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**REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE
OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 19–21 November 2019



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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in Santiago from 19–21 November 2019.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uruguay.

3. The following associate members of the Commission were also represented: Curaçao, Montserrat and Sint Maarten.

4. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were representatives of the Development Coordination Office, the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Cuba and the Statistics Division.

5. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following United Nations entities and programmes: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

6. Also represented were the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

7. Also in attendance were representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

8. Representatives of non-governmental organizations, other civil society entities, the private sector and academia also attended.

¹ See the list of participants in annex 2.

B. AGENDA

9. The following agenda was adopted:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues: the future of economic statistics.
 3. Outcomes of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2018–2019, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
 4. Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
 5. Joint session with members of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas.
 6. Other matters.
 7. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.
 8. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas for the period 2020–2021.

C. PROCEEDINGS

10. The opening session was addressed by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Guillermo Pattillo Álvarez, Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, in his capacity as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC; and Rolando Ocampo, Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC.

11. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked Chile for organizing the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas which, nineteen years after it was established, served as a pillar for the statistical development of the countries of the region. Its work also focused on the integration of the statistical and geospatial communities, and on statistical innovation. Moreover, the Conference had taken on the challenge of closing the gaps in the production of basic statistics in different fields, through capacity-building and by building a system with multiple actors. The working groups of the Conference shared the experience of the region's countries and enjoyed the support of international organizations. At the eighteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference, member States had highlighted priority themes and activities for the region, which addressed the full spectrum of statistical activities. The Executive Committee, with the support of ECLAC, had prepared proposals for the creation of 11 working groups, whose activities would continue to strengthen cooperation among the countries of the region in the 2020–2021 biennium. The Executive Secretary underscored the urgency of encouraging the development of national statistical systems, which required a solid legislative foundation. The proposal for a generic law on official statistics for Latin America, which would serve as a regional model for legislation in that field, was expected to be adopted at the meeting. The Conference provided a fundamental regional space to address the challenges presented by the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relating to statistics and indicators to measure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The

Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean had served as a valuable cooperation platform that had prioritized 150 indicators and implemented activities to help the countries to close the data gaps linked to the SDG indicators. The Executive Secretary also highlighted the presentation of the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals for Latin America and the Caribbean —SDG Gateway— which incorporated information from different sources and was managed by ECLAC with the support of the United Nations system. Joint activities had been coordinated with the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas for the integration of statistical and geospatial information. Moreover, national statistical offices needed to transform the institutional framework of the economic statistics system. Strengthening the official statistics of the region's countries was not the responsibility of national statistical offices alone, but of society as a whole, and of the State in particular; hence, more resources had to be allocated to national statistical systems. Lastly, the Executive Secretary said that two of the seven members of the Conference's Executive Committee would come from English-speaking Caribbean countries in the new biennium.

12. The Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, in his capacity as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, said that the meetings of the Conference had always been a forum for productive dialogue. A biennium of intense and constructive work that had helped to elevate the level of the statistics used in the region was coming to an end. Significant progress had been made but there was still much work to do. In the new biennium, there would be 11 working groups and the work of the Conference would have a new focus, with efforts concentrated on methodological and technical progress. Thanks to the support of member States and collaboration with international agencies and funds such as International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and owing to the sharing of information and methodologies, progress had been made in the achievement of concrete goals. The work of ECLAC and of the Conference had facilitated greater coordination and sharing of experiences, within the framework of a process that would be continued in the future.

13. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC said that the work of the Conference would focus on the production of economic, social and environmental statistics, and on the link with geospatial data, a field which the Conference was spearheading. New working groups would be established to ensure continuity and follow-up of the work. He thanked the representatives of the Caribbean countries for their participation and said that there would continue to be close collaboration with them within the framework of the "Caribbean first" initiative.

Presentation and discussion of substantive issues: the future of economic statistics (agenda item 2)

14. Under this agenda item, Daniel Titelman, Chief of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC; Ivette Fernández, Head of the Department of Institutional National Accounts of the Central Bank of Chile; and José Antonio Meade, an economist from Mexico, gave a presentation on the global and regional priorities and initiatives for assessing new technological infrastructures, methods and services for economic statistics.

15. The Chief of the Economic Development Division of ECLAC spoke of the challenges posed by the new requests for data, the complexity of geographic delimitation to produce statistics that transcended borders and the leveraging of opportunities provided by technological development for measurement by means of the cross-cutting interaction of economic, social and environmental statistics. In that regard, time series that established the flow between these three areas had to be developed. He also underscored the importance of creating new indicators that cut across the social and environmental spheres and economic statistics, and of incorporating new actors as well as technological and institutional elements

(national and global). Moreover, methodologies and consensuses had to be established to generate new indicators through the use of big data, ensuring the standardization of indicators at the local, regional and global levels, and that would require coordination among the countries.

16. The representative of the Central Bank of Chile said that in order to produce macroeconomic statistics on national accounts and the balance of payments, administrative records and records of foreign trade in goods should continue to be used as traditional data sources, while the use of electronic invoicing should be strengthened to provide timely data and details of transactions between companies: Who was selling? Who was buying? Where was the transaction taking place? What goods were being traded? There was also a need to obtain retail trade data relating to household consumption by region, to review the models of absorption and of assets by economic activity, to broaden regional statistics and to improve the measurement of services exports. She also emphasized the importance of using alternative unstructured data sources and big data through techniques such as web scraping and text mining to generate indicators. With regard to data management and processing technologies, it was advisable to utilize business intelligence with database management tools and to complement those resources with free software management to implement machine learning techniques, safeguarding data security. The existing business approach, dominated by relational database models and migration to distributed database models, had to change.

17. The economist José Antonio Meade spoke about the coordinated integration of data, narratives and well-being to make important decisions. He underscored the value of ensuring that the data being used were suitable not only to develop narratives, but also to anticipate outcomes. It was important to raise awareness about the usefulness of available data and to ensure effective communication once the information had been generated. This approach was not only relevant in the statistical sense, but also informed the population of rights that were not exercised owing to a lack of awareness (e.g. health, social security, food). In addition, the State had to put a price on in-kind transfers to correctly measure prices, baskets and income, and to present the social programme. Awareness also had to be raised about the high cost to life expectancy of the failure to complete education.

