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**ECLAC**

**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

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**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL  
STATISTICAL WORK FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 1997-1998\*/**

**\*/ This document was prepared by the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC.  
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## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
Preface.....	1
SUBPROGRAMME 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics in the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA 1993).....	2
SUBPROGRAMME 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 .....	2
SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 1.2: Follow-up and support for the processes entailed in implementing SNA 1993 and improving the production of basic statistics.....	3
SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 1.3: Training of national accounts experts and producers of basic statistics related to SNA 1993.....	4
SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 1.4: Improvement and extension of the production of basic statistics for the implementation of SNA 1993 .....	6
SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 1.5: International technical cooperation.....	6
SUBPROGRAMME 2: ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS AND INDICATORS .....	7
SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 2.1: Diagnostic analysis of the status of environmental statistics and indicators in the countries of the region .....	7
SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 2.2: Transfer of international experiences, training and cooperation in environmental statistics and indicators .....	7
SUBPROGRAMME 3: Social and poverty statistics and indicators.....	8
SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 3.1: Improvement of household surveys.....	8
SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 3.2: Use of household survey data.....	10

SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 3.3: Construction and use of databases with information from population and housing censuses .....	11
SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 3.4: Regional and national training activities .....	12
SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENT 3.5: Participation in work and study groups on issues of regional interest.....	12
SUBPROGRAMME 4: Dissemination of statistical information .....	13

## **PREFACE**

At the second Joint OAS/ECLAC Meeting on Statistical Matters, agreement was reached on a set of international cooperation activities in the region on statistical matters for the biennium 1997-1998, corresponding to the four subprogrammes of the programme of international statistical work for Latin America and the Caribbean presented by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

These activities were designed to continue and extend the initiatives covered by those subprogrammes in earlier periods.

Below is a summary of the actions that have been taken in fulfilment of the commitments then adopted. The report deals not only with activities in which ECLAC has directly or indirectly participated, but also with those it knows about carried out by other organizations in areas related to the ECLAC subprogrammes.

**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)*

**SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENTS**

**Subprogramme 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 course of 1997, ECLAC did the work required to complete the translation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA 1993) into Spanish and delivered the translation at the end of the year to the Statistical Division of the United Nations for official publication by the United Nations editorial services, which occurred in May 1998.
2. ECLAC prepared the final version, in Spanish and English, of the document, "Terminology used in the translation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)" (LC/R.1752), which presents the English equivalents of national accounts terms in common use in the countries of the region.
3. In its capacity as focal point for the distribution of technical material for the region, ECLAC sent the following to statistical and national accounts offices in all the countries:
  - The official Spanish version, published by the United Nations, of SNA 1993 (*Sistema de Cuentas Nacionales 1993*) and a provisional electronic version, prepared by ECLAC, on request;
  - ECLAC document, "Terminology used in the translation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)" (LC/R.1752), in printed or electronic form, on request;
  - The third (1996) and fourth (1997) editions, in Spanish and English, of the "Directory of national accounts experts in the Latin American and Caribbean countries". With the third edition of the directory, the experts listed were sent a questionnaire to update the information on them and include mention of their areas of specialization within the field of national accounts. The information so gathered was incorporated in the fourth edition of the directory.
  - Printed and electronic versions of the publication, *América Latina y el Caribe: series regionales y oficiales de cuentas nacionales, 1950-1994*, Cuadernos Estadísticos de la CEPAL series, No. 23 (LC/G.1888-P).
  - Nos. 4 to 7 of *SNA News and Notes* translated into Spanish by the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI) of Mexico. This material was also sent to all the national accounts experts in the directory. It was also published on a Web page of the ECLAC Internet website, where all available issues of the publication may be consulted.

