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Ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE STATISTICAL COORDINATION GROUP  
FOR THE 2030 AGENDA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
IN THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017**

Since the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in April 2017, the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean has been coordinating the preparation and implementation of regional indicators and to build relevant capacities, as part of the follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the reporting period, the Group focused particularly on the following activities:

**1. Renewal of representatives of the region to global bodies involved  
in Sustainable Development Goal indicators**

At the conclusion of the first mandate of the member countries of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in accordance with the mechanisms agreed upon for the nomination of the new regional representatives by the Executive Committee, the new member countries took up their international mandate in June 2017.

As agreed, the countries that would represent the region were as follows:

- Inter-Agency Expert Group: Brazil, Colombia, Grenada, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago
- High-level Group: Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname

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

At the time of writing, 27 countries of the region had completed the questionnaire on national statistical capacities to produce the Sustainable Development Goals indicators in line with the global indicator framework. The technical secretariat presented the results to the Executive Committee of the Conference at its sixteenth meeting. Those results provided essential input for chapter III, “Measuring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean”, in the *Annual report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*, prepared by the

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development. The report highlights the progress made in the region with respect to institutional architecture for monitoring statistical processes related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the diagnosis of national statistical capabilities for the production of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In response to the Statistical Coordination Group's request to ECLAC to develop an online platform to access the microdata and process the results, the technical secretariat had completed the implementation of the application based on the prototype approved by the Executive Committee of the Conference at its sixteenth meeting. The application gives remote access to users from national statistics offices who have been preselected by member countries, allowing them to view and download microdata as well as the aggregated results via a menu of filters and tabs. It also includes a menu of functions that facilitate access to the data collected from the questionnaire on national capacities with a view to producing indicators for the global framework and identifying national statistical capacity-building needs; the information consulted can be downloaded in standard download formats (Excel files).

Pursuant to agreement number 3<sup>1</sup> adopted by the Executive Committee at its sixteenth meeting in April 2017, whereby the information contained in the online platform 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, the technical secretariat gave user access to officials of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and of other international organizations involved in statistics and which participate in the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

The secretariat has made progress in the development of mechanisms needed to make the information in the database available as open data. In parallel, a module that will allow countries to manage and maintain data remotely was under development.

### **3. Regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean**

In response to Resolution 9 (VIII),<sup>2</sup> adopted at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the terms of reference of the Statistical Coordination Group,<sup>3</sup> and at the urging of the Executive Committee 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,<sup>4</sup> ECLAC, in its capacity as technical secretariat, drafted an initial proposal containing a set of indicators for the above-mentioned regional framework. The proposal was submitted to the member countries of the Statistical Coordination Group for their consideration before being presented to all the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

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<sup>1</sup> See the *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* (LC/CE.16/5).

<sup>2</sup> See the *Report of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.4154).

<sup>3</sup> See the *Proposed terms of reference of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC* (LC/L.4179 (CE.15/3)).

<sup>4</sup> See the *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* (LC/CE.16/5).

It is contained in the working document prepared for the Conference entitled *Proposal on a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CEA.9/4). It includes a subset of indicators relevant to the region, taken from the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and a subset of substitute indicators, which replace the latter if they need to be adapted to regional characteristics. Both sets of indicators are complemented by further specific indicators that monitor features and characteristics of regional development. The resulting set of indicators was termed “desirable” and far surpassed the set of “calculable” indicators in the light of the information available in the region. The proposal should therefore be seen as a guiding framework to be followed sequentially and the priority actions must be established after a review process.

The Conference is expected to decide on the actions to be taken following the presentation of the *Proposal on a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean*. This would guide the establishment of a road map for the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean and its technical secretariat, as well as all other relevant stakeholders involved in official statistics in the region. Once the Conference has adopted the proposal, it will be necessary to define a work plan to facilitate gradual progress towards the construction of measures in line with the 2030 Agenda that are relevant to the regional context, in preparation for the second meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development.

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

In its capacity as technical secretariat for both the Statistical Coordination Group and the ad-hoc working group, and in accordance with the request of the Executive Committee,<sup>5</sup> ECLAC has made progress in its coordination with a view to including the proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development in the initial version of the regional framework of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, mentioned in section 3 above. The initial version included 14 indicators that were pertinent to the proposed indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus but which were not in the global indicator framework.

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<sup>5</sup> See the *Report of the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.4235).