18. In the ensuing discussion, participants spoke of a gap between politicians and statistical offices, which required responses to the following questions: How to ensure that the statistical offices understood the politicians? How to ensure that the politicians understood the data? The right approach would be to focus first on data and the work of experts and then incorporate the politicians' narratives, always bearing in mind that beyond measuring correctly, the most important thing was the well-being of the people. The press, politicians and citizens needed ways to communicate. Quantitative information also had to be complemented with metrics of subjective well-being, given that the value of perception was also important. Using the data based on household surveys that were available in national accounts was not enough, and other qualitative elements had to be integrated into the statistical process in a coordinated manner. Lastly, participants reiterated the importance of strengthening national statistical systems with the support of the central bank.

19. Concluding remarks were made by Ivo Havinga, Assistant Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, who expressed his appreciation for the presentations. He emphasized the importance of broadening the traditional analysis of GDP, as growth was no longer sufficient to measure poverty. It was imperative to understand the importance of microdata, and the link between economic data and social and demographic statistics and household surveys. He underscored the value of reporting on globalization, global value chains, the informal sector and the role of micro-entrepreneurs, and of improving the measurement of the digital economy. Priority had to be given to migration and its impact on the economy and social integration, and new procedures and methods had to be created to work and collaborate with innovation labs to obtain new data. Lastly, he said it was important to speak about the governance of the economic statistics system at the regional

level, as well at the international level. With regard to statistical infrastructure, there was an opportunity to access new technologies which could provide solutions for the collection of new data.

20. In the discussion that followed, the idea that economic statistics were closely related to social and environmental statistics, and that their cross-cutting nature should be considered in order to formulate public policies that reported on inequality, was reinforced. Coordination was needed at the inter-agency level as well as throughout the statistical process, considering the standards for the formulation of classifications, definitions and concepts. Moreover, it was important to strengthen national statistical systems while recognizing the role of the central bank.

Outcomes of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2018–2019, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

Report on the outcomes of the 2018–2019 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

21. A representative of ECLAC, which served as the technical secretariat of the Conference, described the documents produced and the events organized by the working groups in the 2018–2019 biennium. He spoke of the proposal for a generic law on official statistics for Latin America; the implementation of harmonized questionnaires for the measurement of labour statistics; an assessment of the availability of information to calculate SDG indicators and the link to the measurement of decent work; an evaluation of income and expenditure surveys in Latin America and the Caribbean; the analysis of the use of censuses to monitor the situation of children and adolescents; a methodological proposal for the inclusion of questions on disability in population and housing censuses for the 2020 census round; an analysis of the state of the art with regard to strategic aspects of institutional mapping for censuses and surveys; a theoretical framework for the measurement of indicators relating to disaster risk reduction; and the analysis of the status of implementation of the principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. The events organized included seminars, workshops, virtual meetings and training courses on censuses, household surveys, institution-building, the environment, poverty, information and communications technologies (ICTs), childhood and adolescence and gender, among other themes.

22. In the ensuing discussion, participants spoke of the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective and international classifications in the programmes of the next working groups. They also underscored the importance of seeking mechanisms to increase the participation of Caribbean countries, with initiatives that aimed to close the gaps created by language, in addition to others.

Proposal for a generic law on official statistics for Latin America

23. A representative of ECLAC presented the proposal for a generic law on official statistics for Latin America for adoption by the Conference, as had been the case with the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL). The document was a product of the joint effort undertaken by the Working Group on Institution-building and experts from national statistical offices, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and ECLAC. It was an adaptation to Latin America of the document on the Generic Law on Official Statistics for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. The purpose of the document was to provide a regional model for the countries interested in formulating or reformulating

the legal basis for the production of official statistics. It defined the rights and obligations of the bodies that composed the national statistical system; defined the principles and procedures to produce and disseminate official statistics; defined the national statistical office as the leading authority of the national statistical system and as a professionally independent body; laid down the rights and obligations of respondents and regulated the access of agencies producing official statistics to different data sources.

24. In the ensuing discussion, participants expressed appreciation and recognition of the work done. Several countries said that they were reviewing and fine-tuning their statistical laws, so the document would serve as a frame of reference. The representative of Colombia suggested including an additional document that showed the gaps faced and progress made by the countries in the enforcement of the law. He also proposed seeking a support mechanism for the countries that were unable to comply with the provisions of the law. The representative of Grenada proposed carrying out an institutional assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of national statistical offices that aimed to become national institutes of statistics.

Activities in relation to follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

25. The activities of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean were presented by a representative of ECLAC, which served as technical secretariat of the Group. He referred to the update to the inventory of national capacities for producing the indicators included in the global indicator framework for the SDGs, of which the results had been presented in the *Quadrennial report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*.² He also reported on progress in the formulation of technical and methodological specifications for the prioritized indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, 6 prioritized proxy indicators had been eliminated and 2 global framework indicators had been included, resulting in a set of 150 indicators, 122 from the global framework and 28 proxy and complementary indicators. Lastly, the plans of the Statistical Coordination Group for the following biennium were presented, and included an updated analysis of each indicator following the adoption of the comprehensive review of the global indicator framework in 2020, for which the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators was responsible.

26. A representative of ECLAC presented the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals for Latin America and the Caribbean —SDG Gateway— which stemmed from the need to combine the region's efforts to follow up the 2030 Agenda and SDG indicators. It was a response to the recommendations of the reform proposed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in relation to the establishment of a regional knowledge management hub, and was key to the coordination and availability of regional events of the United Nations system in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was also a response to the recommendations for change in the management process, to consolidate existing capacity with respect to data and statistics. After explaining the origin and importance of the portal, the ECLAC representative demonstrated how to navigate it, explaining each element, with an emphasis on the statistical component.

