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**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC
COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santiago, 24–25 August 2022

CONTENTS

		<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
A.	ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK	1–8	3
	Place and date of the meeting.....	1	3
	Attendance.....	2–7	3
	Chair.....	8	4
B.	AGENDA	9	4
C.	SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS.....	10–68	4
Annex 1	Agreements	–	19
Annex 2	List of participants	–	22

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The twenty-first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in Santiago from 24–25 August 2022. On 24 August, as part of the meeting, a seminar was held, entitled Beyond GDP: Statistical Challenges of Measuring Development.¹

Attendance²

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following States serving as members of the Executive Committee: Argentina, serving as Chair, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Italy and Jamaica.

3. Also attending were representatives of the following member countries of the Conference: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia, Spain, Suriname, Türkiye, United States and Uruguay.

4. The following associate members of ECLAC also participated: Aruba, Curaçao, Montserrat and Sint Maarten.

5. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the Director of the Statistics Division and representatives of the Resident Coordinators' Offices of Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti.

6. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented at the meeting: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and World Food Programme (WFP).

7. Also present at the meeting were representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Andean Community (CAN), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Caribbean Development Bank (CARIBANK), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).

¹ See the summary report for the seminar [online] https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/48718/S2300033_en.pdf.

² See the full list of participants in annex 2.

Chair

8. The meeting was chaired by Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

B. AGENDA

9. The Executive Committee adopted the following agenda:
1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Recent progress in the implementation of population and housing censuses.
 3. Review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2022–2023, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
 4. Regional follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 5. Other matters.
 6. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

10. At the opening session, statements were made by Rolando Ocampo, Chief of the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Marco Lavagna, Director of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, and Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division.

11. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC referred to some of the topics to be addressed at the meeting. First, he stressed the importance of population and housing censuses, and said that, faced with the difficulties posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the region had sought innovative ways to conduct the 2020 census round. The meeting was therefore an excellent opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned. Regarding statistics needed to go beyond GDP, the metric of GDP did not adequately reflect certain desirable aspects of sustainable development, as that was not its initial purpose. The Secretary-General had raised the need to seek new metrics that complemented GDP and the United Nations system was pursuing initiatives in that regard. Discussions would also address the process towards the 2025 update of the System of National Accounts and satellite accounts, as well as various approaches to the indicators needed to complement GDP. The biennial programme of work of the Conference, prepared based on the work of the Working Groups and other forums, would be reviewed. He mentioned collaboration between countries, international organizations and ECLAC in areas such as updating the information system on national capacities for the production of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators and creating new communities of practice in the areas of population censuses and monitoring of the SDGs. Gender mainstreaming was another priority issue and the document *Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030: implementing the information systems pillar of the Montevideo Strategy*

for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 would contribute to better gender statistics. Lastly, he thanked all those who worked together with the Conference and expressed his hope that the meeting would be a success.

12. The Director of INDEC of Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the Conference, said that the meeting was an opportunity to continue strengthening the relations between the national statistical offices of the region, in order to contribute to improved quality of life through statistics. The considerable challenges that the pandemic had posed for those offices had led to faster integration of new technologies and new forms of training and adaptation of means of producing statistics. As a result, progress had been made on collaboration and institutional strengthening in the region. The next challenge was to begin to return to normal, without abandoning the collaboration achieved using online tools. The experiences of the different countries should be drawn on to identify mistakes and accomplishments and thus contribute to stronger statistical systems. An array of issues would be discussed during the meeting, including challenges and opportunities. It was vital to have the capacity to share and make effective use of available tools, deepen linkages and contribute to growth of initiatives such as the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway) and CEPALSTAT. He also referred to some issues that were not yet covered by the working groups. Exchanges and collaboration were important to maximize the resources available for each national statistical office, which should also have appropriate channels for communication. Lastly, he expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Chair and said his country would continue to cooperate through work on all necessary issues.