- Insofar as it was available, requesting countries were provided with other technical material, in particular:
  - *A Manual on Government Finance Statistics* (International Monetary Fund);
  - The Spanish version of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Rev. 3, United Nations series M, No. 4, Rev. 3, in printed or electronic form as requested;
  - *Clasificaciones estadísticas internacionales incorporadas en el Banco de Datos del Comercio Exterior de América Latina y el Caribe de la CEPAL, Revisión I*, Cuadernos Estadísticos de la CEPAL series, No. 25, in printed or electronic form as requested;
  - Unpublished manuscript versions in English of the following manuals on national accounting:
    - i. Household Accounting: Experience in the Use of Concepts and Their Compilation (United Nations series F, No. 75);
    - ii. Links between Business Accounting and National Accounting (United Nations series F, No. 76);
    - iii. Input-Output Table Compilation and Analysis (United Nations, unnumbered);
    - iv. A System Approach to National Accounts Compilation (United Nations series F, No. 77);
  - Publications on statistics on the international trade in services of the countries of the region:
    - i. ECLAC document, "América Latina y el Caribe: series estadísticas sobre comercio de servicios, 1980-1995" (LC/L.946);
    - ii. *América Latina y el Caribe: series estadísticas sobre comercio de servicios, 1980-1997*, Cuadernos Estadísticos de la CEPAL series, No. 26 (LC/G.2023-P), which includes the latest recommendations on the definition and scope of the components of international trade in services, together with historical series from 1980 to 1997.

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

4. ECLAC prepared and distributed, in Spanish and English, two annual reports on the process of implementing SNA 1993 in the countries of the region during 1996 (LC/G.1956) and 1997 (LC/G. 2017). The reports were based on information collected through a questionnaire on progress in implementing the System of National Accounts (SNA 1993), which was sent on both occasions to national accounts offices.

5. In 1998, a fuller version of the questionnaire was developed and tried in eight countries of the region. The intent was gather more detailed and specific information on methods and procedures of preparing national accounts and the chief sources used. It is hoped that the questionnaire applied on a trial basis in the 1998 survey can be sent to all offices for the 1999 survey.

6. At present, Bolivia, Brazil and Mexico are following SNA 1993 guidelines in preparing their official national accounts estimates. Mexico also prepared a satellite account for the tourism sector for the years 1993 to 1996. The Dominican Republic was the first country in the region to prepare national accounts and a tourism sector satellite account according to SNA 1993 guidelines, but so far has not made these estimates official.

**Subprogramme element 1.3:** Training of national accounts experts and producers of basic statistics related to SNA 1993

7. In 1997 and 1998, the European Training Centre for Economic Statisticians of Developing Countries (CESD-Madrid) carried out the following activities:

#### **COURSES AND SEMINARS IN SPAIN**

1. Twenty-first course on sampling as applied to household surveys	Madrid	17 November - 5 December 1997
2. Seminar on social indicators	Madrid	9-12 December 1997
3. Twentieth course on enterprises	Madrid	4-22 May 1998
4. Seminar on refining and imputing statistical data	Madrid	25-29 May 1998
5. Twentieth introductory course on national accounting	Madrid	5-23 October 1998
6. Seminar on financial accounts	Madrid	26-30 October 1998

#### **COURSES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS IN THE REGION**

7. Seminar on management of nomenclatures and statistical data	Antigua, Guatemala	9-13 March 1998
8. Seminar on foreign trade for Central American countries	Antigua, Guatemala	22-26 June 1998
9. Seminar on poverty statistics	Cartagena, Colombia	18-21 August 1998
10. Workshop on foreign trade statistics for Mercosur and Andean Pact countries	Lima, Peru	19-23 October 1998
11. Seminar on dissemination of statistical information	Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia	9-13 November 1998

8. The Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA) organized the following courses and seminars on monetary and financial statistics, national accounts and balance of payments in 1997 and 1998 in conjunction with the national agencies mentioned:

#### **COURSES IN MONETARY AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS**

<b>COUNTRY AND AGENCY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SCOPE</b>
Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Basseterre, St. Kitts	8-26 September 1997	International
Central Bank of Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay	20 April - 8 May 1998	International
Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies, Mexico City	16 November - 4 December 1998	International

#### **COURSES AND SEMINARS ON NATIONAL ACCOUNTS\*/**

<b>COUNTRY AND AGENCY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SCOPE</b>
Banco de Guatemala, Guatemala City	13 January - 7 February 1997	National
Central Bank of Paraguay, Asunción	7 April - 2 May 1997	International
Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador, San Salvador	22-26 September 1997	National
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Public Works and Services of Argentina, Buenos Aires	20-24 October 1997	International
Central Bank of Honduras, Tegucigalpa	17-28 August 1998	International

\*/ ECLAC contributed to these courses by providing the requested national accounts materials.

