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REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS*

* Report prepared by Mexico, the country that acted as coordinator of the Working Group on Gender Statistics, in conjunction with the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
I. BACKGROUND	1
A. Development of statistical and methodological capacities to produce high-quality gender statistics	1
1. Time use and unpaid work	1
2. Violence against women	2
3. Other activities for the development of statistical and methodological capacities	3
B. Strengthening ties between the producers and users of gender statistics	5
1. International meetings on gender statistics	5
2. International meetings of experts on time-use surveys and unpaid work held in Mexico.....	5
C. The promotion of international development cooperation and the diffusion of gender statistics	7
1. Millennium Development Goal indicators.....	7
2. Technical assistance	8
3. The diffusion of gender statistics.....	9
4. The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.....	9
II. PROGRAMME OF WORK 2009-2011 OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF ECLAC	10
A. General objective of the programme.....	10
B. Specific objectives of the programme.....	10
1. Promoting the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to produce and disseminate gender statistics.....	10
2. Strengthening the ties between producers and users of information	13
3. Promoting international cooperation for the development and dissemination of gender statistics	14

I. BACKGROUND

The Working Group on Gender Statistics was created at the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Mexico was appointed coordinator and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC was requested to act as secretariat.¹ The members of the Working Group are the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay, along with National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) and the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) of Mexico, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The programme of work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics was presented at the seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held on 29 and 30 November 2007 in Bogota. It has been implemented with the collaboration of INMUJERES, INEGI, UNIFEM and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC. This report gives an account of the activities carried out in the framework of the programme of work revised and approved at the eighth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 22-24 October in Santo Domingo.

A. DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL CAPACITIES TO PRODUCE HIGH-QUALITY GENDER STATISTICS

1. Time use and unpaid work

(a) Guidelines to harmonize time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean

INEGI, with the support of the institutions participating in the Working Group on Gender Statistics, undertook a project on time use and unpaid work (guidelines to harmonize time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean), the goal of which was to develop a conceptual and methodological framework and classify time-use activities as a step towards harmonizing these surveys in the region, improving data quality and enhancing comparability among countries. The project was presented at the sixth international meeting of experts on time-use surveys and results are already apparent: a proposal for classifying time-use activities, which will be analysed and discussed at the technical meeting to be held in Mexico City in August 2009 to consolidate a proposal for a regional classifier of time-use activities. Also available is the first version of the document on the conceptual and methodological framework for time-use surveys in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, which will be presented at the seventh international meeting of experts on time-use surveys, to be held after the technical meeting. The results of this project will constitute key inputs for conducting surveys in the region and for monitoring women's economic autonomy through the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report of the fourth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*(LC/L.2795), Santiago Chile, 8 October 2007.

(b) Household accounts: gender and health

The Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC continues to work with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) on a number of activities related to the measurement of the contribution of women's unpaid work in the provision of health care in the home and to the preparation of a gender-based satellite health account. The Division's participation with PAHO in meetings of experts and training courses² resulted in the joint publication of the work on the invisible economy and gender inequalities and the importance of measuring and valuing unpaid work by PAHO, ECLAC and the Higher Scientific Research Council.³

(c) Training courses and networks of researchers and experts

The Division for Gender Affairs, together with the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), PAHO and UNIFEM, organized and gave a training course on time redistribution as an equality indicator. The course lasted three weeks (90 academic hours) and was divided into two stages. Stage one was conducted at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago from 19 to 30 May 2008, and stage two was given online from 9 to 13 June 2008.⁴ The course aimed to train professionals working in the public sector, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations or private-sector entities that conduct survey-based research into time-use or projects and programmes to measure the economic and social value of care work.

A network of researchers and experts in time-use surveys, especially in the economic and social aspects of time use, is being set up. This network, which will initially bring together experts from Latin America, is also intended to work with existing international networks, such as the Scientific Time, Economy and Society Association (ACTES).

