

**AGREEMENTS ADOPTED AT THE NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

At its ninth meeting, held in Santiago from 20 to 22 April 2010, *the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*,

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*Bearing in mind* resolution 2000/7 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, by which it approved the proposal for the establishment, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Bearing in mind also* resolution 2000/7 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, which provides that the Executive Committee shall: carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; draw up 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 the meetings of the Conference,

*Bearing in mind further* that, at its fifth meeting, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission approved the 2009-2011 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* that, at its fifth meeting, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission requested the working groups of the Conference to present to the Executive Committee at its next meeting their action plan for the period 2009-2011 together with an update of their terms of reference and long-term vision,

*Having reviewed* the 2010-2011 programme of work of the Working Groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>2</sup> presented at this, the ninth, meeting of the Executive Committee,

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

*Taking fully into consideration also* the opinions expressed and the contributions put forward by the Governments of the member States of the Conference and by the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations attending the meeting,

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<sup>1</sup> LC/L.3072(CEA.5/12).

<sup>2</sup> 2010-2011 programme of work of the Working Groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3213(CE.9/3)), Santiago, Chile, April 2010.

## **2010-2011 programme of work of the Working Groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

1. *Approves* the 2010-2011 programme of work of the Working Groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas incorporating the observations of the delegations and urges member States and the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to lend their support and cooperation for the achievement of the objectives set forth therein;
2. *Requests* the chair, with the support of the secretariat and the other members of the Executive Committee, to conduct ongoing follow-up of progress in the implementation of the programme of work of the Working Groups, with a view to the achievement of the outcomes committed for the sixth meeting of the Conference;
3. *Requests* the secretariat, in the light of the experience of the working groups, to prepare a proposal on procedures for optimizing their performance and achieving their objectives and to present this proposal for consideration and approval by the Executive Committee at its next meeting;

### **Institutional strengthening of national statistical systems**

4. *Welcomes* the progress made as regards the preparation of a Code of good statistical practices for Latin America and the Caribbean, which should be presented for review and approval at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission, and thanks the Statistical Office of the European Communities for its ongoing support for this initiative; and views with satisfaction the start of the Working Group's activities geared towards the specific objective of identifying, agreeing and promoting the use of international statistical standards in the region;

### **Promoting training of competent human resources**

5. *Takes cognizance* of the training programme of the Knowledge Transfer Network and welcomes the activities conducted to develop an online education platform in order to make up for the shortage of experts in managing census information and to improve the coordination of training activities in the region;
6. *Urges* the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to support the efforts of the Knowledge Transfer Network to make up the financing required for carrying out all the courses and seminars envisaged in its programme of work;

### **Building technical capacities and methodologies for generating statistical information**

7. *Welcomes* the programme of activities of the Working group on the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, which encompasses countries' priorities as regards initiatives for training, methodological development and reducing statistical discrepancies in order to have access to timely, reliable statistics and indicators and thus be in a position to monitor the progress of the countries of the region towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals set for 2015;
8. *Thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Working group on the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals for its support and collaboration and the Inter-American Development Bank for the financial resources provided, which were instrumental in carrying out the activities; and expresses the

need for continued financial support from the Bank and other agencies in order to meet the challenges contained in the programme of activities of the Working Group;

9. *Urges* countries to participate actively in the implementation of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and to support national machineries for the advancement of women in following up on the agreements adopted by the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean at their forty-second meeting, in putting into practice measures for collecting data on the Observatory's violence indicator referring to the death of women at the hands of an intimate partner, whether through agreements with the public prosecutor's office in each country or through technical assistance to the entities responsible for ensuring the quality and homogeneity of the data collected, and in carrying out the periodic dispatch of up-to-date information on the indicators of the Observatory relating to the physical, economic and political empowerment of women;

10. *Recommends* that the standardized questionnaire on violence against women prepared jointly with the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission be promoted for dissemination and use in national surveys;<sup>3</sup>

11. *Requests* that all the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas send in their comments on the classifier of time-use activities, prepared as part of the programme of work on gender statistics for the period 2007-2009 for subsequent approval, and recommends that priority be given to the incorporation of time-use surveys in national data collection through independent surveys, modules in multipurpose surveys or specific questions in household surveys, subject to each country's situation and capabilities;

12. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the prompt establishment of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers and at the start-up of its activities and takes note of its programme of activities, which is oriented towards identifying the characteristics of poverty measurements carried out by countries; takes note also that in due course attention should be paid to the multidimensional measurement of poverty;

13. *Strongly appeals* to countries to consult and, as far as possible, incorporate in the censuses of the 2010 round, the recommendations emerging from the process of discussion and consensus in the framework of the activities of the Conference;

14. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the holding of workshops on issues relating to health and the gender perspective in censuses and the support for the workshop on census management, and requests the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to conduct the activities necessary for continuing to support countries with the planning and execution of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses through activities aimed at improving: (i) the capture of data on housing, surroundings, equipment, the environment, education and economic activity; (ii) sharing of experiences on census management and operation, and on harmonization; (iii) technologies for capture and processing of census data; and (iv) analysis and dissemination of information;

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<sup>3</sup> See United Nations, Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the indicators on violence against women. Note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2009/13), New York, 2009; United Nations Statistics Division, "Conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting of the Friends of the Chair Group on Statistical Indicators on Violence against Women (Aguascalientes, 9-11 December 2009)" [online] <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/vaw/docs/ConclusionsAndRecommendations.pdf>.

15. *Expresses its satisfaction also at* the Commission's initiative to overcome the shortage of experts in management of census information by holding three intensive regional courses in demographic analysis for development, and urges United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to provide support in securing the funding required for initiating these courses as soon as possible given that the census counts have already been started in the region.
16. *Welcomes* the activities of the Working Group on National Accounts, which seeks to strengthen the national statistical systems of the countries of the region by improving their basic economic statistics, in order to optimize the production of sustainable, quality statistics and thereby facilitate the adoption of economic and social policies; also requests the Working Group to coordinate its activities with those of the project Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments;
17. *Requests* the Inter-American Development Bank and other funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to provide support in obtaining the necessary resources for strengthening the system for the production of national accounts statistics, with a view to designing a self-assessment methodology for the production of basic national accounts statistics and an advanced didactic and information tool and disseminating both initiatives at the regional level;
18. *Welcomes* the Working Group's plan to conduct an evaluation of basic economic statistics and national accounts statistics and urges countries to support the Commission's yearly compilation of metadata on national accounts, which facilitates the timely, transparent and standardized dissemination of the practices and procedures used by the agencies responsible for its compilation in Latin America and the Caribbean;
19. *Welcomes* the activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies, relating to the preparation of a document that contains the revised quantifiable targets and indicators of the Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC), an updated information and communications technology module for business surveys, updated modules on access to, and use of, information and communications technologies in government and in the education and health sectors and an updated 2011 version of the compendium of practices on the inclusion of questions on this issue in household and business surveys;
20. *Thanks* the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean for the technical support that it has been offering to countries of the region since 2003 to assist in the harmonization, compilation and analysis of statistical data on information and communications technologies through capacity-building and the provision of direct technical assistance for carrying out surveys on the issue, and for its role since 2005 as technical secretariat of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies;
21. *Expresses* its firm support for efforts to secure financing from multilateral and bilateral cooperation and finance agencies to ensure that the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean can continue to provide support for the activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies from 2011;
22. *Appreciates* the work carried out by the Working Group on Environmental Statistics, which relates to an exceedingly important emerging issue, and takes note of the advances made in prioritizing regional technical capacity-building activities in the region;

23. *Urges* the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to support the activities being conducted by Mexico, the coordinating country of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics, in channelling funds from international donors for execution of the Group's three projects for the period 2010-2011;

24. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its work during the past decade with the countries of the region in the areas of methodological development, technical assistance and training in environmental statistics, and urges it to pursue and intensify this work in order to continue to support national statistical institutes and the ministries and sectoral authorities with competence in environmental matters in their production of national environmental statistical series within the official statistical systems of each country, and to continue building the regional network of experts and institutions in the sphere of environmental statistics;

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

25. *Takes note of* resolution 41/105 of the United Nations Statistical Commission in which it endorses the implementation of the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme and, in view of the importance for the countries of the region of having up-to-date estimates of exchange rates and of the positive impact that the tasks of the Programme will have on statistical capacity-building in the participating countries with respect to prices and national accounts, urges the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the 2011 round of the Programme, which will be coordinated at the regional level by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; and expresses its satisfaction at the support provided by the Caribbean Community for the implementation of the Programme in the subregion;

26. *Requests* the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to collaborate in financing the activities of the International Comparison Programme with a view to ensuring the participation of all the countries of the region in the 2011 round;

27. *Welcomes* the Commission's proposal to establish two advisory committees of the International Comparison Programme at the regional level, one for the countries of Latin America (including those of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean) and another for the rest of the Caribbean;

28. *Agrees* that the functions of the advisory committees will be: (i) to examine the programme of work of the International Comparison Programme for the region, which will be presented by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and put forward recommendations as appropriate, (ii) to support the Commission in seeking funding for country activities in the framework of the Programme, and (iii) to support and promote the Programme's activities and disseminate its outcomes;

