 Agenda" were held;

³ LC/CE.16/4.

19. *Urges* the group to continue to implement the planned activities, including the third Latin American and Caribbean Course on Population Estimates and Projections;

Working Group on National Accounts

20. *Takes note* of the activities undertaken to identify the Sustainable Development Goal indicators in national accounts and to carry out the survey on the supply of and demand for horizontal cooperation in the region in preparing national accounts and basic statistics;

21. *Also takes note* of the activities undertaken by the task force on quarterly national accounts to give an overview of the production of such accounts in the region;

22. *Urges* the group to redouble its efforts to carry out the activities foreseen in the programme of work 2016-2017, which, in addition to the aforementioned, include the establishment of the regional timetable for publishing the results of the annual and quarterly national accounts, the creation of a virtual library of national accounts and basic statistics, the compendium of best practices used to produce basic statistics and national accounts, and the organization of courses on national accounts, on industrial and services statistics and on volume and price indicators;

23. *Agrees* that the task force on the measurement of the informal sector should be established under the Working Group on National Accounts and requests the task force to seek synergies with the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators;

Working Group on Administrative Records

24. *Notes* the progress made in compiling information on the inventory of the administrative records available in each country;

25. *Urges* the group to continue with the activities foreseen in the programme of work, including conducting a self-assessment of the administrative records of each country, producing a compendium of best practices, preparing a manual for the improvement and use of administrative records in the region, and designing and implementing an action plan to develop statistics based on administrative records;

26. *Suggests* that the group should consider legal aspects related to access to administrative records of national public institutions;

Working Group on Poverty Statistics

27. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the progress made in the documentation of international experiences of multidimensional poverty measurement and in the preparation of a diagnostic document on the availability and comparability of non-monetary indicators of poverty;

28. *Urges* the group to continue to move forward with the programme of work, including holding a regional workshop on the measurement of deprivation in household surveys and the preparation of a report with proposed improvements;

Working Group on Labour Market Indicators

29. *Commends* the progress made in assessing harmonization gaps in the measurement of labour statistics with respect to the recommendations of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), documenting the methodological discussions on aspects of measuring informal economy indicators and identifying countries' difficulties in the national application of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93);

30. *Urges* the group to continue with the planned activities, which, in addition to the aforementioned, include exploring methodological alternatives to meet countries' information requirements in order to improve monitoring of labour markets;

Working Group on Gender Statistics

31. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the implementation of activities aimed at strengthening national capacities in gender mainstreaming in statistics, the dissemination and translation into English of the time-use classification for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL), the progress made in the development of a conceptual and methodological framework for surveys on violence against women, the activities undertaken at the national level with regard to the module on the status of household assets, the preparation of a Gender Atlas and the proposals for a conceptual framework for gender and human rights statistics of criminal cases;

32. *Notes* that the fourteenth International Meeting of Experts on Time Use and Unpaid Work was held in Mexico City from 30 to 31 May 2016, and that the seventeenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 7 to 9 September 2016;

33. *Urges* the group to continue to implement the activities planned under the various areas of the biennial programme of work and to consider in detail technical aspects of carrying out time-use surveys;

Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence

34. *Commends* the progress made in disseminating harmonized methodologies for gathering information on violence against children, early childhood development and childhood functionality and disability, promoting administrative records as a source of data for indicators linked to childhood and adolescence, and disseminating the tools available for enhancing the accessibility and use of statistics on children and adolescents through open data platforms;

35. *Notes* that the workshop on measuring disability in children in the Americas was held in New York, from 17 to 20 October 2016;

36. *Urges* the group to continue to carry out the activities planned under the various areas of the biennial programme of work;

Working Group on Disability Measurement

37. *Expresses its satisfaction* that the first Regional Seminar and Training Workshop on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and its Implementation in the Collection and Analysis of Data on Disability was held in Mexico City, from 20 to 23 September 2016;

38. *Urges* the group to continue its efforts to create a regional network of experts on the approach of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and to establish regional standards for applying this approach in the gathering, analysis and dissemination of data on disability;

