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**RESOLUTION 7 (VI) OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE
STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

(Sponsored by the Chair and the Executive Committee of the Statistical
Conference of the Americas)

**Bávaro, Dominican Republic
16-18 November 2011**

RESOLUTION 7 (VI) OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

At its sixth meeting, held in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, from 16 to 18 November 2011, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind the 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, in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7, it is provided that the Executive Committee shall carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of activities of regional and international cooperation on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; follow up 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,

Having reviewed the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference for the biennium 2009/11,

Having reviewed also the proposed 2009-2011 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 and the reports of its working groups,

Having examined the proposed updating of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015,

Taking into account the major challenges faced in the field of public statistics in the region in connection with the conduct of the 2010 round of censuses, the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008, the generation of information for monitoring progress towards fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and the pressing and growing demands for statistical data and indicators in new areas, such as the environment, information and communications technology and gender issues,

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

Taking fully into consideration the agreements adopted at the forty-second session of the United Nations Statistical Commission,

Taking fully into consideration also 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 the meeting,

Report on the implementation of the 2009-2011 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

1. *Approves* the Report on the implementation of the 2009-2011 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, welcomes the progress made by the working groups created by the Conference and urges these groups to continue to pursue their fruitful efforts with a view to the complete fulfilment of their terms of reference;
2. *Urges* the working groups to put into practice the recommendations contained in the report on the review of their operating modalities, which was endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Conference at its tenth meeting and is aimed at optimizing the functioning of the working groups with a view to attainment of their objectives, and requests the secretariat to report on the implementation of these recommendations at the eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee;

Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

3. *Adopts* the Proposed updating of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and requests the secretariat to incorporate into the document the observations and suggestions put forth by the representatives and to present a definitive version of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 to the Executive Committee at its eleventh meeting;

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, 2012-2013

4. *Adopts* the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference, 2012-2013 and the plan of work of each of the working groups; requests the secretariat to incorporate the observations and suggestions put forth by the representatives and to present a definitive version of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 to the Executive Committee at its eleventh meeting;
5. *Urges* the States members of the Conference, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to make an active contribution to the work to be carried out under the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2012-2013;

6. *Endorses* the draft Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and its implementation plan and urges the countries to adopt them as the framework of ethical and professional conduct for the production and dissemination of official statistics; also recommends that the countries put into practice the implementation plan, as far as their particular conditions and possibilities allow;

7. *Requests* the Working Group on Institution-building and the Commission to prepare a plan for mobilizing contributions from donor agencies with a view to financing the programme of activities for supporting the countries in the adoption and implementation of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

8. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Statistical Office of the European Union for its ongoing support in achieving the objective of developing a regional code of good practice in statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean and for its commitment to continue supporting this initiative by transmitting its experience regarding the implementation of such a code;

9. *Commends* Colombia, the coordinating country, and the other member countries of the Working Group on Institution-building, for the excellent work carried out in preparing the regional code;

Promotion of training of competent human resources

10. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the work carried out under the training programme of the Knowledge Transfer Network, which is aimed at creating experience in distance training, enhancing the coordination of training activities in the region and building networks of experts and training centres for the purposes of horizontal cooperation; also expresses its thanks and appreciation to the World Bank for the support provided for the work of the Knowledge Transfer Network;

Building of technical capacity

Millennium Development Goals

11. *Notes with satisfaction* the draft programme of work 2012-2013 which reflects the requirements of the countries of the region in terms of the Millennium Development Goal indicators, with regard to reducing statistical discrepancies, improving the production of official statistics on the Millennium Development Goals using international standards and regional points of reference, and promoting inter-agency coordination and the harmonization of statistics; also urges the countries to redouble their efforts to produce the information needed to generate Millennium indicators that can facilitate monitoring of progress towards achievement of the Goals proposed for 2015, seeking reconciliation between the statistical data produced by international agencies and by national institutions;

12. *Reiterates* the need for national statistical offices to participate in the production of national reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in order to ensure that the correct statistical information is used for monitoring advances;

13. *Expresses its thanks and appreciation* to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and to the Inter-American Development Bank for the financial resources provided, which were instrumental in carrying out the work of the 2009-2011 biennium; also expresses the need for continued financial support in order to carry out the activities planned for the next biennium;

14. *Emphasizes* the need for international organizations to afford priority to the use of official statistics generated by the countries, provided that those statistics meet the required standards of quality and comparability; and reiterates the need to produce statistical indicators and data corresponding to the Millennium Development Goals and their respective targets, avoiding duplication of efforts;

Gender statistics

15. *Reaffirms* the agreements set forth in the Brasilia Consensus with regard to encouraging regional, subregional and multilateral cooperation programmes, taking advantage of the processes of integration for socio-economic development under way in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly actions that promote gender equality and strengthening South-South cooperation in order to achieve gender equality and women's advancement;

16. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the efforts made by several countries in carrying forward work on innovative methodologies for calculating the satellite account for unpaid household work;

17. *Urges* the countries to increase their work on statistics from administrative records and to improve the quality and availability of such statistics, especially in the cases of records concerning violence against women, since these represent the leading source of information for addressing and analysing this phenomenon and for preparing policies to combat it;

18. *Endorses* the request formulated at the twelfth International Meeting on Gender Statistics (Aguascalientes, Mexico, 5-7 October 2011) with regard to the collection and processing of reliable and systemic information on the status of women in economic activity in the countries and invites the Working Group on Gender Statistics to develop proposals of relevant indicators in this area;

19. *Urges* analysts and users of information from the 2010 round of censuses in the countries in which information is already available to work with information disaggregated by sex and, together with machineries for the advancement of women, to incorporate gender analysis in the many potential areas offered by census information;

20. *Requests* the countries, further to the agreements adopted by the Executive Committee at its tenth meeting held in Havana in April 2011, to transmit to the secretariat their comments on the proposal for a classification of time-use activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL) with a view to improving this key tool for harmonizing time-use surveys in the region;

Harmonization of statistics on income poverty and public transfers

21. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the continuation of the activities of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers, welcoming in particular the systematization of findings of the consultation effected among the Latin American and Caribbean countries on the methodology employed to calculate poverty rates; also urges the Working Group to assess the possibility of coordinating its activities with those carried out to this effect by the international organizations and draws attention to the need to explore a variety of complementary approaches to poverty measurement, particularly in relation to multidimensional methods of measurement;

Censuses

22. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Working Group on Censuses to concentrate its work at this stage on promoting and implementing initiatives for assisting countries with the evaluation and analysis of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses through training activities, (including workshops on issues of coverage and quality assessment, on processing and analysis of census information, and on the preparation of population estimates and projections on the basis of the 2010 round of censuses); also thanks the United Nations Population Fund for the substantive and financial support for the Group's work and requests the Fund to continue supporting activities conducted in relation to population and housing censuses;

23. *Commends* the 15 countries and territories having conducted their population and housing census in 2010 —Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Saint Lucia— and the 12 countries and territories having conducted their population and housing census in 2011 —Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)— whose achievements show that the census tradition remains active in the region, and urges the other countries and territories to continue working to achieve the highest standards of quality regarding this important source of information;

24. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure the availability of the resources necessary for the timely completion of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, in view of their crucial importance for generating up-to-date information with a major economic, social and environmental impact, and to facilitate access to census data and promote the proper use, analysis and dissemination of that information;

25. *Reiterates* the importance of countries consulting and, to the extent possible, incorporating in the censuses of the 2010 round the recommendations emerging from the discussion process and the consensus adopted in the framework of the activities of the Conference; also suggests that the possibilities offered by population records and other administrative records continue to be analysed and explored with a view to future censuses;

26. *Commends* the National Institute of Statistics and Census of Panama upon the holding of an intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications, in conjunction with the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund and the Latin American and Caribbean Population Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and requests the latter two institutions to make the necessary efforts to continue to run similar courses at the regional level, subject to resource availability;

27. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the holding of workshops on exchanging experiences in the training of census enumerators and field supervisors, building capacity for the analysis, evaluation and dissemination of census information and improving the use of census data capture and processing technologies, and requests the Latin American and Caribbean Population Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue supporting the countries in planning, implementing and analysing the 2010 round of population and housing censuses through activities aimed at continuing to build capacity for the analysis, evaluation and dissemination of census information and to develop and promote the use of census data capture and processing technologies;

National accounts

28. *Notes with gratification* the activities scheduled for 2012-2013 as part of the programme of activities of the Working Group on National Accounts for supporting the countries in the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008) and promoting greater integration between the production of basic economic statistics, national accounts and users in the areas of international coordination, development of methodologies and standards, regional harmonization and human-capacity-building;

29. *Calls for* redoubled efforts to support the countries in the development of basic economic statistics and to coordinate the activities of the Working Group closely with those of the Project on the regional statistical framework for the directories of businesses and establishments;

30. *Reiterates* the need to promote the participation of representatives from more countries, and especially representatives of central banks, in the Working Group, leading to closer collaboration with national statistical offices with a view to the improvement of economic statistics and national accounts;

31. *Recognizes* the need to incorporate issues relating to the broad measurement of well-being, including non-monetary variables, into the activities of the Working Group;