#### **COURSES AND SEMINARS ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS**

<b>COUNTRY AND AGENCY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SCOPE</b>
Central Bank of Venezuela, Caracas	17 February - 7 March 1997	National
Central Bank of Paraguay, Asuncion	3-21 November 1997	International
Central Bank of Bolivia, La Paz	7-11 December 1998	National

9. ECLAC, together with the Institute of Social Studies of The Hague and in collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), organized a course on concepts and techniques for analysing sustainable and human development in the context of SNA 1993, which was held in Santiago, Chile, from 1 to 13 December 1997.

10. The Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), in conjunction with ECLAC and the Statistical Division of the United Nations and with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), organized a regional national accounts seminar on preparing accounts for institutional sectors, which was held in Rio de Janeiro from 23 to 27 November 1998.

**Subprogramme element 1.4: Improvement and extension of the production of basic statistics for the implementation of SNA 1993**

11. An exercise begun in 1996 under the International Comparison Programme (ICP) with the participation of 11 countries of the region was completed. Dissemination of the findings awaits confirmation of the results realized in three cases.

12. In its capacity as member of the Tripartite Committee in support of the negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), ECLAC undertook initiatives to improve the elaboration of basic statistics by the countries of the region in relation to their international trade in services.

**Subprogramme element 1.5: International technical cooperation**

13. ECLAC has continued to promote and to carry out activities in support of horizontal technical cooperation between statistical and national accounts offices in the countries. To that end it has arranged for fellowships for national accounts specialists from Panama at the Central Bank of Venezuela and the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru; from Argentina at the Central Bank of Chile; and from Honduras at the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru.

14. ECLAC staff, together with specialists from the Central Bank of Venezuela, conducted a horizontal technical cooperation mission to the Central Bank of Ecuador to review the methodological criteria followed by the latter in applying the fifth edition of the International Monetary Fund Balance of Payments Manual in the preparation of its balance of payments estimates (July 1998).

15. ECLAC has also responded to a growing number of technical inquiries regarding specific topics related to the implementation of SNA 1993 and the improvement of basic statistics and statistical organization. It has reviewed the possibilities and put the requesting agencies in contact with experts in the field who might be able to help them with their specific needs for technical assistance, chiefly in the above-mentioned areas.

16. ECLAC has continued to work on developing technical cooperation projects aimed at improving national accounts and basic statistics. Projects involving the central banks of Honduras and Paraguay were completed; the project involving the Statistics and Census Office of Panama is still ongoing.

## **SUBPROGRAMME 2: *Environmental statistics and indicators***

### **SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENTS**

**Subprogramme element 2.1:** Diagnostic analysis of the status of environmental statistics and indicators in the countries of the region

17. The National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) of Mexico and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC jointly prepared a report, "Survey of the present state of environment information in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1996" (LC/R.1711). The document sets forth the results of a survey conducted in 1996 on the availability of statistical information on the environment in the countries of the region; it then analyses the findings and proposes an action plan for future regional cooperation activities in the area of environmental statistics. It was produced on 22 May 1997 and distributed to all national statistical offices in the region.

**Subprogramme element 2.2:** Transfer of international experiences, training and cooperation in environmental statistics and indicators

18. Two workshops on environmental statistics were held in 1998 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile:

- (a) A workshop on integrated environmental and economic accounting was held from 20 to 24 April 1998, with the collaboration of the Statistics Division of the United Nations (UNSD). It was attended by representatives of 14 countries of the region and by experts from the environment statistics programme of Statistics Canada and from UNSD. The purpose of the seminar was to train the country representatives in how to compile environmental accounts in association with national accounts in accordance with System of National Accounts 1993 guidelines. To that end, they were given a step-by-step description of the criteria for applying the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting and the use of the concepts, classifications and methods to be found in the system operating manual. A report on the workshop (LC/R.1848) was distributed to the national statistical offices of all the countries of the region in Spanish or English, as appropriate.
- (b) A workshop on generating environmental indicators relating to land and soil was organized jointly by INEGI of Mexico and ECLAC and held from 11 to 13 November 1998. Representatives of 10 countries of the region attended; five specialists from various organizations contributed to the workshop by giving presentations on the topics on the agenda. The chief aim of the workshop was to share information about the work being done by international organizations in generating environmental indicators for land and soil and about the concepts, definitions, classifications and methods being used to elaborate them.