13. The Director of the United Nations Statistics Division said that amid major challenges such as the ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and climate change, the demand for quality data was increasing, but resources were declining, and it was becoming increasingly difficult to find donors to invest in statistics. In that context, progress toward the SDGs had been affected. However, the statistical community had responded with innovation, using information and communications technology, integrating statistical and geospatial information, establishing new partnerships and working in new ways with governments, civil society, and the academic and private sectors. The community was also learning how to better bring together different data sources and sectors. In short, the statistical community had produced many good ideas, had reacted correctly, and was well-placed to address future challenges. Latin America was a remarkable and varied region, but whose countries had similar cultures, traditions and histories, with a long history of close collaboration and joint responses to shared challenges. Globally, the region was important because it offered noteworthy ideas and models that showed how to close the gap between developed and developing countries.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

14. The Director of INDEC of Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the Conference, submitted the provisional agenda, which had been circulated in advance, for consideration by the delegations. The agenda was adopted without amendment.

Recent progress in the implementation of population and housing censuses (agenda item 2)

15. The representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC commented on the status of population and housing censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean. He presented an overview of the status of census operations before and after the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, noting that setbacks to census schedules had been caused by changes to the budgetary priorities of governments, lockdowns and the impossibility of conducting field work, such as cartographic updates, pilot testing, pilot censuses and training. In 2022, field work had resumed in earnest and

censuses were carried out by 7 Latin American and 12 Caribbean countries. He spoke about the innovations and adaptations that were being implemented in census processes, such as the changes from de facto censuses to de jure censuses and from the use of paper to mobile data-capture devices, as well the use of mixed collection methods that included self-reporting online. The modernization of these processes had presented major challenges to national statistics offices, even as the need for new census data had become much more urgent since the start of the pandemic, which imposed pressure to reduce census time frames. However, it was important to ensure that censuses were conducted as soon as conditions allowed, while maintaining quality and taking into account that the delivery of information required sufficient time for processing and analysis, a stage in which countries were encouraged to use REDATAM.

16. Countries that had conducted censuses recently then presented their experiences.

17. The representative of the National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC) of Argentina presented the main innovations implemented in the census carried out between March and May 2022. He said that the census had changed from a de facto methodology to a de jure one, which had included a bimodal system (digital and paper-based), with self-enumeration via a website that had been made available for the two months prior to the territorial review carried out on 18 May. Training had been conducted virtually, with an additional in-person module to enable census takers and supervisors to familiarize themselves with the census material. The self-enumeration option reduced the workload of census takers, who were able to enter the code of the households that had self-enumerated and continue to the next dwelling. It was estimated that, at the time of the territorial review, 50.3% of the households targeted had completed the self-enumeration process online and that 70% of them had responded on a smartphone. The communications campaign had been very effective and, for the first time, INDEC had taken social media into account when conducting a census, thereby winning the trust of the public and avoiding fake news that could be detrimental to the process.

18. The representative of the National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC) of Costa Rica described the social and technical context in which its eleventh National Population Census and seventh National Housing Census had been carried out in a three-week field operation planned for June 2022. The bimodal methodology applied had included visits to households using mobile data-capture devices; if the inhabitants were not present, a map with a code was left to allow them to self-report online. The cartographic update had included georeferencing of households, which had improved monitoring of coverage by making available the XY coordinates of households and creating a register of households not visited or that had rejected visits through the monitoring and follow-up manager, which had been used to supervise field work and analyse household coverage. She emphasized the importance of carrying out cartographic updates with the georeferencing of households, as well as having a sufficient number of trained and informed census-takers, and strategies to address the increasing number of non-respondents and increase coverage.

19. The representative of the Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute (IBGE) spoke first about the order of magnitude of the Population and Housing Census of Brazil in terms of the number of census takers, households, municipalities and other factors. He said that field work had been taking place since 1 August 2022 and was mainly being carried out using mobile data-capture devices with two questionnaires: a basic one, with 26 questions; and an expanded one, with 77 questions, to which census topics including fertility, religion, disability and migration had been added. Innovations had included the multimodal nature of the operation, which combined in-person interviews, online self-enumeration and phone interviews, and a robust follow-up system capable of managing the operational progress of the census and assessing its quality using operational demographic indicators, which were compared with the reference data. He also drew attention to the methodological and operational design of the post-census survey.

20. The representative of the Central Statistics Office of Saint Lucia explained that preparations for the census had begun in 2019, but had been suspended in 2020 owing to the pandemic. However, progress had been made with the design and pilot testing of the census questionnaire, adaptation of the form for mobile data-capture devices, maps, georeferencing and the procurement of equipment, among other aspects. Work had therefore continued in 2022, with the resumption of pilot testing of the instruments, the recruitment of field staff and the launch of a communications campaign. The tablets had built-in GPS, with Survey Solutions as the operational software both for the interview modules and for supervision, monitoring of progress on the ground and quality control of the information collected.