27. The representative of UNFPA referred to the work done by ECLAC and the regional statistical coordination mechanism of the agencies of the United Nations system, led by UNFPA, UN-Women and UNICEF, which included a survey of the support activities of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations to assist the countries of the region in the follow-up of the SDGs. The exercise had included responses from ECLAC, UNFPA, UN-Women, UNICEF, UNEP, ILO, WHO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNODC and UNDP. The entities had been asked to provide

² LC/FDS.3/3.

information related to measures taken by the organizations in the countries of the region to strengthen, monitor and follow up the SDG indicators, measures corresponding to each statistical operation, and measures to strengthen SDG 17 specifically. Some of the results of this exercise had been published in the *Quadrennial report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The speaker said that the instrument had been reviewed and validated with the countries and regional bodies, with the aim of advancing towards a system of information on support activities for the countries relating to the statistical aspects of the SDGs. The results had been presented at the second face-to-face meeting of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, at which participants had recognized that the system was of great use for the planning of statistical activities in the countries and for coordination among national organizations and the United Nations system, and that it should be a continuously updated online system hosted in the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals for Latin America and the Caribbean. The next steps included the need to define the governance of the system, the responsibility of the organizations' focal points and the forms of participation at the global, regional and local levels. Next, a representative of ECLAC described the proposal for the system of information on regional bodies' strategic support activities for the countries to strengthen their statistical capacities to follow up the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (agenda item 4)

28. The Chair of the Conference began the session by emphasizing the importance of working groups focusing on the development of a specific and measurable output, which should have an impact on the entire region and not just on the member countries of the corresponding groups. He briefly described the process carried out in 2019, which had yielded a set of 11 outputs by the working groups for the 2020–2021 biennium. First, the countries had been invited to present their proposed outputs, and 29 proposals from 9 countries had been received. These proposals had been examined, and on the basis of the terms of reference conveyed in the invitation, the Executive Committee had decided to adjust and consolidate various elements, resulting in a set of 17 final proposals that had been subjected to a regional prioritization exercise. The proposals identified as top priorities by the countries had been included in the programmes of work for the 2020–2021 biennium and presented for adoption by the Conference.

Guidelines for census data processing, validation and consistency

29. The representative of Chile described the proposal to strengthen the technical capacities of national statistical offices in the census data processing, consistency and validation stage, within the framework of the preparation of the 2020 census round. First, a working document would be prepared to be discussed with the countries, and would serve as an input for a regional seminar to debate the guidelines and methodologies proposed in the working document. Next, on the basis of the seminar discussions, a final document would be prepared on census data processing, validation and consistency that would include the outcomes of the event. The objective of the final output was the narrowing of the gaps between regional and international standards on the quality, timeliness and accessibility of census information and the strengthening of inter-institutional partnerships.

30. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that all proposals for the biennium should include an item in the programme of work that plainly identified the final output, as in some cases this was not clear. With regard to the document on guidelines for the processing of census data, the representative of Montserrat underscored the need for greater participation of the Caribbean countries in the group, especially considering their experience in electronic data gathering, which was one of their strengths. He said that the programme should specify the elements to be addressed in the processing stage:

technological issues, coding or omission, and whether the recommendations would be detailed according to country or would be more general. The representative of UNFPA expressed the Fund's interest in participating in the preparation of the document, and the representative of UN-Women underscored the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective in all the programmes.

Conceptual aspects and statistical use of administrative records

31. The representative of Mexico presented the proposal coordinated with Colombia. The objective was to develop a methodological document on the use of administrative records that generated new statistics or improved existing statistics in the countries of the region. Efforts were being made to develop conceptual and methodological definitions, to identify the best practices of the countries of the region, and to share statistical tools and software for the use of administrative records. The expected impacts of this output included a standardized methodology to generate and strengthen statistics through the use of administrative records.

32. Comments during the discussion included the suggestion to adjust the proposal and to specifically define the themes to be addressed, so that more tangible support could be provided. Participants also emphasized the importance of the countries having publicly available single identifiers for each element of a study target population (individuals, establishments, firms and so on) so that administrative records could be linked with census data.

Implementation of a quality assurance framework for official statistics

33. The representative of Colombia described the proposal coordinated with Ecuador and Mexico. The objective was to help the countries of the region to adopt a quality assurance framework for the production of official statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean by developing general guidelines for implementation. The activities to achieve the objective included the translation into Spanish of the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics (UN NQAF Manual) and of a self-assessment questionnaire, which would be prepared by the United Nations Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks. Mechanisms would also be created to share results, experiences and good practices, which would serve as a benchmark for the other countries.

34. In the ensuing discussion, concerns were raised about the integration of that element with other existing instruments, such as the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ethical protocol for the collection and dissemination of data from studies involving children and adolescents

35. The representative of El Salvador described the proposed ethical protocol for the collection and dissemination of data from studies involving children and adolescents, coordinated with Panama. The objective of the protocol was to improve the capacities of national statistical offices to address the ethical challenges related to the collection and dissemination of data from studies involving children and adolescents. An assessment would be carried out of the practices used by the countries of the region in that area and a workshop would be held to discuss and reach a consensus on the protocol. It was hoped that the protocol would streamline and improve the quality of data gathered on children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean, and establish minimum ethical standards for the conduct of surveys involving this population group.

36. In the ensuing discussion, concerns were raised about the scope of the final document, given the existing regulations in each country on working with children in studies. It was suggested that the

proposal should more clearly identify the areas to be addressed by the protocol. UNICEF expressed interest in collaborating with that working group to develop a protocol for the collection and dissemination of data from studies involving children and adolescents, and with the working groups to prepare a methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean and to prepare an assessment of the capacities of statistical systems to measure international migration.

Design of statistical systems on security and criminal justice

37. The representative of Mexico presented the proposal to develop a manual on the design of security and criminal justice statistical systems in the countries of the region, which would guide national efforts to generate statistical information on security and criminal justice, within the framework of international standards. He specified that the objective was to develop methodological guidelines for structuring, organizing and strengthening national statistical information systems on security and justice, and to produce tools to support the development of statistical capacities to integrate the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes into administrative records and for sample design in victim and safety surveys among the population. Another objective was to contribute to the generation of statistical information for indicators associated with SDG 16.

38. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice recognized the importance of developing a manual on crime statistics, which would help to close the gaps in information detected in previous assessments. He reiterated the support of the Centre for this initiative, and said that the manual could be “exported” to other regions of the world that also experienced shortcomings in the production of crime statistics. He also suggested that the manual could incorporate not just the experiences of Latin American countries, but also those of Caribbean countries.