### **SUBPROGRAMME 3: Social and poverty statistics and indicators**

#### **SUBPROGRAMME ELEMENTS**

##### **Subprogramme element 3.1: Improvement of household surveys**

#### **I. Programme to improve surveys on living conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI)**

##### **(a) Regional workshops for discussion and analysis**

19. The activities organized for the 1997-1998 biennium included two regional workshops on planning and execution of household surveys held under the programme for improving surveys on living conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI programme) and during which participants were able to analyse and exchange experiences on relevant issues of interest within the region.

20. The first of the above workshops, organized by ECLAC with support from the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI), was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 1 to 3 April 1998 to discuss the planning and execution of household surveys for measuring living conditions with a view to enhancing the quality of information used to evaluate poverty, well-being and income-distribution trends.

21. The workshop, which was attended by 54 experts from 19 countries and four regional organizations concerned with the planning and implementation of household surveys, focused on technical aspects of the design of an integrated system for conducting household surveys which could serve as an appropriate working mechanism for national statistical offices throughout the region to enable them to schedule their household surveys in such a way as to prioritize on-going programmes and leave their options open in terms of using available infrastructure and resources to collect additional information on economic and social indicators relating to the standard of living of families.

22. The second regional workshop, which was held from 10 to 13 November 1998 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the auspices of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC), focused on the measurement of income in household surveys. It was attended by a total of 60 experts from 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries and from agencies acting as co-sponsors of the MECOVI programme.

23. During the working sessions, participants addressed the conceptual and operational aspects of the measurement of income in household surveys and identified points that could be improved in the light of successful national experiences and international recommendations issued at specialized forums.

24. ECLAC has prepared for dissemination documents incorporating the outcome of the two workshops, the technical studies that served as a basis for discussion, and the reports submitted by participating countries as a means of sharing national experiences and fostering regional exchange. An Internet website was launched to facilitate on-line consultations for all types of users and receive comments and suggestions on the issues addressed at the two meetings.

25. To supplement the work conducted during regional workshops, ECLAC promoted or made arrangements for translation and dissemination of technical documents relating to these issues prepared in other countries and particularly those presented and discussed in international working groups in which ECLAC played a substantive role, as a way of ensuring that the statistical offices in the region are well informed on the issues discussed in working groups established under the Statistical Commission of the United Nations.

#### **(b) Data bank of the MECOVI programme**

26. In accordance with the time-table set by the co-sponsors of MECOVI, in 1997, ECLAC prepared a CD-ROM containing standardized information on 14 household surveys conducted in as many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in 1995 while, in 1998, the same was done for surveys conducted in 1996.

27. In addition to the database, the CD-ROM contains a set of important background information to ensure that the information is used in an appropriate manner. Technical documents were prepared that describe the file structure and the definition and specification of each of the survey variables, whether original or created by ECLAC. The data may be checked for consistency with official statistics published by the countries using control data provided along with the questionnaire, methodology, manuals and support documents used for compiling information in the field.

#### **(c) National technical cooperation projects**

28. As part of the substantive tasks provided for by ECLAC under the MECOVI programme for the 1997-1998 biennium, technical assistance was provided to programme beneficiary countries in areas relating to the design and execution of surveys, statistical analysis of data, construction of social indicators and elaboration of poverty studies.

### **II. Direct technical assistance**

29. As a part of the on-going tasks that ECLAC had been pursuing with countries of the region during the biennium 1997-1998, technical assistance was provided to various countries in the statistical design of household surveys, methodology for measuring and studying poverty and the generation of indicators for the study of employment and income distribution.