29. *Appoints* the following countries as members of the advisory committee for Latin America: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Uruguay; and requests the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians to appoint the members of the advisory committee for the Caribbean;

30. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the updating and expansion of the database for integrated presentation of international statistical activities conducted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the

Caribbean and thanks the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations for their cooperation and support in this important initiative;

31. *Takes note* of the report presented by the Commission relating to the coordination of international statistical work in the area of gender statistics and requests the Commission, in collaboration with Mexico, as coordinator of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics, to prepare an in-depth report on international statistical activities in the area of the environment, with a view to strengthening coordination of those activities and optimizing their contribution to the development of environmental statistics in the region and presenting it at the tenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference;

32. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the start-up of the implementation of the project Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments carried out under the Regional Public Goods Program of the Inter-American Development Bank, which will significantly enhance the coverage and quality of economic statistics in the region;

33. *Expresses recognition of* the varied and numerous activities making up the Regional Statistical Work Programme of the Caribbean Community, which range from initiatives to promote statistical harmonization and support for national statistical systems to technical assistance, training, experience-sharing and other activities, conducted with the support of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians and the Advisory Group on Statistics; and welcomes the efforts of the Caribbean Community to increase coordination with the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

34. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the advances achieved by the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System, in particular the start of the preparatory activities for the regional strategy on statistical development;

35. *Welcomes* the decision of the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System to work closely with the Statistical Conference of the Americas in order to combine efforts and avoid duplication of tasks, follow up on the agreements issued at the meetings of the Conference and collaborate with the existing working groups and those that may be formed in the future;

36. *Welcomes* the decision by the Common Market Group to create a specialized statistical meeting of the Southern Common Market and welcomes also the outcome of the second European Union-South American Common Market statistical cooperation programme, which represents an important contribution to the process of strengthening technical capacities of the participating countries and of subregional statistical harmonization and is also a source of knowledge and experience that may be used by other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean;

37. *Expresses its satisfaction at* the progress made in implementing the work plan of the Andean Committee of Statistics, in particular through the execution of the statistical cooperation project between the European Union and the Andean Community, which has made it possible to increase instruction and training in public statistics, has facilitated the broad, orderly and effective dissemination of statistical information by national services and community service, and has enhanced the institutional image and structure of the bodies that produce official statistics in the subregion; and welcomes the major advances in improving and harmonizing statistical output relating to external goods trade and transport, national accounts and macroeconomic statistics, business and territorial statistics and poverty statistics;

38. *Takes note* of the completion of the regional public goods project “Improvement of Statistics for Measuring Living Conditions” and expresses its satisfaction at the positive outcomes of the project, which

have helped to build technical capacities in the participating countries as regards social, population and environmental statistics; and thanks the Inter-American Development Bank for its technical and financial support for the implementation of this project and requests that the Bank continue to provide this support for its second phase;

39. *Agrees* to convey to the Governments of member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through the participation of the Chair of the Executive Committee in the Commission's thirty-third session, to be held in Brasilia from 30 May to 1 June, the urgent need for more extensive and firmer institutional, financial and human support in order to produce reliable, high-quality and timely public statistics in the interests of transparency, accountability of public authorities, the formulation of public policies and the evaluation of policy outcomes;

40. *Appeals to* the Governments of the region to endow their national statistical offices and systems with the resources necessary to develop and maintain a strong and reliable statistical system through adequate and continuous funding, in particular to meet the demanding challenges relating to the conduct of the 2010 round of population censuses, the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts, and the generation of information for monitoring fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, and to meet also the urgent and growing demand for statistical data and indicators in new areas, such as the environment, information and communications technologies and gender affairs;

41. *Urges* the Governments to ensure that the necessary resources are set aside for the appropriate and timely conduct of the population and housing censuses of the 2010 round, given their huge significance in generating information that is up-to-date and of great economic, social and environmental value;

42. *Encourages* member States of the Conference and the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to organize activities to celebrate World Statistics Day, which the United Nations Statistical Commission has set for 20 October 2010, for a broad audience ranging from decision-makers and data providers to the community of data users, with the aim of raising awareness of the many contributions of official statistics based on fundamental values of service, integrity and professionalism; the celebration of World Statistics Day will also be an opportunity to acknowledge the services provided by international, regional and subregional agencies to promote and facilitate the progress of national statistical systems;

41. *Requests* the Chair of the Executive Committee, with the support of the secretariat, to encourage the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and international organizations to set a broad calendar of events to celebrate World Statistics Day in 2010.