International recommendations concerning statistics on work relationships

39. The representative of Chile described the proposal coordinated with Ecuador. The objective was to advance in the statistical harmonization for the measurement of work relationship statistics, incorporating the best practices of the countries of the region. There were plans to prepare a methodological document that would systematize countries’ progress in the adoption and adaptation of the recommendations of the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians and provide countries with guidance and support, and for progress in the establishment of a consolidated labour statistics system that integrated and harmonized different sources of information, such as administrative records.

40. Participants discussed compiling not only the most recent recommendations of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, but also the methodological designs required for implementation, and the possible impact of the migration phenomenon. The representatives of ILO highlighted the importance of adopting the new classification as it better reflected the rapid changes in labour relations in recent years.

Characterization of statistical systems for the measurement of international migration

41. The representative of Mexico presented the project for the characterization of national statistical systems for the measurement of international migration, coordinated with Chile and Colombia. The countries faced the challenge of establishing coordination mechanisms for the different information sources (censuses, administrative records, household surveys) to suitably measure the international migration phenomenon. The objectives of the project included the identification of the capacity of

national statistical systems to characterize and locate the migrant population and to estimate the size of the migrant population and the inclusion of this population size in the calibration of expansion factors. The project would also try to generate synergies between national statistical offices and other actors from non-governmental organizations. Initially, a survey would be carried out in the participating countries to define specific needs and document experiences related to the measurement of this phenomenon in the region.

42. In the ensuing discussion, a representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC underscored the importance of the Division participating actively in the project and emphasized the advantages of the system of Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA), a project that presented migration matrices of origin and destination in the region, along with the characterization of the migrant population. The representative of the Dominican Republic said that efforts were being made in his country to classify these populations with the inclusion of census variables such as place of birth of the individual and place of residence of the mother at the time of birth. The representatives of Chile and Colombia underscored the importance of standardizing this measurement and the advantages of incorporating it into the calibration of expansion factors, specifically in labour market surveys, given its impact on official labour statistics. This idea was endorsed by the representative of ILO, who emphasized the importance of broadening the scope of survey sampling frameworks so that they include the migrant population, which could be located in areas that are not the usual places of residence.

Methodological guide on time-use measurement

43. The representative of Mexico presented the proposal for a methodological guide on time-use measurement, which aimed to systematize the experiences of the Latin American and Caribbean countries by means of guidelines for the generation of related statistics and indicators, coordinate the methodologies used and examine the link with the Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL) and the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS), examining different approaches to measurements, with the aim of contributing the harmonization of information on time and unpaid work at the regional level.

44. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of UN-Women said that her organization planned to serve as joint technical secretariat. The representative of Colombia also expressed his country's interest in participating in the working group to prepare a methodological guide on time-use measurement in Latin America and the Caribbean. Several participants agreed that time-use surveys provided valuable information for labour market analysis and suggested that the group consider this aspect. Similarly, the representative of ILO said that his organization was working on incorporating a module on time use into employment surveys, which could be useful for the region as a whole.

Recommendations for the production of indicators for Sustainable Development Goals 6, 11 and 12

45. The representative of Mexico presented the proposal entitled "Regional recommendations for the generation of environmental statistics with geospatial data and the use of administrative records".³ The objective was to produce a document that helped to create new methodologies in that field and to improve existing methodologies used in the countries of the region. It sought to identify capacities and areas of opportunity in the use of Earth observations and administrative records, and to encourage the implementation and adoption of global standards for the efficient management of geospatial data. Next,

³ The final proposal presented was slightly different from the one included in the programme.

she presented a video on the experience of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) with a tool called the Mexican Geospatial Data Cube.

46. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of UNEP expressed interest in supporting the working group, as it was the custodian agency of several SDG 6 indicators and had experience in providing support to countries in the use of geospatial information for environmental purposes. A representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC suggested that the working group's geospatial efforts could be expanded to include SDG 13 (melting of glaciers) and SDG 15 (forests and wetlands). She announced the start of a new ECLAC project (2020–2023) for English-speaking Caribbean countries focused on the production of indicators related to climate change and disasters. Javier Carranza, Director of GeoCensos, suggested including civil society in the groups' programmes of work.

Harmonized methodological framework for measuring disaster-related indicators pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

47. The representative of Peru presented the proposal coordinated with Paraguay to prepare a document on a harmonized methodological framework for measuring disaster-related indicators pertaining to the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The objective was to strengthen the methodological framework for statistics related to disaster risk reduction on the basis of international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The main elements of this methodological framework were: (i) a self-assessment tool on statistical information gaps to build Sendai Framework indicators, (ii) a methodology for the use of administrative records for Sendai Framework indicators and (iii) a proposal for a statistical disaster classification.

48. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Colombia applauded the creation of the working group and committed to active participation in the group. A representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC said that there was no similar document at the global level, so the outputs were particularly important. The statistical disaster classification would also include small-scale disasters, in line with the work done by the National Institute of Statistics of Chile in 2018.

Conceptualization and measurement of prices and volumes in the services sector

49. The representative of Colombia presented the proposal to prepare a manual on conceptualization and measurement of prices and volumes in the services sector. The objective was to identify and discuss experiences and good practices regarding the measurement of prices and volumes in the services sector, and to document recommendations and guidelines on that subject. Developing this methodology was important as it involved the search for solutions in light of the limited information resources to calculate deflators.

50. In the ensuing discussion, a representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC offered support in the preparation of the manual and recommended that the name be changed to “Practical guide for the measurement and conceptualization of prices and volumes in the services sector” and the identification of difficulties in measurement to develop a support strategy for the countries.

Other modalities of collaborative work and the Knowledge Transfer Network

51. A representative of ECLAC, which served as technical secretariat of the Conference, presented a proposal on other modalities of collaborative work planned for the following biennium. He said that at the eighteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference, the secretariat had been requested to

evaluate the possibility of developing other spaces for collaboration in addition to the working groups, such as communities of practice that compiled experiences in the region and communities of innovation that addressed development issues. In response to that request, the Executive Committee decided that the modalities of collaboration could be covered partly or fully on the the Knowledge Transfer Network's website and in its Conectados RTC section, as it provided the opportunity to share and disseminate documents of regional interest and to hold virtual talks and videoconferences. A suggested mechanism for 2020–2021 was regular virtual meetings that addressed themes of innovation and regional interest, which would be organized by a coordinating country. Chile would be the first country to take on the role of coordinator, and would define the themes of the meetings and organize the meeting events for one year. The next country to take on the role would be selected at a later date.