### **Subprogramme element 3.2: Use of household survey data.**

#### **(a) Update of the ECLAC data bank**

30. In 1997 and 1998, ECLAC maintained a close and constant contact with statistical offices in the region and was thus in a position to update regularly the Latin American and Caribbean household survey data bank which it had installed many years previously, to supplement its information and incorporate microdata on more recent national household surveys. This data bank is a central element of the regional cooperation and technical assistance efforts which provide the empirical support for the numerous studies of various kinds carried out by the Commission on social and economic issues connected with living conditions, social equity, poverty, employment and income distribution.

#### **(b) Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean**

31. As in previous years, ECLAC prepared the 1997 and 1998 editions of the Social Panorama of Latin America, for which the main sources were the household surveys conducted in countries of the region. The 1997 edition has been widely circulated while the 1998 issue is at press and will be distributed shortly. In addition to the issues usually addressed in the Panorama on the social situation in the region, the recent editions have included various studies on the status of children and young people as part of the inter-agency activities conducted jointly by ECLAC and UNICEF. In particular, in 1997, the Social Panorama included a chapter devoted to an evaluation of the human rights of children, early differentiation of roles and teenage motherhood, while in 1998, the issue analysed was childhood towards the year 2000, a study of achievements and factors that restrict the well-being of children.

#### **(c) Joint studies with countries**

32. In 1997 and 1998, ECLAC carried out joint cooperation and research activities with some countries of the region, to evaluate the quality of the household survey data and update statistics on poverty and income distribution levels and trends. In Chile, Brazil and Mexico, studies based on recent information served to generate an up-to-date profile of indicators for the second half of the 1990s.

#### **(d) Project with the Government of the Netherlands**

33. Various surveys were carried out on social issues, with special reference to poverty and income distribution trends in different Latin American countries under phase II of the joint project undertaken by ECLAC and the Government of the Netherlands. The results were analysed jointly with national experts in the course of working sessions which were the occasion for disseminating the studies widely and obtaining useful comments for improving the conclusions and the final version of documents.

**Subprogramme element 3.3:** Use of Databases with information from population and housing censuses.

34. ECLAC, through its Population Division, the Latin American and Caribbean Population Centre (CELADE), has continued to provide assistance in setting up census databases and using them to diagnose and identify socially vulnerable population groups. During the 1997-1998 biennium, the results of research carried out jointly with the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru and the National Institute of Statistics of Uruguay on estimates of income and poverty in small areas based on a combination of census and household survey data were disseminated. That study was published in the journal *Population Notes* No. 66 of December 1997. In collaboration with the Institute for Indigenous Studies of the Universidad de la Frontera (Temuco, Chile) and the National Institute of Statistics (Chile), a database was prepared on the Mapuche population, and a volume was published with special tabulations and studies prepared for purposes of social planning. Under the joint programme conducted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and CELADE, those agencies collaborated with Suriname and Nicaragua (National Institute of Statistics and Censuses -INDEC, and the Emergency Social Investment Fund) on the preparation of databases to be used by the respective social investment funds.

35. During the period under review, CELADE made available to national statistical offices the new version of REDATAM Plus for Windows, winR+, and its application tools, ZonPlan, which enables it to create indicators and subject maps. Hundreds of officials attended regional and national workshops where they received training in the use of such tools (together with those developed by the University of Waterloo, Canada; AccessPlan and EduPlan). Technical assistance was provided to various countries in the creation of databases in REDATAM format, using census databases as well those derived from other sources of information, such as household surveys, vital statistics and demographic and health surveys. CELADE also worked with various countries to produce cartographic databases and incorporate them in winR+.

36. During the biennium, several countries started to make preparations for the 2000 round of censuses. Exchange activities took place between the countries of the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), together with Bolivia and Chile, which planned various coordination seminars and workshops. The National Bureau of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia organized a meeting in January 1998 to receive inputs from countries of the region and specialized agencies with respect to the different stages of the census. In response to demand, ECLAC/CELADE held a seminar in October 1998 on conceptual design and issues to be researched in the 2000 round of censuses in Latin America and a workshop in December on the 2000 round of censuses in the Caribbean. In connection with the first seminar, CELADE conducted a survey on the census experience and distributed a report on the matter at that encounter. Moreover, plans to prepare a document relating to the management of the post-census phases were implemented and information was provided at the seminars on the experience of the National Institute of Statistics (Uruguay) in the use of the scanner for the capture and input of survey data.