2. Violence against women

(a) Project and publications

The Division for Gender Affairs prepared the interregional project "Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities", which focuses on developing official statistics to measure the impact and magnitude of violence against women. Funding by the United Nations Development Account was approved in late 2007 and the funds were delivered in March 2009 under the coordination of ECLAC and the collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) and the United Nations Statistics Division, which met in Geneva on 27 May 2009 for an initial coordination meeting.

As part of the preparatory activities for the implementation of this project, the Division for Gender Affairs and INEGI participated in the meeting of experts on indicators for measuring violence against women, held in Geneva on 8-10 October 2007, organized by the United Nations Division for the

² See also activity reported in section A.1 of this report.

³ Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), *La economía invisible y las desigualdades de género. La importancia de medir y valorar el trabajo no remunerado*, Washington, D.C., 2008.

⁴ See the programme [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/noticias/noticias/4/32254/Programa.pdf>.

Advancement of Women, ECE and the United Nations Statistics Division in collaboration with ECLAC, ECA, ESCAP and ESCWA.⁵ The outcomes of this meeting served as a basis for the work of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women. All the member countries and observers of the group of Friends provided inputs for the task commended to the group.⁶ The Report of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women was presented at the fortieth session of the Statistical Commission (New York, 24 - 27 February 2009) and the set of indicators for measuring physical and sexual violence and violence at the hands of an intimate partner or former intimate partner was approved. Although the Friends of the Chair have a mandate to continue to build consensus on indicators concerning other types of violence against women, the set adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission as a starting point from which to develop the countries' capacities to measure gender violence will also serve as a basis for the activities of the interregional Project and the gender equality observatory.

UNIFEM published the book *Delitos contra las mujeres. Análisis de la clasificación mexicana de delitos*.⁷ This work is an important reference for the production of continuous statistics on violence against women, in the framework of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

3. Other activities for the development of statistical and methodological capacities

(a) Meetings of experts

The Division for Gender Affairs and the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia organized a meeting of experts on the conceptual and methodological challenges of measuring poverty from a gender perspective, which was held in Bogota on 21 and 22 April 2008. The experts stressed the need to find alternative measurement methods because the traditional ones tended to use the household as the sole unit of analysis and income as the only classification variable. They also tended to adopt suppositions that contradicted gender realities and concealed poverty at the individual level.⁸

⁵ See the report of the meeting of experts [online] http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/IndicatorsVAW/IndicatorsVAW_EGM_report.pdf.

⁶ The group of Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission was established by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session (decision 39/116). It consists of representatives of the following member States: Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Ghana, Italy, Mexico (the Chair) and Thailand, with the United Nations Statistics Division acting as secretariat of the group. In addition, the following international bodies agreed to act as observers: the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the World Health Organization.

⁷ Patricia Olamendi, *Delitos contra las mujeres. Análisis de la clasificación mexicana de delitos*, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)/National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI), November 2007.

⁸ See the report of the meeting of experts [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/noticias/noticias/3/32863/Agenda.pdf>.

(b) Intensive training courses on gender statistics

Since 2005, UNIFEM and INEGI have been carrying out activities to strengthen the capacities of technical staff in national statistical offices, in the framework of international meetings on gender statistics held at the INEGI headquarters in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Accordingly, the gender statistics workshop was imparted at the INEGI office, with instructors from UNIFEM, INEGI and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, in the framework of the eighth international meeting on gender statistics (2007). The following year, an intensive gender statistics course was given from 2 to 4 October, aimed at strengthening the capacities of a group of 36 technical staff from the national statistical offices of 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries. The idea was that they would then replicate this knowledge and support gender mainstreaming in their respective programmes of activities.⁹ The course was imparted with 14 experts from UNIFEM, INMUJERES, PAHO, the Division for Gender Affairs and INEGI.

(c) Training

Members of the Working Group on Gender Statistics took part in the diploma course on gender statistics and indicators held in Bogota in June 2007 and November 2008, organized by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia. In 2007 the course was sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), UNIFEM and DANE, and benefited from the collaboration of several entities, including the Office of the Advisory Council for Women's Equity of Colombia, INEGI and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In 2008, the Andean Centre for Higher Studies (CANDANE) and UNFPA participated in the organization together with DANE. The Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC and UNIFEM provided instructors in the modules on methodological aspects of the production of gender statistics and on poverty, respectively.