52. Next, the representative of Chile took the floor and confirmed that Chile would assume the role of coordinating country. She also spoke of the importance of having focal points for each country and of constantly updating the information to facilitate the organization of the meetings. In the ensuing discussion, participants applauded the initiative and urged all the countries to participate and show their commitment. A suggestion was also made to prepare a guide of good practices that would be used to define the guidelines or criteria for use of this new modality of collaborative work.

Joint session with members of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (agenda item 5)

53. At the beginning of the session, statements were made by Guillermo Pattillo, Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, in his capacity as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, and Paloma Merodio, Vice President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico and Chair of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas).

54. The Director of the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile spoke about the importance of discussing the integration of statistical work and the geographic dimension of events. The ability to localize urban infrastructure helped to draw conclusions about the variables that determined quality of life, with statistical and geographic work playing complementary and fundamental roles. Although figures describing economic characteristics were extremely important, their value increased when they could be linked to precise locations, thus broadening the scope of data analysis and interpretation. All the countries were constantly seeking progress in terms of the integration of statistical data with the territorial dimension, so the joint session was important.

55. The Vice President of INEGI of Mexico and Chair of UN-GGIM: Americas spoke of the importance of integrating statistical and geospatial data, which was crucial within the work of UN-GGIM and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Such data integration enabled follow-up of information by integrating different sources and themes, which facilitated policymaking without leaving any sector behind. The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework sought to integrate environmental, social and economic data, which facilitated analysis for better decision-making.

56. The speaker then referred to the five broad principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework: 1. Use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding; 2. Geocoded unit record data in a data management environment; 3. Common geographies for dissemination of statistics; 4. Statistical and geospatial interoperability; and 5. Accessibly and usability. This was supported, moreover, by key elements such as the application of standards and good practices, national policies, technical infrastructure and institutional

collaboration. Combining the principles with the key elements enabled the production of harmonized and standardized information, and in turn dissemination and analysis for public policymaking. The Framework aimed to facilitate the integration of geospatial and statistical data using location as the keypoint and it offered a common method for geospatially enabling statistical and administrative data so that they could be analysed more readily. The two-year programme of work included a communication strategy, generating knowledge, providing support and resources, and placing value in the Framework through case studies, and the encouragement of coordination with the regions.

57. Sandra Moreno, Head of the Geostatistical Management Department of the National Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, reported on progress in the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) project, which aimed to link statistical and geospatial information and provide a regional platform to facilitate integration and encourage data comparability in the region. The project had come about because of the recognition of spatial information as a new means of analysing territory, which strengthened decision-making by governments and communities. The objective of the project was to ensure coordination between the statistical and geographic organizations of each country (which tended to operate separately) to generate joint information through data gathering. In 2018, information had been received from countries through a defined structure (requirements) and the platform had been implemented, and was already in its last stage. The final validation by the countries to allow the public to use the information was pending. The project was aligned with the five principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, which guaranteed data accessibility, user-friendliness and interoperability. The challenge posed by the project was temporally symmetric data, given that the agreement to hold censuses every 10 years was not always fulfilled. Information was available for all the countries but differed in terms of years, which made it difficult to carry out comparative analyses. Also, it was still a challenge for countries to submit information that was identical in terms of standards, an issue that was still being discussed. For the 2020 census round, it was hoped that the information could be complemented with greater disaggregation.

58. Next, Álvaro Monett, Regional Expert on Geospatial Information Management of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, reported on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, developed in collaboration between the United Nations Statistics Division, specifically the secretariat of Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM), and World Bank Group. It served as a guide that contributed to data integration and it was hoped that it could be implemented at the country level to strengthen national geospatial information management. It had been developed in three phases: (i) a strategic document on the importance of integration for decision-making in terms of public policies and global strategies; (ii) an implementation guide that contained elements on vision, mission, strategic goals, conception and planning; and (iii) plans of action at the country level, which included each country's strategies relating to spatial information. The proposal aimed to optimize the use of available resources. The Framework included nine strategic lines, namely: governance, policies, financing, data, innovation, standards, associations, capacity and communication. Each line included guiding principles to create national plans. It was hoped that the guidelines of this Framework would provide countries with more fertile ground to integrate the components and translate them into national geostatistical frameworks.

59. Javier Carranza, Director of GeoCensos, reviewed the contribution of civil society to the production of statistical and geospatial data, emphasizing that the mapping platform promoted and validated open data as a mass medium for compiling data from the field. With respect to statistical and geospatial data, the first step was to support statistical offices. One example was the GeoCensos platform launched in Colombia as a foundation. The focus was on complementing information through the joint production of data, issuing a call for contributions from all civil society, for example through participatory mapping. He outlined three recommendations to take into account the potential value of working with data compiled by civil society:

(i) conduct trials through pilot projects, in which members of civil society showed that they could collaborate with national statistical offices; (ii) develop a model to validate the data submitted by civil society and (iii) inventory usable open databases to evaluate their potential contribution to the follow-up of the SDGs.

60. In the ensuing discussion, participants underscored the importance of statistical information contributing to public policies based on empirical evidence, such as poverty reduction or territorial development policies. Georeferencing could help to focus government strategies to close territorial gaps. It was also important to consolidate the different levels of disaggregation, for example among education and health units, to facilitate joint work.

Other matters (agenda item 6)

A statistical big push for the SDGs

61. Philipp Schönrock, Director of the Centre for International Strategic Thinking (CEPEI), said that the countries needed a statistical push that would allow them to access the data required for the follow-up and achievement of the SDGs. His presentation addressed five points that should be adopted by the countries of the region, namely: (i) guaranteeing a favourable environment, through legal frameworks and incentives for collaboration; (ii) building trust in data through a transparent system; (iii) building the capacities of national statistical offices, owing to the number of SDG indicators and the workload that implied; (iv) ensuring financial sustainability, which would allow the allocation of resources to teams responsible for following up the SDGs; and (v) democratizing data, making use of partnerships and platforms that sought to generate data in real time.