Statistics on information and communications technologies

32. *Notes with satisfaction* the objective of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies to complete the review of the preliminary proposal of indicators for the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC 2015), which was prepared by the joint working commission formed by representatives of the Working Group, the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean and the ministries of the eLAC participant countries; also notes the proposal of the Working Group to maintain the mechanism of cooperation employed thus far, comprising ministries and institutions of the eLAC participant countries and Brazil, with a view to maintaining the synergies developed in the framework of collaboration between the eLAC participant countries and the Conference;

33. *Welcomes* the initiative to carry out the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on information and communications technologies in national statistical offices, 2012 version, in the government institutions which represent the Latin American and Caribbean countries to eLAC, duly reformulated in coordination with the secretariat;

34. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the work conducted by the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, a body established by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and by the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas of the International Development Research Centre, which has produced significant progress towards attaining the stated objectives in the areas of statistical harmonization and data collection and analysis to strengthen the monitoring of policies and projects on information and communications technologies, and urges the countries to continue sending their data for updating the Observatory's indicators database;

Environmental statistics

35. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations of the seminar on new international methodological developments in the field of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean held on 14 and 15 November 2011 in Bávaro, Dominican Republic, and urges the countries, to the extent of their possibilities, to implement the recommendations formulated at the seminar; also commends the collaboration of the Knowledge Transfer Network and the Working Group on Environmental Statistics in the preparation of the seminar as a result of synergies generated within the Conference;

36. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made by a number of countries in the region in mainstreaming the production and dissemination of environmental statistics and heightening their visibility and sustainability by creating departments of environmental statistics within national statistical offices, and urges the countries to familiarize themselves with these experiences and, to the extent of their possibilities, implement similar measures;

37. *Strongly urges* Governments to allocate the necessary resources to ensure the availability of adequate human resources at the professional level for the operation of environmental statistics programmes, and to establish inter-agency agreements and mechanisms for coordination, and strengthen existing ones, within the national statistical system to foster the development of the environmental statistics programmes;

38. *Reiterates* the need for national statistical offices to participate actively in formulating the national position on the development and strengthening of environmental statistics at the meetings held in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and in the resolutions adopted at that Conference;

39. *Emphasizes* the importance of national statistical institutions incorporating environmental statistics as an integral part of the national statistical system along with social and economic statistics;

40. *Expresses its support* for the efforts of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics to bring the regional public goods project to fruition in order to support the development of environmental statistics in the region and thanks the Inter-American Development Bank for having extended financing for the project;

International classifications

41. *Approves* the establishment of the Working Group on International Classifications, which will comprise Mexico as coordinator, Chile, Costa Rica, the Statistical System of the Andean Community, the United Nations Statistics Division and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will serve as technical secretariat. The activities of this Working Group will be aimed at formulating, analysing, discussing, agreeing upon and implementing classification proposals that properly reflect structures and developments in the countries in the region, and supporting the updating of international classifications and their timely distribution, as well as the programming of resources needed to implement new versions of economic, social and environmental classifications;

42. *Urges* the countries to support and participate actively in the implementation of the programme of work 2012-2013 and underlines the importance of securing the necessary financing, and therefore calls upon donors and international agencies to extend support for the workshops, training, horizontal cooperation and technical assistance envisaged in the Group's programme of work;

Agricultural statistics

43. *Approves* the establishment of a working group on agricultural statistics, whose objectives will be to improve harmonized agricultural statistics in the region, design the regional implementation plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, bearing in mind the state of the art of these statistics in the countries, train human resources and prepare a viable programme of work for improvement of agricultural statistics in the framework of the Global Strategy. The aim of the Global Strategy is to combat hunger

in the world, by providing essential information for diagnosing situations of risk and transmitting the knowledge needed to craft appropriate public policies. The working group will comprise Brazil as coordinator, Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will serve as technical secretariat;

Employment, unemployment and underutilization of labour

44. *Approves* the establishment of a working group on labour-market indicators, whose main tasks will be to review the definitions and concepts involved in statistics on employment, unemployment and underemployment, propose new labour-market indicators and promote the development of a system of statistical indicators on decent work and its integration into the national statistical systems of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. As well as placing at the disposal of the countries an inventory of experiences with a view to harmonization, the establishment of this working group will offer a channel for the region to express its needs for information on the labour market in keeping with its particular characteristics (the magnitude of informal employment and of own-account workers) in the discussions taking place in the ILO working group, which will lead to decisions on these matters after almost 30 years and in light of the countries' own practices. This working group will comprise Chile as coordinator, Colombia, which will be responsible for the component of indicators on decent work, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru and the International Labour Organization, which will serve as technical secretariat;