(d) Seminars and meetings

UNIFEM, together with Mexico's Gender and Poverty Observatory and National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), INMUJERES and the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized an international seminar on coverage and constraints in the measurement of gender and poverty, held in Mexico City on 3 and 4 October 2007. For this activity, UNIFEM requested a consultancy in order to present a document containing considerations on mainstreaming gender in poverty measurement. The document signals the need to incorporate records of gender-disaggregated expenditure into household income surveys for the purposes of poverty calculations. As a further step in this endeavour, UNIFEM, in coordination with the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), the Office of the Ombudsman for Indigenous Women (DEMI), the Secretariat of Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN), the Social Cohesion Council and the National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala, organized an international meeting on coverage and constraints in the measurement of poverty, gender and cultural diversity, which was held on 18 February 2009 in Antigua, Guatemala. At the meeting, the participants reflected on the limitations of conventional poverty measurements and their impact on public policies. They also discussed the multidimensional measurement of poverty from a perspective of gender, Afro-descendance and multi-ethnicity.

⁹ The workshop was given in 18 classroom hours covering five subjects: conceptual points of reference and international instruments; censuses; health, education and civil records; labour statistics; poverty and statistics on violence against women.

B. STRENGTHENING TIES BETWEEN THE PRODUCERS AND USERS OF GENDER STATISTICS

1. International meetings on gender statistics

(a) Meetings

The international meetings on gender statistics held annually for the last nine years in Aguascalientes have provided opportunities for reflection, follow-up and evaluation of progress in mainstreaming gender in the generation of statistics in the Latin American countries. These meetings also represent good practice in strengthening relations and the capacities of users and producers of statistics and for promoting the horizontal exchange of experiences among countries. These events have been organized jointly by UNIFEM, INMUJERES, INEGI and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

The eighth International Meeting on Gender Statistics for Public Policies was held from 5 to 11 September 2007, with a view to exchanging experiences and discussing progress in methodological and conceptual matters, as well as the analysis and use of statistics and gender indicators in public policies. The meeting was attended by 19 countries, including all the members of the Working Group of Gender Statistics. A number of panels were held on gender statistics for policymaking in such areas as work, health, poverty reduction, education and indigenous populations, and on experiences of mainstreaming gender in the work of the national statistical offices of the region.

The ninth International Meeting on Gender Statistics, which focused on the 2010 census round, was held on 29 and 30 September and 1 October 2008 in Aguascalientes, Mexico. This event brought together senior officials from national statistical offices and national women's affairs offices from 20 countries, mainly in Latin America, as well as international organizations working in gender-related issues. UNFPA and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC also participated. Traditionally, this meeting is a forum for reflection and the exchange of experiences. On this occasion, the core issue was the forthcoming census round. The participants stressed the importance of population censuses as the mainstay of socio-demographic statistics and as substantive sources for gender-based analysis. Sessions were also held on indigenous and Afro-descendent populations; education and health; violence against women; time use and paid and unpaid work; and gender-based budgets.¹⁰

2. International meetings of experts on time-use surveys and unpaid work held in Mexico

Since 2002 seven international meetings of time-use survey experts have been held under the auspices of UNIFEM in coordination with INEGI and INMUJERES. Since 2006 these meetings have been supported by ECLAC and have been held in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. They are intended to act as a forum to exchange and disseminate working experiences on time-use surveys, particularly as regards methodologies, classification of activities and the scope and limitations—conceptual and operational as well as institutional—of the different methodological alternatives. These meetings have also been forums for reflection on the use of information on this subject in research and public policymaking from a gender perspective, which has help to strengthen and position the gender

¹⁰ See the report of the rapporteur [online] <http://www.inegi.org.mx>.