Open Data Cube initiative for satellite image management

62. Stuart Minchin, Chief of the Environmental Geoscience Division of Geoscience Australia, presented this technology, which facilitated the conversion of satellite images of the Earth into data. He said that the tool had allowed the collection of satellite data for the past 40 years. In the case of Australia's wetlands, it had enabled the measurement of the quantity of water, fire-affected areas and all the changes in the past 30 years. A satellite updated the information every day. As a result, it had also been possible to map aquifers and evaluate the changes in water quantity in recent years. In terms of agriculture, it was used to observe crops and the percentage of green and dry vegetation. It also helped to assess urban development. The data generated by the Open Data Cube were public and free, so many countries were using the tool.

Harmonization of household survey data

63. Teresa Munzi, of LIS Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg, said that the Luxembourg Income Study Database was the largest available income database of harmonized microdata collected from about 50 countries in Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia and Australia. The three main activities it carried out were acquisition, harmonization and dissemination of data. There were two cross-national harmonized databases, the main contents of which included the composition and characteristics of households, the sociodemographic characterization of household members, a broad set of data on the labour market, and a detailed breakdown of data on income by household and by individual. He described in detail ex post harmonization, which was based on microdata from surveys and administrative records, and addressed technical and conceptual harmonization. The challenges of harmonization included ensuring the comparability of original data from different countries (with

dissimilar institutions and social configurations) over time (with changes in original institutions and surveys) and from different databases.

64. The Chief of the Social Statistics Unit of the ECLAC Statistics Division underscored the similarity of the ex post harmonization of household surveys by ECLAC and said that ECLAC was beginning to work with LIS to learn and compare forms of harmonization. He also spoke of the importance of advancing towards greater ex ante harmonization of surveys, which could be greatly helped by collaborative work within the framework of the Conference given the lack of a regional regulatory forum to guide the countries in designing their instruments.

Identification of regional positions in global statistical events

65. Juan Daniel Oviedo, Director-General of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, spoke of the work done by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, its activities relating to the 2020 review and the activities of the three working groups operating within the framework of the Group. For the 2020 review, 251 proposals had been received, of which 53 had met the criteria established by the Group, and of which 32 had been accepted (including additions, deletions, replacements and revisions). Between the end of November and the beginning of December, the Group would finish consolidating the outcomes of the 2020 review in a report that would be presented for approval at the fifty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The most recently updated tier classification contained 116 tier I indicators, 84 tier II indicators, 27 tier III indicators and 5 indicators corresponding to multiple tiers. The Group recognized the importance of measuring the indicator of total official support for sustainable development, although it was still classified as tier III. Therefore, there was a proposal to create a working group that would prepare, over the course of two years, a methodology that could be approved in 2022. The Working Group on Geospatial Information had updated its terms of reference and workplan to ensure a better balance between its members; the Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange had launched, in 2019, the data structure definition and had made available to the public the document entitled *Guidelines for the Global Data Structure Definition for Sustainable Development Goals Indicators*; the Working Group on Inter-linkages of SDG Statistics to allow for Integrated Analyses in Monitoring had presented a report to the Statistical Commission in March 2019 and that same year was working on updating the terms of reference and on a new report to be presented in March 2020 to the United Nations Statistical Commission.

66. Alexandra Suasnavas, Technical General Coordinator for Planning, Regulations and Statistical Quality of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador, reported on the most recent activities, progress and future initiatives of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Group's central aim was to provide strategic leadership to address the statistical capacity needs of national statistical offices in the follow-up of SDG indicators, and had concentrated its efforts on developing and implementing the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data and on seeking financing and coordination mechanisms for monitoring the 2030 Agenda. The speaker addressed the main objectives and strategic pillars of the Action Plan and spoke of the themes discussed at the Group's most recent meeting, held from 5–7 November 2019 in Budapest. These included the discussion about two documents in development: one referring to strategies to attract new actors and create strategic partnerships with other statistical communities, and the other focused on financing mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda, in addition to strategic themes such as the preparation and launch of the global macrodata platform, nowcasting, the manual on the management and organization of statistical offices, and ways of encouraging the creation of environmental statistics, environmental accounts and geospatial data. The

Group's next steps included the initiatives relating to the third United Nations World Data Forum to be held in Bern in October 2020, preliminary discussions about the fourth World Data Forum to be held in 2022 and the receipt of comments on the document on financing for data and statistics in the run up to the fifty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. As regards the latter, the representative of INEC called on the countries to submit feedback on the proposed financing mechanisms, considering the reality of the region and the need to also take into account basic statistical operations.

67. Lastly, both group representatives spoke of the importance of establishing mechanisms to ensure accountability and encourage regional participation in the Inter-Agency and 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. Both INEC and DANE proposed a mechanism coordinated by ECLAC, in its capacity as technical secretariat of both Groups and as the entity responsible for preparing the report of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be presented at the Conference. The aim was to be able to hold various annual face-to-face and virtual meetings that would allow the regular discussion of themes being addressed on the global scale, in addition to the publication of newsletters and half-yearly reports of activities and main discussion topics, and countries were thus requested to define and update the SDG focal points in national statistical offices. Moreover, the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals for Latin America and the Caribbean —SDG Gateway— being developed by ECLAC was a useful tool for sharing documents and receiving comments from the countries of the region.

68. The Chief of the Social Statistics Unit of the ECLAC Statistics Division spoke about the fifty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission to be held in March 2020. He referred to the consultation mechanism agreed on at the eighteenth meeting of the Executive Committee to define common regional positions for presentation to the Statistical Commission. He said that the specific content of the session had not yet been defined, which made it difficult to adopt a position in that respect. He suggested that once the points to be addressed had been defined, an email survey should be carried out in the countries to identify common interests on some points. The report on cooperation for regional statistical development to be presented to ECLAC on that occasion was being prepared, and the contents would focus on the outcomes of the collaborative work done at the meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. Once the report had been finalized, it would be circulated among the countries.