Panel discussion with countries with forthcoming censuses (Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Paraguay)

21. The panel was moderated by the Director of INDEC of Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the Conference, who asked the representatives of the participating countries a number of questions about the changes required in the conceptual and operational design of the census owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, technological innovations and communications strategies that were being implemented and new topics that were being incorporated.

22. The representative of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica noted that the pandemic had changed the way in which censuses were conducted. For example, training had changed from being in-person to being online. The pandemic, meanwhile, had necessitated a budget increase to cover the cost of the personal protection equipment needed by field staff, as well as those associated communications. She added that prior to the start of the pandemic, the decision had already been made to use tablets to collect data.

23. The representative of the National Statistics Institute (INE) of Paraguay confirmed that the census in his country would be conducted in the first week of November 2022 and major setbacks were attributable to the pandemic, which had delayed the approval of funding. That, in turn, had forced a change in the census planning and had led to the census questionnaire being shortened to the minimum content needed to characterize the population and to create population projections and estimates, as well as to ensure a feasible workload that could be completed on the census day. He also emphasized that the census was an opportunity to modernize public management and, to that end, INE had included the development of a geoportal to visualize statistical information and the use of artificial intelligence to codify economic variables.

24. The representative of the National Statistics Office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic said that the pandemic had highlighted the need for better data to enable evidence-based public policymaking. In that regard, she mentioned some of the innovations in the census related to COVID-19, such as COVID-19 deaths and emerging issues linked to the use of information and communications technologies by individuals, among other census topics. Operational innovations mentioned included the use of digital mapping, mobile data-capture devices and the platform to monitor and follow up on the census-taking. She noted that 74% of census takers recruited to date were women and an asynchronous course on censuses had been held for public servants.

25. In the discussions that followed, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke about his country's creation of a national geographical statistical system, which used the census and property records to establish a georeferenced database of properties and their inhabitants. The representative of Peru said that his country was beginning to plan its next census for 2025, with a *de jure* methodology and technological innovations. Meanwhile, the representative of Ecuador invited the representatives of national statistics institutions and international bodies to participate as observers in the next census to be carried out in his country in October 2022. The representative of Chile recalled that the communities in the Knowledge Transfer Network were available as a mechanism for countries to share experiences on the 2020 census round, and invited countries to use that space for collaboration.

26. The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO), acknowledging the importance of the economic issues included in censuses to the design of sampling frames for household surveys used to measure labour market variables, said that her Organization had provided technical assistance to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay with the aim of ensuring the necessary consistency of economic issues with the conceptual framework of the recommendations of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians. She also offered the Organization's technical assistance to countries that required it.

Review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2022–2023, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

27. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC outlined the implementation of the biennial programme of activities. Firstly, he referred to the outcomes of the 2020–2021 biennium and highlighted that the 11 agreed documents of the Working Groups had already been finalized and 6 of them had been adopted as regional standards. He presented the cover pages of the latter documents and said that they had been edited and translated into English by ECLAC, and that they addressed the issues of statistical quality assurance, the collection of data on children and adolescents participating in studies, time-use measurements, the use of administrative economic records, the framework of reference for security and criminal justice statistics and recommendations for the measurement of indicators for the disaster-related Sustainable Development Goal. The five remaining documents developed during the previous biennium addressed the issues of national capacities for producing data on international migration, guidelines for census data capture, good practices for the adoption of the new international standards of ILO, the production of environmental statistics with geospatial data and the measurement of prices and volumes in the services sector. He said that those and other documents were available on the website of the Knowledge Transfer Network. He then spoke about the working groups created for the 2022–2023 biennium and the issues they addressed, and added that, during that period, the documents to be adopted as regional standards would undergo a review process based on their content and length.

28. Representatives from each of the working groups established for the 2022–2023 biennium then spoke briefly about the progress made on each of the issues.