issue on the agendas of the countries. Two international meetings were held during the period covered by this report. The fifth meeting, held on 22 and 23 November 2007, was attended by 49 persons (40 women and 9 men) from 11 countries: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Spain and Uruguay. Most were members of the Working Group on Gender Statistics. At the meeting, participants from United Nations agencies, national statistical institutes and mechanisms for the advancement of women assumed important commitments with a view to: (i) consolidating the working group; (ii) defining the future agenda of work; (iii) preparing a joint proposal for the group on gender that would be consolidated at the next Statistical Conference of the Americas; (iv) building, as a joint endeavour, a minimum set of indicators accepted regionwide for measuring time use; (v) continuing to develop a classifier of activities that would enable regional comparison and the valuation of unpaid work; (vi) requesting the international agencies working in this area to prepare a methodological guide on the conduct of time-use surveys in Latin America, and (vii) collaborating to disseminate information with a view to positioning the issue of gender-based time-use patterns so as to impact public policymaking and incorporate a gender perspective into budgeting. The material used during the meeting was distributed in CD format and made available, together with the record of the meeting, on the UNIFEM website and the intranet of INEGI; the first Cuaderno de trabajo published by UNIFEM, entitled “Clasificación de actividades de uso del tiempo”¹¹ was also distributed.

The sixth meeting of experts on time-use surveys, held on 10 and 11 July 2008 in Mexico City, was attended by 67 persons (51 women and 16 men) from 13 countries: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Spain and Uruguay. At the meeting, the publication of the document on indicators of violence against women within the framework of the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goals, coordinated by Mexico, was announced, and the Working Group on Gender Statistics presented its project on time use and unpaid work (guidelines for harmonizing time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean, which offers a conceptual framework, methodology and classification of time-use activities for the countries of the region. The representatives of Chile and Mexico presented the structure of their classifications, and Spain and Mexico set forth the methodologies used for their satellite account. The second Cuaderno de trabajo published by UNIFEM¹² was distributed at the meeting. A number of future works were also announced: Uruguay would obtain the results of its time-use survey at the end of the year; Chile was to hold its survey in the last quarter of 2008; Spain reported that the EUROSTAT guide¹³ was being updated and the results would be available in December 2009. ECLAC would continue to promote time-use surveys and would provide assistance to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras and Peru, in line with the established procedure, and the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean would include indicators on time use and unpaid work. UNIFEM was providing technical and financial assistance for the incorporation of a module in the Permanent Multi-purpose Household Survey 2009 conducted by Honduras.

¹¹ Saavedra, Norma and Raúl de Santiago, “La clasificación de actividades sobre el uso del tiempo”, *Cuadernos de trabajo*, No 1, México City, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), 2007.

¹² Mercedes Pedrero and Teresa Lara, “Aportaciones para la elaboración de clasificadores de actividades para estadísticas de uso del tiempo”, *Cuadernos de trabajo*, No. 2, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Mexico City, 2007.

¹³ European Commission/ Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), “Guidelines on harmonised European time use surveys”, *Working Papers and Studies* [online] http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-CC-04-007/EN/KS-CC-04-007-EN.PDF, 2004.

C. THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THE DIFFUSION OF GENDER STATISTICS

1. Millennium Development Goal indicators

- (a) The Division for Gender Affairs, following the recommendation of the United Nations Statistical Commission to use additional indicators that complement official ones to mainstream the gender perspective in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, coordinated the preparation of the inter-agency document entitled *Millennium Development Goals 2006: a look at Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean*.¹⁴ This document analyses multiple indicators and other elements that are essential for fulfilling the recommendation of the Statistical Commission.
- (b) The Division for Gender Affairs and the Social Development Division of ECLAC worked together on the interregional cooperation project to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in relation to the Millennium Development Goals for the Development Account. This project served as framework for identifying substantive links between the Millennium Development Goals and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women with a view to constructing indicators for the strategic follow-up of both mandates. A meeting of experts on indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Convention was therefore organized, with the collaboration of the Regional Office for Latin America of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and held on 3 and 4 July 2007 in Santiago.¹⁵ A document on indicators of compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was also published.¹⁶
- (c) Within the framework of the activities related to the Millennium Development Goals, the Division for Gender Affairs completed the series of studies published with a compendium of the challenges of the new millennium in the face of gender inequality¹⁷ and a study conducted in Uruguay.¹⁸ The inputs of the Haiti and Honduras studies were considered insufficient for the publication of an independent study and were thus incorporated into the position paper presented by ECLAC at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Quito, in August 2007.¹⁹

¹⁴ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Millennium Development Goals 2006: a look at Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/G.2352-P), Santiago, Chile, December 2007.