69. In the ensuing discussion, the country representatives applauded the idea of creating a coordination mechanism between the countries that represented the region in global forums and the other represented countries, which would give rise to a common regional vision and establish leadership on strategic themes of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Statistical Commission. In that vein, countries were urged to participate in the third United Nations World Data Forum to be held in Bern in 2020 and to express interest in hosting the next World Data Forum in 2022.

Study on staff management practices of national statistical offices

70. Christian Schuster, Consultant to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), presented the draft of the survey of national statistical office staff in Latin America and the Caribbean. The value added of a survey of this kind derived from the fact that it focused on the specific context of national statistical offices and enabled a comparison between offices in terms of strengths and areas of development. The questionnaire addressed the experience of office staff in terms of human resource management (e.g.

recruitment, selection, job stability and training), staff attitudes and skills (motivation and satisfaction at work, commitment to the national statistical office and the public sector, trust and team work, ethics and integrity in relation to statistics). The outputs obtained from the implementation of this survey would be incorporated into an internal report including specific recommendations for national statistical offices, the effects of management practices on staff's motivation, commitment and competence, and a presentation of results. The survey could be taken online, lasted 15 minutes, and pilot tests would be carried out between February and April 2020.

Comparative study on statistical legislation in Latin America

71. Ximena Clark, Consultant to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), spoke about the comparative study on statistical legislation in 18 Latin American countries. The themes addressed in the study were the inclusion of principles and definitions; the definition of the national statistical system; the hierarchical dependency of national statistical offices within the State; the highest authority of the office and professional independence; the way in which professional independence is incorporated into the generic law; statistical confidentiality and penalties for non-compliance; the existence of an advisory council and its functions; the interaction between statistical law and transparency law and personal data protection law. It could be concluded from the results of the study that countries' commitment to inclusive and sustainable development required comprehensive statistical capacity-building, which implied a significant increase in efficiency and coverage in terms of the production of official statistics, with a regulatory framework that guaranteed access to administrative records, professional independence, resources, coordination and oversight of the national statistical system, transparency and guidance for users. However, the current statistical regulations in Latin America and their implementation had not addressed these needs. Statistical legislation therefore had to be strengthened and updated to ensure full compliance.

Comparative study on statistical legislation in the Caribbean

72. Abdullahi Abdulkhadri, Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, presented a study comprising the review of national statistical legislation in 24 Caribbean countries. A set of indicators relating to the implementation of the fundamental principles of official statistics was created for evaluation purposes. These principles included impartiality, professional ethics, transparency, confidentiality, raising awareness of legislation, national coordination, use of international standards and international cooperation. The study showed that none of the reviewed statistical laws or by-laws included all the evaluated aspects, but only partly covered some of the principles. Recommendations were made to guarantee the independence and impartiality of national statistical offices; establish a stronger mandate to guarantee scientific standards and professional ethics; facilitate the gathering of administrative data; improve acceptance of the provision and dissemination of electronic data, including access to microdata with the required protection of confidentiality; and establish an explicit requirement for annual workplans and a publication calendar.

Study on tools for measuring urban mobility

73. Óscar Figueroa, Lecturer at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and Consultant with the Statistics Division of ECLAC, presented the progress made in a study on the measurement of urban mobility being carried out by the Statistics Division and the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, within the framework of a cooperation agreement between the Government of France and ECLAC. The study focused on the identification of the main urban mobility indicators and on the analysis and characterization of the different procedures used to gather transport and mobility data, to formulate common methodologies and tools to measure mobility patterns in the cities of

the region. The first phase of the study concentrated on the analysis of five experiences with origin and destination surveys carried out most recently in Latin American cities and the results showed strong heterogeneity in the methodological and operating procedures of the surveys analysed. The differences ranged from the reasons for implementing the study, the definition of travel and the age range considered, to the size and number of areas considered and sample sizes. The preliminary recommendations focused on the need to integrate mobility measurements into countries' official statistics and the need to encourage more effective, adaptable and flexible procedures, which would help to capture not just the culture of travel but the elements that determined mobility (and the lack thereof) in cities.

Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 7)

74. The Conference adopted the resolution included as annex 1 to this report.

Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas for the period 2020–2021
(agenda item 8)

75. In keeping with the provisions of resolution 2000/7 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the Conference elected the following Executive Committee for the 2020–2021 biennium:

Chair: Colombia

Members: Canada
Chile
Grenada
Italy
Jamaica
Mexico

Closing session

76. At the closing session, the Chair of the Conference thanked ECLAC and the representatives of the countries as well as the other participants for the fruitful work carried out.

Annex 1

RESOLUTION 11(X)

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its tenth meeting, held in Santiago from 19 to 21 November 2019,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, in which the Council approved the proposal on the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Bearing in mind also that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee of the Conference shall have the following duties: 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,

Presentation and discussion of substantive issues: the future of economic statistics

1. *Notes* the need to pursue a collaborative regional response to the demand for economic statistics to support the formulation of evidence-based policy-making in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to contribute to improving the organization and management of national statistical systems, which will serve as an input for the work done at the global level by the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics of the United Nations Statistical Commission;

Outcomes of the biennial programme of regional and international activities, 2018–2019, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

2. *Endorses* the *Report on the outcomes of the 2018–2019 biennial programme of regional and international activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*;¹

3. *Adopts* the *Proposal for a generic law on official statistics for Latin America*,² as a regional model for countries that are interested in formulating or reformulating the legal basis for the functioning of their national statistical systems and the production of official statistics;

4. *Asks* the Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to draw particular attention, in the presentation on the Conference to be given at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission, to the *Generic law on official statistics for Latin America*, which provides that the national statistical office is the leading authority in the respective national statistical system as a professionally independent body;

¹ LC/CEA.10/3.

² LC/CEA.10/4.

