

Distr.
RESTRICTED

LC/R.1677(Sem.86/2)
10 October 1996

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

E C L A C

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Joint Meeting ECLAC/OAS on Statistical Matters

Santiago, Chile, 15-18 October 1996

**PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 1997-1998**

**SUBPROGRAMME 1: ADAPTATION AND PRODUCTION OF BASIC STATISTICS IN THE
FRAMEWORK OF A REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS 1993 (SNA 1993)**

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96-10-916

**PROPOSED ACTIONS TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND SUBPROGRAMME 1
IN THE BIENNIUM 1997-1998**

SUBPROGRAMME 1: *Adaptation and production of basic statistics in the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the system of national accounts 1993 (SNA 1993)*

This subprogramme was approved at the first Joint OAS/ECLAC Meeting on Statistical Matters, and during the period 1995-1996 it comprised primarily activities designed to help the countries implement the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA 1993). These activities were grouped under four subprogramme elements and included such tasks as translating technical documentation; providing access to the documentation to those responsible for implementing SNA 1993 and to producers of basic statistics; supporting the countries of the region in the adoption of recommended international concepts, definitions and classifications related to the production and organization of basic statistics; training national accounts experts and producers of basic statistics; and improving and extending the production of basic statistics and price statistics.

A programme of activities designed to continue and extend this line of work is presented below.

Programme element 1.1: Provision of access to technical documentation to those responsible for implementing SNA 1993 and to producers of basic statistics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

1. During the second half of 1996, ECLAC, in collaboration with the National Statistical Institute of Spain, will do the work necessary to complete the translation of the System of National Accounts 1993 into Spanish. The United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) will see to the official publication of the translations in collaboration with the editorial services of the United Nations.

2. ECLAC will continue to distribute technical documents related to national accounts and to the production of basic statistics, including:

- (a) The translation into Spanish of the classification of individual consumption by purpose (COICOP).
- (b) A Spanish-English, English-Spanish glossary of national accounting terms.
- (c) An SNA 1993 compilation system prepared by the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), entitled "Construire les comptes de la nation selon le SCN 1993", provided EUROSTAT decides to translate it into Spanish.

3. In addition, during the biennium 1997-1998, ECLAC, with the collaboration of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), EUROSTAT and UNSD, intends to distribute the following manuals:

- (a) Quarterly accounts (EUROSTAT)
- (b) SNA for transition economies (UNSD)
- (c) Links between SNA and business accounting standards (UNSD)
- (d) Input-output (UNSD)
- (e) Compendium on uses of SNA and satellite accounts (UNSD)
- (f) Regional accounts (three vols.) (EUROSTAT)
 - (i) Gross value added and consumption of fixed capital by activity (completed in 1995)
 - (ii) Household accounts (by the end of 1996)
 - (iii) Government accounts (scheduled for 1997)
- (g) Methods used by OECD member countries to measure value added in service activities at constant prices (OECD).
- (h) Revised treatment of financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) (OECD).
- (i) A Systems Approach to National Accounts Compilation (UNSD).

4. ECLAC will examine the possibility of organizing at least one meeting during the 1997-1998 period to disseminate the contents and method of use of the manual in which there proves to be the greatest interest, in conjunction with the agency responsible for preparing it.

Programme element 1.2: Follow up and support for the processes entailed in implementing SNA 1993 and improving the production of basic statistics.

ECLAC, which acts as a focal point in Latin America and the Caribbean for the SNA 1993 implementation process, will continue to monitor progress in these activities. To determine progress, an annual survey will be done in all the countries of the region and at the request of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), the appropriate report will be elaborated taking into consideration a set of six stages for a phased implementation of an increasingly comprehensive accounting system according to the 1993 SNA standards with which they are implementing the follow-up of this process on a world level. This will be undertaken taking into consideration the regional strategy for the implementation of the SCN 1993 approved by the countries of the region in November 1993. Work will continue on updating the directory of national accounts experts of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be distributed once a year.

5. With respect to the agreements adopted by the countries of the area in the Meeting on the Implementation of the SCN 1993 held in Caracas, Venezuela in November, 1995, ECLAC and UNSD will continue to provide technical assistance for

the seminars and working groups that are being organized and financed by some of the four subregional groups of countries formed for the implementation of the SCN, 1993.

6. In order to promote regional participation in updating the functional classifications and preparation of functional manuals, efforts will be made to include in these activities countries willing to assume responsibility. During the biennium 1997-1998, the following will be updated:

- (a) Classification of the functions of government (COFOG) -OECD, 1997
- (b) Classification of the purposes of non-profit institutions serving households (COPNI) - OECD, 1997
- (c) Classification of outlays of producers by purpose (COPP) - UNSD, 1997
- (d) Manual on Government Finance Statistics - IMF, 1998
- (e) Manual for Monetary and Financial Statistics - IMF, 1998

7. ECLAC will be responsible for the distribution of the Spanish version of the "SNA News and Notes", in the whole region. The Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática of Mexico (INEGI) will be in charge of its translation into Spanish and the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) of the final print in standard format.

Programme Element 1.3: Training of national accounts experts and producers of basic statistics related to SNA 1993.

8. ECLAC will continue to act as a "clearing house" for requests for advisory assistance to help locate a country in the region or an agency that can provide assistance on specific topics in the areas of production of basic statistics, national accounts, and data processing and dissemination.

9. The organizations that work in training in Latin America, will continue to give regional courses during the period 1997-1998 on improving basic statistics for the implementation of SNA 1993. Panama is interested in being headquarters of one of these events.

10. The Division of Statistics of the United Nations (UNSD) will be preparing National Accounts training material in Spanish and will distribute through ECLAC, the material entitled: "Implementation of SCN 1993: Practical Exercise for the Conversion of Statistical Bases at SCN 1993", prepared in cooperation with CEMLA.

11. After consultation with the countries of the region, ECLAC will submit a proposal to organize two or three regional seminars or workshops on topics to be selected from the following list:

- (a) Change of base year for national accounts
- (b) Satellite accounts and environmental statistics
- (c) Relationship and practical compatibility between national, balance of payments, public finance and household accounts
- (d) Preparation and use of SNA 1993 supply and use tables
- (e) Preparation of social accounting matrices
- (f) National accounts and the usefulness of various instruments for gathering basic information
- (g) Dissemination of international recommendations used in the statistical area, national accounts and statistical schemes related to main national users.
- (h) Sharing national experiences in large-scale statistical investigations (economic censuses, annual economic surveys, etc.) through seminars or workshops
- (i) Statistics on services (classifications and conventions to be adopted regionally)
- (j) Reconciliation accounts (other changes in assets accounts) under SNA
- (k) Agricultural sector accounts
- (l) Results achieved in Latin America under the International Comparison Programme (1998)
- (m) Preparation of classifiers and national nomenclatures.
- (n) Other events the countries may propose.

Programme Element 1.4: Improvement and extension of the production of basic statistics for the implementation of SNA 1993.

12. To help the countries in devising international and regional technical cooperation programmes and in priority-setting, ECLAC will conduct an annual survey to determine the current situation with respect to censuses, surveys and administrative records related to basic statistics.

13. Under the International Comparison Programme, ECLAC will complete the exercise begun in 1996 with the participation of eleven countries of the region.

14. Uruguay, in conjunction with the Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) of France and with the collaboration of ECLAC, will continue to support the pilot projects approved by the countries under the heading of activities to improve statistics on services and the realization of other initiatives agreed upon that may be proposed in the regional seminar on service statistics held in Santiago, Chile, from 26 to 28 August 1996.