¹⁵ See [online] <http://www.eclac.cl/mujer/noticias/noticias/5/29075/Agenda.pdf>.

¹⁶ Daniela Zapata, "Indicadores para el cumplimiento de la Convención sobre la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación contra la mujer", *Mujer y desarrollo series*, No 91 (LC/L.2854-P). Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), December 2007. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.07.II.G.178.

¹⁷ See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Los desafíos del Milenio ante la igualdad de género* (LC/R.2138-P), Santiago, Chile, 2007.

¹⁸ See Claudia Giacometti, "Las metas del Milenio y la igualdad de género. El caso de Uruguay", *Mujer y desarrollo series*, No. 88 (LC/L.2832-P), Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2007. United Nations publication, Sales No. S.07.II.G.145.

¹⁹ Vivian Milosavljevic, "Estadísticas para la equidad de género. Magnitudes y tendencias en América Latina", *Cuadernos de la CEPAL*, No. 92 (LC/G.2321-P), Santiago, Chile, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2007.

- (d) As far as the follow-up of the main conferences and summit meetings is concerned, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC is updating the system of indicators for the follow-up of the recommendations of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development of Cairo and, in support of the Division for Gender Affairs, of the Beijing Platform for Action. In 2007, the regional system of indicators on ageing (SISE) was implemented, five years after being approved as part of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The member countries of ECLAC were consulted in this regard.²⁰

2. Technical assistance

- (a) The Division for Gender Affairs continued to provide technical assistance under the project on the use of gender indicators for public policy-making, which aims to encourage the production of gender statistics and the implementation of gender indicator systems within national social information systems. In this area, training and technical assistance missions were carried out in Colombia, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Peru and Uruguay. As part of follow-up to activities already begun, technical assistance was provided for processing statistical information in the framework of cooperation with Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Honduras. In addition, a tripartite inter-agency cooperation agreement was concluded between ECLAC, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Women's Rights of Haiti and the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information Sciences (IHSI); and another between ECLAC, the Secretariat of Women's Affairs and the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (DGEEC) of Paraguay.
- (b) UNIFEM has provided technical assistance, through specific consultancies and workshops, for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistics in the national statistical offices of the Central American countries. At the request of the National Statistical Office of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and UNFPA, UNIFEM provided technical assistance for a population survey held in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (ENDEVE, 2007).²¹ In Nicaragua, UNIFEM participated in the formulation of a proposal to strengthen the National Institute of Information on Development (INIDE) and the National Statistical System (SEN), including the review and adaptation of its conceptual and legal framework, and its strategic guidelines, processes and actions for responding in a timely manner to requirements for data with a gender focus. In 2006, 2007 and 2008, UNIFEM participated in the diploma course on gender statistics and indicators organized by the Andean Centre for Higher Studies (CANDANE) of Colombia. In 2007, a training workshop on gender statistics was imparted to the staff of the National Statistical Office of Honduras and the Institute for Women of Honduras (INAM), at the request of those institutions. Also in 2007, UNIFEM imparted two workshops on gender statistics in Panama for coordinators and technical staff working on the economic agenda for women in Central America and the staff of the statistical offices of the Central American subregion.²²

²⁰ See the version updated to December 2007 [online] at <http://celade.cepal.org/cgibin/RpWebEngine.exe/PortalAction?&MODE=MAIN&BASE=MADRID&MAIN=WebServerMain.inl>.

²¹ In addition to the review of the ENDEVE questionnaire, UNIFEM participated in the third meeting of the technical group on population surveying in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. For more details, see [online] <http://venezuela.unfpa.org/documentos/taller%20endeve%202007.pdf?lang=spa>.