5. *Conveys thanks* to the member countries of the Conference that have served as working group coordinators for their valuable efforts in pursuit of the statistical development of the Latin American and Caribbean countries through the cooperation of the international and regional statistical community;

6. *Thanks* the international organizations for their support and collaboration in assisting with the activities of the working groups, by serving as technical secretariats or by providing financing for planned activities;

Activities in relation to follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals

7. *Asks* the countries representing the region in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and in the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote dialogue and joint work to exchange information with all the countries of their respective subregions, in order to facilitate the circulation of the topics addressed and the decisions adopted in those bodies, as well as to propose common positions that represent the region as a whole;

8. *Endorses* the *Report on the activities of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean*³ for the biennium 2018–2019, and calls upon the Group to carry out the programme of work presented for the biennium 2020–2021, in order to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators in the region;

9. *Conveys its thanks* for the work carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNSDG-LAC) to systematize and coordinate efforts to strengthen statistical capacities and technical assistance regarding the Sustainable Development Goal indicators of the agencies of the United Nations system in the region, and calls for these to be regularly updated;

10. *Commends* the presentation of the proposed regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals —SDG Gateway— developed in an inter-agency effort with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the region under the leadership of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as a key tool for supporting the countries in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for strengthening the capacities to that end, and requests that it be presented at the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

11. *Encourages* the countries to use the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals —SDG Gateway—, once available, to promote collaborative work and horizontal cooperation for closing gaps in data availability for follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

12. *Invites* the countries of the region to disseminate their statistical information relating to the Sustainable Development Goals via online platforms that can be integrated with the regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals —SDG Gateway—, making use of existing tools, such as the platform for online dissemination of Sustainable Development Goal indicators which Mexico made available to interested countries;

³ LC/CEA.10/6.

Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

13. *Takes note of the Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*⁴ as well as the suggestions made during the discussions at this tenth meeting of the Conference, which will be included in the respective report;

14. *Reaffirms* that all the working groups will focus on the preparation of a clearly defined final output, which will be completed within a two-year period and will be presented to the Conference at its eleventh meeting, to be held in 2021;

15. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to develop a guide to the implementation of a quality assurance framework for official statistics, as a tool to support the adoption by the countries of the region of the international standard set forth in the *United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics*, adopted at the fiftieth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission;

16. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare a document on guidelines for the processing, validation and consistency of census data, which will help to improve the quality standards of censuses in the region by disseminating the international recommendations and best practices implemented in previous censuses;

17. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare a document on a harmonized methodological framework for measuring disaster-related indicators pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, which will contribute to defining and adapting the recommendations most relevant to the production of these indicators;

18. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare a methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean, to systematize regional experiences in measuring time use and provide guidelines for implementation of these tools and for the calculation of indicators on time use and unpaid work;

19. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to develop a protocol for the collection and dissemination of data from studies involving children and adolescents, with the aim of improving the quality of data collection on this population group;

20. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare a document of recommendations for the use of Earth observations for follow-up to Sustainable Development Goals 6, 11 and 12, in order to contribute to strengthening basic environment statistics and their integration with geospatial information;

21. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare an assessment of the capacities of statistical systems to measure international migration, in order to characterize the current situation and

⁴ LC/CEA.10/5.

identify areas in which data sources and processes can be improved in the production of statistical information for measuring migration flows and the socioeconomic characteristics of the migrant population;

22. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to develop a manual on conceptualization and measurement of prices and volumes in the services sector, as a tool to strengthen estimates of the service sector and its share in gross domestic product and improve the international comparability of data;

23. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group for the preparation of a document on conceptual and methodological aspects of the statistical use of administrative records, which the countries may use as an input for generating economic statistics from that data source;

24. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to develop a manual on the design of security and criminal justice statistical systems in the countries of the region, with the aim of improving the management capacities of statistical projects to measure crime and for the administration of criminal records;

25. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare a document of best practices for the adoption of the international recommendations on statistics on work relationships, to systematize progress regarding the adoption and adaptation of the recommendations of the Twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, as a guide for countries that are at different stages of developing this area;

26. *Recognizes* the cross-cutting nature of gender issues and asks that the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas mainstream the gender perspective into their work, along with other cross-cutting elements of statistical work such as classifiers;

27. *Invites* the working groups of the Conference to foster communication and collaboration with the different subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to take into account their multiple realities;

28. *Invites* member countries of the Conference to strengthen knowledge dissemination and horizontal cooperation through the Knowledge Transfer Network, by organizing remote meetings and jointly constructing a repository of information relevant to the production and dissemination of statistics, to give continuity to topics of the working groups of the 2018–2019 biennium that are of interest and to address new topics proposed by the countries;

Joint session with members of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas

29. *Thanks* the representatives of the Governing Board of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global geospatial information management for the Americas for their participation and contributions to this joint session;

30. *Calls upon* the member States of the Conference to disseminate, among the agencies that make up national statistical systems, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework prepared by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information of the United Nations Statistical Commission and of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management, and to define joint work strategies with national geospatial data infrastructures and their governing bodies, with a view to advancing towards the implementation of that Framework;

31. *Also calls upon* the member States of the Conference to make available new nationally important statistical data, disaggregated to the lowest possible national political or administrative division

or statistical territorial unit, in order to increase and diversify the contents accessible via the platform of the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) project;

32. *Notes* the proposal on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, developed jointly by the secretariat of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas and the World Bank, as a guide for governing the process of integrating statistical and geospatial information at the national level;

33. *Adopts* the joint declaration on statistical and geospatial information,⁵ presented at this tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

Other matters

34. *Expresses* its firm and resolute support for the updating and modernization of statistical legislation and for the establishment of a national statistical institute in El Salvador and in Paraguay; this will contribute to the production of official statistics in those countries, which are essential to support decision-making on public policies and will enable them to address major challenges and adopt existing guidelines in this regard;

35. *Conveys its appreciation and thanks* for the work of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile during that country's service as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Conference during the biennium 2018–2019.

⁵ *Declaration on the integration of geospatial and statistical information between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Committee of United Nations global geospatial information management for the Americas.*

Annex 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
States members of the Commission****ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**Representante/Representative:

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United Nations bodies**

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

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Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- José David Sierra, Especialista en Monitoreo, Oficina Regional de las Américas y el Caribe, Panamá, email: jsierracastillo@unicef.org

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- Harold Robinson, Regional Director, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Panamá, email: delarosacastillo@unfpa.org; hrobinson@unfpa.org
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Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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Intergovernmental organizations

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