Working Group on Environmental Statistics

39. *Commends* the preparation of a strategy and plan of action for the development and improvement of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and the progress made in the preparation of a set of methodological and technical tools to support that;

40. *Urges* the group to continue to carry out the planned activities to prepare a regional plan for capacity-building on environmental statistics;

41. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as the technical secretariat of the group, for ensuring continuous access to and updating the group's outputs, in particular the toolkit and the regional plan for capacity-building on environmental statistics;

Working Group on Agricultural Statistics

42. *Expresses its satisfaction* that the workshops and other activities of the Regional Public Goods Initiative project of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), entitled “Implementing agricultural statistics systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”, including various training courses and the creation of a website to disseminate the results, were carried out in a timely manner;

43. *Urges* the group to continue to carry out training courses and the other activities planned as part of the biennial programme of work;

Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice

44. *Commends* the activities undertaken to promote the use and generation of crime and criminal justice statistical information in national statistical programmes, to encourage the countries of the region to adopt the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, to disseminate the methodology for crime victimization surveys undertaken as part of the Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative and to establish and launch the crime victimization laboratory;

45. *Urges* the group to continue these and other activities foreseen in its programme of work, including preparing recommendations on the production of indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 16 and designing training courses on georeferencing public security statistics;

Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies

46. *Commends* the group's progress in the tasks of revising the information and communications technologies (ICT) module for the education sector, selecting a list of ICT indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean with a gender perspective and updating the methodology of the ICT module of household surveys with a regional approach;

47. *Urges* the group to continue to carry out the planned activities, including those related to the ICT survey of relevant institutions connected with the digital agenda and to create synergies with other bodies that gather information on such technologies in order to avoid duplication of effort;

Working group on International Classifications

48. *Expresses its satisfaction* that the survey on international classifications in Latin America, with regard to the adoption or adaptation of international classifications to be applied in the countries of the region was conducted, that preliminary Spanish translations of the Central Product Classification and of various concept documents prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division were produced and that a list of agricultural products that are known by different names in different countries was compiled;

49. *Urges* the group to continue to develop audiovisual material in Spanish to support training activities on the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities and the International Standard Classification of Occupations, together with other planned activities;

Knowledge Transfer Network

50. *Commends* the activities undertaken by the Knowledge Transfer Network and its “Conectados RTC” initiative to promote the regular exchange of technical know-how among national statistical offices;

51. *Urges* the Knowledge Transfer Network to continue to develop its online platform to promote links among national statistical offices and to facilitate the dissemination of the activities of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, in coordination with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as technical secretariat of the Conference;

Information regarding subregional and international cooperation activities

52. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the subregional cooperation activities carried out by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians of the Caribbean Community, the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System, the Andean Statistical Committee of the Andean Community and the Specialized Statistical Meeting of the Southern Common Market;

53. *Commends* the international agencies on the activities undertaken to help strengthen national statistical systems and urges the international community to intensify that support through cooperation, technical assistance and financial assistance;

Other matters

54. *Welcomes* the joint meeting of the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the member countries of the Regional Committee of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, held in the framework of the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee, and highlights the importance of integrating statistical and geospatial information;

55. *Thanks* the technical secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas for the information on the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the timetable for regional cooperation in the implementation of the

International Comparison Programme, and the steps to update the measurements of monetary poverty taken by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the region;

56. *Requests* the member countries to prepare proposals for working group activities for the biennium 2018-2019 for consideration by the Executive Committee prior to the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

57. *Takes note* of the proposals put forward by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America for these topics to be addressed by a working group, depending on countries' interest; of the need stated by the technical secretariat to have statistics on cities for the follow-up of Sustainable Development Goal 11; and of the proposal made by Chile to reactivate the Working Group on Household Surveys;

58. *Agrees* with the statement by Colombia on the importance of committing to high-quality statistics and using administrative records for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

59. *Also agrees* to hold the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Aguascalientes (Mexico) during the week of 13-17 November 2017.

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
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Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito/United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

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Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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Specialized agencies****Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)**

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Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO)/United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

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Intergovernmental organizations****CAF-Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina/CAF-Development Bank of Latin America**

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Comunidad Andina/Andean Community

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