²² See programme and materials at [online] http://www.unifem.org.mx/un/index.php?option=com_remository&Itemid=2&func=select&id=40.

In 2007, at the request of the Government of Spain's Special Government Delegation to Combat Violence against Women and the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID), UNIFEM participated in a seminar in Guatemala on the measurement of violence against women in Guatemala. At the request of the National Statistical Institute and the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), the agency also provided technical assistance to the staff of the National Civil Police for the analysis of different data sources in that country, particularly on the generation of statistics on femicide.

3. The diffusion of gender statistics

ECLAC published the first issue of *Estadísticas para la equidad de género: magnitudes y tendencias en América Latina* [Statistics for gender equity: magnitude and trends in Latin America]. The gender statistics and indicators system webpage, which is regularly updated with new information from United Nations agencies and on the recent household surveys, was redesigned to be more user-friendly.¹⁵ The statistics and indicators system was moved to the new platform of databases developed by ECLAC called CEPALSTAT.¹⁶ The subregional headquarters of ECLAC for the Caribbean is carrying out activities aimed at completing information for the countries of the Caribbean that is already included in the database, incorporating new periods and extending the coverage of gender statistics to other countries.

4. The Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

Considerable progress has been made in establishing a gender equality observatory in Latin America and the Caribbean in accordance with the Working Group's 2007-2009 programme of work. Preparatory activities were started with the support of the Trust Fund of the Government of France to identify and learn about existing gender observatories in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to adopt the most suitable procedural methods and approaches. At the tenth Regional Conference on Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, the member countries of ECLAC approved the Quito Census, which requests ECLAC, together with other organizations of the United Nations system to "collaborate with member States that request them to do so in following up on the fulfilment of the agreements that have been adopted through the creation of an equality observatory that will help strengthen national gender machineries". The Quito mandate subsequently received support in the Programme of Action of the seventeenth Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Santiago, on 8-10 November 2007. At the Summit, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) reiterated its commitment to provide financial support for the observatory's activities, as did the Ibero-American Secretariat at the forty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Bogota on 24 and 25 April 2008. This support should be forthcoming soon.

In response to these mandates, ECLAC presented a proposal for the gender equality observatory at the forty-first meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, together with a set of indicators to follow up on core issues on the regional gender affairs agenda. The delegations welcomed the proposal and requested ECLAC to convene two technical meetings to discuss the indicators proposed in Latin America and the Caribbean, the analysis of which, by definition, would be the responsibility of the Working Group on Gender Statistics. The first of these meetings would be held at the INEGI offices in Aguascalientes, Mexico, on 1 and 2 October 2008, the second at the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain, on 6 and 7 October 2008. The outcomes of both these meetings were presented at the forty-second meeting of the Presiding

Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, 4 and 5 December 2008), who welcomed the preparatory work on the establishment of the gender equality observatory carried out by the inter-agency working group —comprising the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), PAHO, UNFPA, UNIFEM and UNDP— coordinated by ECLAC and “[requested] that it begin operating immediately and that its work be made available to the public on the website of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Commission”.

The start-up activities for the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean include the preparation of an observatory website and the related database and metadata sheets, as well as a meeting of experts to define the concept of best practices that will be used to follow up public policies (Santiago, 28 and 29 September 2009). The creation of the Gender Equality Observatory will not only strengthen the role of the mechanisms for the advancement of women at the national level, but will also draw attention to the role of gender indicators as a tool for monitoring public-policy outcomes and follow-up.

II. PROGRAMME OF WORK 2009-2011 OF THE WORKING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF ECLAC

For the biennium 2009-2011, the Working Group will provide continuity for the 2007-2009 programme of work, based on the evaluation of its results.²³ Depending on the resources available, the main activities will be conducted within the following framework.

A. GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

Promote the production, development and systematization of gender statistics and indicators, as well as their dissemination and use in public policies in all countries of the region.

B. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

1. Promoting the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to produce and disseminate gender statistics

(a) Activities related to time-use and unpaid work

- Continue to promote the use of different modalities of time-use survey according to each country's situation and possibilities: independent surveys, modules in multi-purpose surveys or specific questions in household surveys.
- Project on time use and unpaid work. Guidelines for harmonizing time-use surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean. Includes the development of a proposed conceptual and

²³ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report on activities of the Working Group on Gender Statistics* (LC/L.2935(CE.8/5)), Santiago, Chile, October 2008.

methodological framework for taking time-use surveys, a proposed classification of time-use activities and the definition of the indicator “total work time (paid and unpaid)” for the Gender Equality Observatory.

A technical meeting to consolidate a proposal for a regional classifier of time-use activities will be held in the second week of August 2009, organized by the Division for Gender Affairs, UNIFEM, INMUJERES and INEGI. The participants at the meeting will analyse and discuss the proposed classification of time-use activities developed in the framework of this project. Comments, recommendations and guidelines will be solicited in order to continue developing a regional classifier that will help to improve the quality of statistics and indicators and enhance their international comparability. This event will be followed by the seventh international meeting of experts on time-use surveys, which will offer an opportunity for dialogue among users and producers of data. It will be attended by experts in national accounts, public policymakers, representatives of mechanisms of the advancement of women and producers of data from the national statistical officers of the countries of the region. The results of the technical meeting and the proposed conceptual and methodological framework for time-use surveys in Latin America will be presented at this meeting of experts.

The results of this project will constitute a key contribution for both the implementation of time-use surveys in the region and the monitoring of women’s economic autonomy through the Gender Equality Observatory. UNIFEM has committed to provide resources and technical assistance for this project.

- Develop a final version of the classification of activities for time-use surveys, based on the agreements and recommendations of the meetings of experts on time-use surveys and taking into account experiences in countries that have harmonized and improved their classification of time-use activities.
- Develop a methodological proposal for the valuation of unpaid, domestic and care work and prepare a satellite account of household production and consumption of unpaid services. This should make it possible to measure the contribution of these activities to GDP and to the supply of goods and services. It will also show the impacts on women’s wellbeing and social protection. With this in mind, the methodology will be derived from the System of National Accounts, a solid methodology in the framework of which discussion has come to centre on “prices” for the work devoted to households’ production activities.
- Provide technical assistance for the valuation of unpaid work and the household satellite account for requesting countries, taking into account those that have conducted research into time use at the national level (Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay).
- Prepare a methodological proposal for the development of a satellite account of unpaid work. This activity could be concluded by June 2010.
- Preparation by the Division for Gender Affairs of a series of national studies in Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Honduras and Paraguay, with a view to establishing the availability of official data for calculating gender indicators that would demonstrate the contribution of women’s work —paid and unpaid— to poverty reduction. These diagnostics will include a conceptual

and methodological review of data sources such as censuses, household surveys, and surveys of employment, time use, population and health, as appropriate.

- Conduct a study on the situation of women and men in the Caribbean. UNIFEM will carry out this work in coordination with the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, notwithstanding the difficulties involved in statistical compilation in the subregion. The findings of this work will be available in the medium term.

(b) Activities related to violence against women

- Follow-up to the project “Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities” (2008-2010), especially as regards the measurement and compilation of the set of indicators recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its meeting of February 2009 as a starting point for building the countries’ capacity to measure violence against women. These activities contribute to both the intra-regional project and to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Division for Gender Affairs and INEGI will continue to participate in the framework of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women. In coordination with the Division for Gender Affairs, UNIFEM will provide support for mechanisms for the advancement of women and for national statistical institutes of the region in this capacity-building endeavour.
- In the framework of the interregional project “Development of gender indicators: capacities of statistics institutes and women’s offices” financed by the Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development (AECID), prepare a study on violence against women with a view to: (i) analysing the quality of data available in the Latin American and Caribbean countries and assessing the capacity in each for calculating the violence indicators approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its meeting of February 2009, as well as the violence indicator selected by the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean that measures deaths of women over 15 years at the hands of an intimate partner or former intimate partner; (ii) analysing the situation of women in the countries of the region in the light of the existing national and international legislation; and (iii) preparing recommendations for effective policies to eliminate, prevent and punish violence against women. This study will be published in late 2009 and will be complemented by the revision of the database of the Division for Gender Affairs, which includes the information available in all the world’s countries on violence against women. Thus it will be possible to draw up a list of countries that should be in a position to calculate the indicators proposed by the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women. UNIFEM will also continue to promote the improvement of administrative records in the region in order to keep a record of murders of women, taking into account advances in the definition of femicide and feminicide in Mexico and Guatemala, respectively.