### **Subprogramme element 3.4: Regional and national training activities**

#### **(a) Regional training**

37. In 1997 and 1998, the seventh and eighth international workshop on methodologies for poverty measurement were held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in collaboration with the National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI). ECLAC participated in those activities by providing teaching staff and support material to throw light on the issues under discussion in theory sessions and to construct and analyse economic and social indicators derived during practical working symposiums. Symposiums of that kind were a basic activity of such workshops, and were aimed at reinforcing and supplementing participants' academic training.

38. The two workshops were attended by 54 experts from 15 countries of the region; to date, that inter-agency initiative, which had been launched by ECLAC and the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI) in the early 1990s, had provided training to approximately 250 members of staff of national statistical offices and ministries of planning, economics and social services. Instruction was geared towards providing information and management skills using the most up-to-date methods for evaluating the effect of poverty, constructing and analysing economic and social indicators in the field of employment, income distribution and living standards and determining food baskets to be used as a basis for monitoring the nutritional status of the population.

#### **(b) National training**

39. Technical support activities between ECLAC and countries of the region in 1998 included a national workshop on statistical training in survey design and basic sampling techniques, held jointly by ECLAC and the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses (Paraguay). It was attended by 20 experts from different Government agencies involved in generating statistical information through surveys and by users of information produced by the Department. Such activities were envisaged by ECLAC as a means of strengthening national expertise and active participation by experts in the design and implementation of statistical projects.

### **Subprogramme element 3.5: Participation in work and study groups on issues of regional interest**

40. At their meeting held in Santiago, Chile, from 15 to 18 October 1996, Directors of Statistics agreed to participate as far as possible in work groups set up by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations. To that end, responsibilities were assigned to countries and to ECLAC. The Government of Mexico represented the region at the Expert Group on Informal Sector Statistics (Delhi Group), at the Expert Group on Household Income Statistics and Expert Group on Capital Goods (Canberra Group). Colombia participated in the meeting of the Delhi Group. ECLAC acted as technical Secretariat for the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Policy Co-

ordination (Rio Group) and as a member of the Steering Committee of the Canberra Group and, in addition, attended the meetings of the Delhi and Siena Groups.

#### **Subprogramme 4: Dissemination of statistical information**

41. All the countries taking part in the project of the Regional Short-term Indicators Database (BADECOY) have websites that operate very satisfactorily in terms of both content and regular updating. ECLAC has its own websites (two in Washington: *www.cepal.org* and *www.eclac.org* and one in Santiago: *www.eclac.cl*) which reproduce the quarterly report published by BADECOY and all the statistical tables - some 320 - with current economic indicators that the nine countries participating in that project (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) update within a month of the end of each calendar quarter.

42. The electronic interchange of BADECOY data took place almost exclusively by electronic mail via the Internet.

43. It was very important to highlight that a significant number of national statistical offices in the region had websites for disseminating information and data relating to socio-economic conditions in their respective countries.

44. ECLAC together with the Mercosur and associated countries<sup>1</sup> (Msur+2), held two meetings - one in Santa Cruz (Bolivia) organized by the National Institute of Statistics in Bolivia and the other in Buenos Aires organized by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) in Argentina - to implement an integrated system for accessing data from the six countries through the Internet. The web server for those purposes was currently installed at INDEC (Argentina), the institute responsible for its administration. In accordance with criteria established at the meeting in Santa Cruz, the National Institute of Statistics of Bolivia was expected to undertake those tasks from the date to be set at the forthcoming meeting of the group scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro in the second quarter of 1999 under the auspices of the Brazilian Geographical Statistical Institute (IBGE).

45. ECLAC had been working on metadata systems, on issues relating to the marketing of information and statistical data and, in the second half of 1998, initiated joint activities with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to focus on the use of marketing systems through the Internet of both printed and electronic publications of statistical data in formats that could be processed electronically.

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<sup>1</sup> Bolivia and Chile.