



Distr.
LIMITED
LC/L.2818
15 November 2007
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the
Statistical Conference of the Americas of the
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Bogotá, Colombia, 29 and 30 November 2007

**PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE MONITORING OF
PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS ***

* Report prepared by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina.
2007-903

1. Objectives of the programme of work for the period 2007-2009¹

The purpose of this document is to comply with the agreement adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean relating to the mandate of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The terms of the mandate are set out in resolution 5(IV) of the Conference, which states that (the latter) “Agrees that the working group on the monitoring of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals should focus initially on analysing discrepancies between the data produced by the countries and those used by international bodies in monitoring the Goals, continuing the work begun by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and *decides* that poverty measurement projects financed by the Programme on Regional Public Goods of the Inter-American Development Bank should be carried out by the Commission, in cooperation with the countries concerned”. Thus, the Working Group submits for consideration and adoption by the Executive Committee of the Conference the specific goals to be achieved and the activities to be carried out in the period 2007-2009.

In compliance with the above mandate, the Working Group proposes to pursue the following goals:

- To support and promote the active participation of national statistical offices in the preparation and dissemination of national reports on the Millennium Development Goals in each country.
- To analyse discrepancies between the data produced by the countries and those used by international bodies in monitoring the Goals, and to develop an agenda of measures to facilitate inter-agency coordination and harmonization of national statistics at the domestic level as well as with statistics produced by international bodies.
- To broaden and improve sources of statistical data and the methodological bases used in the preparation of poverty indicators, in order to contribute to the achievement of Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Planning of activities for the period 2007-2009

The activities envisaged for fulfilling the above-mentioned goals are set out below:

¹ The Working Group is chaired by Argentina and its other members are: Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, México, Panama and Peru.

Activities	Timetable
A. General activities	
1. Formulation of the plan of the group's activities for the period 2007-2009 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Formulation of activities and timetable for the period 2007-2009 (b) Consultations with the ECLAC secretariat, the member countries of the group and finance agencies 	July 2007 to October 2007
2. Meeting of the Working Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Review of the activities conducted during the biennium (b) Adjustment of work guidelines and identification of new goals (c) Agreement on the content of the report of activities for the biennium 	April and May 2009 (continuation of the workshop "Poverty measurement in Latin America: poverty lines and multidimensional methods", (activity C.4)
3. Preparation of the report of biennial activities of the Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Adjustment of work guidelines and identification of new goals (b) Formulation of activities and timetable (c) Preparation of the report (d) Submission of the report of activities to the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas 	May and June 2009
B. Activities relating to Goal 1	
1. Study on the current participation of national statistical offices in the preparation and dissemination of national reports on the Millennium Development Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Design of a study on the participation of national statistical offices in the process of preparation and dissemination of national reports on the Millennium Development Goals (development of indicators and metadata, writing-up of reports) (b) Application of the questionnaire to all the member countries of the Conference (c) Receipt of information by the country chairing the group 	October to December 2007
2. Analysis of questionnaires on the participation of the national statistical offices in the preparation of national reports on the Millennium Development Goals, to be carried out by Argentina	January to April 2008
C. Activities relating to Goal 2	
1. Capacity-building workshop for national statistical offices for the preparation of data for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and coordination and harmonization of statistics at the national level and between countries and international bodies in Latin America and the Caribbean: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Selecting a set of core indicators of discrepancies between national and international data on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and orientation of activities for harmonizing the results among countries. (b) Identifying discrepancies and problems that hinder the harmonization of the selected indicators. (c) Adopting criteria in order to increase gradually the consistency of information produced by different sources. (d) Establishing an agenda of activities for statistical harmonization based on inter-agency coordination within countries and statistical linkages between countries and international bodies with respect to the Millennium Development Goals (e) Defining criteria for the submission of status reports on the measures adopted in countries 	May to June 2008

Activities	Timetable
<p>2. Follow-up on the guidelines for action agreed at the regional seminar. Statistical and institutional challenges for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (Bogotá, 27 and 28 November 2007)</p> <p>(a) Assistance with the preparation of national status reports on guidelines agreed at the regional workshop</p> <p>(b) Improvement of the consistency of information produced by different sources</p> <p>(c) Improvement of data sources and methods used for the development of poverty indicators</p> <p>(d) Advance with national inter-agency linkages in order to refine the statistical content of national reports on the Millennium Development Goals</p> <p>(e) Proposed measures for coordination between national statistical offices and the statistical divisions of international bodies with a view to statistical harmonization of results relating to the Goals</p> <p>(f) Receipt of status reports</p> <p>(g) Preparation of terms of reference for an external consultant</p>	July to November 2008
<p>3. External consultancy for evaluating capacity-building measures for national statistical offices for preparing data on the Millennium Development Goals and progressing with the inter-agency coordination and statistical convergence between countries and bodies in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>(a) Organization of national status reports</p> <p>(b) Consultations with information sources and recovery of missing data</p> <p>(c) Preparation of a report incorporating national reports</p> <p>(d) Presentation of an assessment of achievements and outstanding activities</p> <p>(e) Communication of consultant's findings to reporting agencies</p>	November 2008 to April 2009
<p>4. Regional workshop on the national statistical offices and the Millennium Development Goals, whose purpose is to determine the capacity of these offices to prepare follow-up data on overall progress towards the Goals and achievement of Goal 1, in particular.</p> <p>(a) Evaluation of degree of fulfilment of the activities set out in the work plan and analysis of the consultancy report</p> <p>(b) Presentation by countries on the changes and advances recorded since the writing of the national reports</p> <p>(c) Adjustment of the plan of activities and redefinition of priorities for the following period</p>	April and May 2009
D. Activities relating to Goal 3	
D.1 Updating of ECLAC poverty measurement methodology (monitoring of Goal 1)	
<p>1. Workshop of experts to consider the proposed poverty measurement methodology for Latin America and the Caribbean</p>	March 2008
<p>2. Regional workshop with the participation of national statistical offices of Latin America and the Caribbean to disseminate the methodology proposed by the Inter-American Development Bank and ECLAC and consider possible measures for reducing gaps between countries</p>	May 2008
<p>3. Subregional working groups (four subregional workshops, one in Central America, one in the Caribbean, and two for which the venue is still to be decided) to consider and adopt measures to reduce the methodological divide between countries</p>	July to October 2008
<p>4. Regional training course to present the new poverty measurement methodology to statisticians from national statistical offices and other public agencies in the region</p>	March 2009

Activities	Timetable
D.2 Conceptual and methodological aspects of the family budget surveys	
1. Consultancy study to analyse the conceptual and methodological aspects of the family budget surveys, outline best practices at the regional level and make recommendations for standardizing the application of this instrument in countries of the region	March to June 2008
2. First regional workshop to present the findings of the consultancy study and propose strategies for implementation of the recommendations	July to August 2008
3. Second regional workshop	June to July 2009