Household surveys

45. *Approves* the establishment of a working group on household surveys, whose main purpose is to contribute to the improvement of household surveys as a basic source of information for the analysis of well-being and living standards in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, with a particular emphasis on supporting the formation of integrated household survey systems, documenting and exchanging experiences and good practices in the statistical design of household surveys, strengthening the use of methodologies for generating transverse and longitudinal estimators based on continuous surveys, promoting research on the use of longitudinal surveys, identifying and promoting regional and subregional cooperation activities to build the capacities of member countries to implement good-quality household surveys, and promoting the creation of inter-agency platforms for the collaboration, coordination and integration of regional initiatives on household surveys; this working group will comprise Ecuador as coordinator, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will serve as technical secretariat;

Statistics on childhood and adolescence

46. *Approves* the establishment of a working group on statistics on childhood and adolescence, whose overarching objective will be to promote the generation, systematization and integration of statistics and indicators on childhood and adolescence with a view to the

evaluation and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at fulfilling commitments on the rights of the child undertaken by all the countries of their region and contributing to expected outcomes, in order to improve regional coordination for the production of statistics and indicators on childhood and adolescence in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, enhance the comparability of statistics within the region and over time, increase the reliability of administrative records, achieve coordination between sectors and with international agencies in order to contribute to the development of indicators that promote and protect the rights of the child and generate information for the design and evaluation of public policies; this working group will comprise Panama as coordinator, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, the United Nations Children's Fund Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the latter two bodies serving as joint technical secretariat;

47. *Requests* the newly created working groups to form initiative committees to draw up their respective plans of work for the period 2012-2013 for presentation to the Executive Committee at its eleventh meeting, setting forth the group's member countries and technical secretariat, as well as its specific objectives, activities and expected outcomes and the commitments undertaken by the member countries and international agencies;

Information on governance, public security and administration of justice

48. *Strongly urges* the international organizations to support the efforts of the countries to compile and disseminate information on crime, to promote international standards on the implementation of victim surveys and to develop an international classification of crime;

49. *Calls upon* the countries to redouble their efforts to produce and disseminate information on crime, in particular to ensure that national statistical offices include victim surveys in their data collection programmes;

50. *Requests* the United Nations Statistical Commission to include the issue of crime statistics in its regular programme of work;

51. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the creation of the Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice established jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics in Mexico City; requests the Centre, subject to resources, to support the countries of the region in their efforts to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of information on crime and to develop standards for the measurement of the crimes which are most frequent in the region; and expresses its satisfaction at the organization of the first international conference on governance, public security, victims of crime and justice in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 22 to 25 May 2012;

Promotion of coordination and cooperation between member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and international agencies

International Comparison Programme

52. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress of the International Comparison Programme in the region and supports the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Caribbean Community, in their capacity as Programme coordinators, with regard both to fund-raising and to the technical and logistical aspects of the activities of the Programme;

53. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to facilitate access by the countries to cooperation in the form of regional programmes which donors choose to channel through the Commission;

54. *Expresses its thanks and appreciation* for the technical and financial support extended by the World Bank for implementing the Programme in the region and for the support received from the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre for implementing the Programme in the Caribbean;

55. *Calls upon* potential donors to contribute to financing for this project;

Regional statistical framework for directories of businesses and establishments

56. *Notes with satisfaction* the due progress made in the implementation of the project on the regional statistical framework for directories of businesses and establishments and thanks the Commission for the technical support extended to the project and the Inter-American Development Bank for its financial support;

Human Development Report

57. *Commends* the Expert Group on the work carried out and emphasizes the importance of the dialogue begun with the United Nations Development Programme on the Human Development Report, which has enabled the countries to express their opinions on the indicators included and on the sources and methodological aspects of their construction, trusts that this exchange will continue and will contribute to transparency in the preparation of this important document, and thanks the Human Development Report Office for its willingness to participate in this dialogue;

Subregional coordination

58. *Expresses its thanks and appreciation* to the subregional agencies, the Caribbean Community, the Central American Statistical Commission, the Andean Community and the Southern Common Market for the informative and interesting presentations made on their objectives and activities and requests that the Executive Committee include on the agenda for its next meeting a review of the work conducted on subregional coordination in order to conduct follow-up as necessary;

Bilateral and regional cooperation regarding the national statistical system of Haiti

59. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the holding of the meeting on bilateral and regional cooperation regarding the national statistical system of Haiti and commends the broad participation and support shown by the countries and international agencies present; also asks the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to identify, together with the Government of Haiti, specific priorities for the conduct of the 2013 census round, institutional capacity-building and training and to communicate them to the member countries of the Conference and the international agencies;

60. *Expresses its gratitude* for the tireless and active work carried out by the President of the Conference to integrate the Caribbean countries more fully into the activities of the Conference and for the generous support of the United Nations Population Fund, which enabled many representatives of Caribbean countries to attend this meeting;

61. *Expresses its thanks and appreciation* to the Government and the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic for the excellent organization of the meeting and for the hospitality extended to the participants.