(c) Other activities

- Prepare an analysis of the situation of gender statistics and indicators in the countries of the region. In addition, in order to follow up progress in the production and use of gender statistics, request the member countries of the Working Group to present an annual report on the activities conducted by their national statistical institutes relative to the production of gender statistics, including the construction of databases, dissemination of information,

organization of technical meetings, training and technical cooperation given or received. The Chair of the Working Group will prepare a consolidated report on advances in each thematic area, especially those related to time-use surveys and violence against women.

2. Strengthening the ties between producers and users of information

- International meetings on gender statistics in 2009, 2010 and 2011. These annual meetings held in Aguascalientes (Mexico) will continue to offer a forum for reflection, follow-up and evaluation regarding progress in mainstreaming the gender perspective in the production of statistics in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. They also represent a best practice in capacity-building for users and producers of statistics and for promoting the horizontal exchange of experiences among countries. The meetings are organized jointly by UNIFEM, INMUJERES, INEGI and the Division for Gender Affairs.
- In the framework of the tenth international meeting on gender statistics, UNIFEM, in coordination with INEGI, will organize an intensive course on gender statistics for technical staff in the countries of the region, particularly for producers of data in national statistical institutes and users of data in national mechanisms of the advancement of women. The course will be divided into different thematic areas: conceptual points of reference and international instruments; censuses; health, education and civil records; labour statistics; poverty and statistics on violence against women. It will be taught by experts from INEGI, the Division for Gender Affairs, INMUJERES and UNIFEM.
- In response to high demand for the intensive course on gender statistics given in the INEGI offices in 2008, UNIFEM has made a commitment to develop a more effective format for the dissemination of knowledge on the subject and to improve the contents of the course. The agency has offered to design the course on gender statistics in a hybrid face-to-face and distance-learning format, to be imparted by experts. It will be held first in Guatemala then, after evaluation and adjustment, in other countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region. The general objective of the course is to enhance the capacities of statistics producers and users to mainstream the gender perspective at all stages of the generation and analysis of that information.
- As regards the dissemination of training materials, the Division for Gender Affairs will prepare a new version of the *Guía de asesoría técnica para la producción y el uso de indicadores de género* published in 2006 and an interactive course on using the updated indicators in CEPALSTAT and in the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the complementary and additional indicators proposed by ECLAC, for follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals.
- Technical assistance for capacity-building in statistics-producing agencies with a view to incorporating gender statistics into national statistical programmes. These activities are conducted mainly by the Division for Gender Affairs and UNIFEM.
- UNIFEM will organize the second international seminar on coverage and constraints in the measurement of gender and poverty in Mexico, in the first week of December 2009. The agency will continue to promote the measurement of poverty from a gender perspective and

will encourage the incorporation of gender variables in data sources in the countries of the region. It will also continue to support the work carried out by the inter-agency group responsible for follow-up of poverty measurement activities in Guatemala.

3. Promoting international cooperation for the development and dissemination of gender statistics

- Statistical activities related to the Millennium Development Goals and the mainstreaming, updating and monitoring of indicators with a gender perspective.
- Follow-up to the statistical activities of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, including the annual updating of the indicators it contains in coordination with the countries of the region, the organization of technical meetings of producers and users, and the regular maintenance of its website.
- Updating of gender statistics and indicators on the CEPALSTAT platform.
- Promoting technical cooperation activities both horizontally and by United Nations agencies.
- Dissemination of gender statistics and indicators, including those programmed by ECLAC and the Cuadernos de trabajo published by UNIFEM.