Peer-review mechanism in Latin America and the Caribbean

29. The representative of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia revealed the progress made by the Working Group. He said that the output being developed aimed to establish a regional peer review methodology, institutionalized under the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. The first step towards achieving the objective was to update the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure that it responded precisely to the new data ecosystem. The methodology document and the instruments needed to develop peer review would be produced later. Lastly, a pilot study of the proposed methodology would be conducted to make it possible to identify opportunities for improvement and create a basis for its implementation. The first draft of an updated code of good practice had already been produced and was being reviewed by countries. The updated version included 111 practices, of which 44 were different to the original, and 27 virtually new ones, 3 of which concerned the cross-cutting nature of differentiated and intersectional approaches, while 4 had been removed. A principle on the use of secondary sources had been included. There was also a document that brought together the best peer-review practices of Eurostat and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).

Assessment of data stewardship in Latin America and the Caribbean

30. The representative of INDEC of Argentina said firstly that the aim of the Working Group was to make progress towards a regional definition of “data stewardship” by establishing the central concepts and creating a document on good practices that could become a guide for countries. To that end, a regional survey was conducted, according to which the main ideas linked to the concept of “data stewardship” were “data administration” and “data governance”, followed by “data custodian” and “data coordinator”. In turn, the survey showed that the main challenges facing national statistics offices and that could be addressed by appointing a “data steward” were: the lack of access to alternative sources of information, especially administrative records, to produce statistical information; the lack of mechanisms for the exchange and interoperability of data and metadata in secure environments; quality assurance; and strengthening the efficient management of data providers to produce statistical information.

31. In the discussions that followed, the representative of Costa Rica spoke about the role played by statistics offices, and said that, while strengthened legal frameworks were important, they alone were not sufficient to fulfil the stewardship role that was sought. She said that further investigation of the practical elements and tools that could contribute to bringing about that role was required.

Guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective into statistical production

32. The representative of the National Statistics and Geography Institute (INEGI) of Mexico confirmed that the aim of the work of the Working Group was to provide a methodological and conceptual tool that would guide the incorporation of the gender perspective into the production of official statistics, in particular those on priority issues. She described the main activities that had been carried out to that point, drawing particular attention to the development of the annotated index being prepared by the Group, with a preview of the content of each chapter. She also said that monthly work meetings had taken place with the Group’s focal points, thereby ensuring the widespread participation and collaboration of countries. Regarding the content to be included in the guidelines, she said that it was expected that the gender perspective would be mainstreamed in the different phases of statistical production, that a conceptual framework that could act as a regional standard would be provided and that a rapprochement with emerging issues would be achieved, among other things. She also revealed the planned timeline of activities for the biennium and the main challenges in the area, highlighting aspects such as the need to create specialized gender units, the expansion of the use of inclusive language and the consideration of the gender variable in measurements.

33. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the Dominican Republic welcomed the country consultation process in the development of the guidelines, indicating that those spaces shone a light on the need for document that took the different levels of development of the region’s countries into consideration. The delegate of Argentina indicated that his country had the National Time-Use Survey and an integrated system of social statistics, which had the Survey as one of its components. The representative of Cuba spoke about the activities of her country’s National Programme for the Advancement of Women, in which the National Statistics and Information Office (ONEI) played a role in creating and measuring gender indicators. The representative of ECLAC recalled the establishment of the Advisory Group for mainstreaming the gender perspective of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, which was providing support to the Working Groups. The delegate of ILO, meanwhile, said that her Organization had been providing technical assistance for the measurement of unpaid work and offered its support to the countries that required it. Lastly, the Chair of the Conference highlighted the importance of working with the judiciary to make progress in creating statistics on gender-based violence.

Recommendations for quality analysis of household surveys

34. The representative of the National Statistics Institute (INE) of Chile presented a summary of the progress of the Working Group on that issue, which aimed to support countries of the region in correctly determining the accuracy of household survey estimators. Its main aim was to develop recommendations for harmonized analysis of the quality of the figures arising from household surveys and for the measurement of sampling errors through methodologies accessible to the users of those instruments. She also reported on the Group's programme of activities that had been designed to address that challenge and the timely holding of virtual sessions with the collaboration of the 16 countries involved and highlighted the recent progress in computing and the use of a quality measurement package for R software, developed by INE with the support of ECLAC. She also presented the content of the chapters of the final document and spoke about the expected contribution of the document.

35. In the comments that followed, the representative of the National Statistics and Computing Institute (INEI) of Peru spoke about his country's experience of balancing the figures from surveys with those in administrative records. The representative of Argentina commented on the work of INDEC with household surveys that used replicate weights and made that experience available to countries in the region, while also informing them about a training workshop on replicate weights that was aimed at the users of household survey databases. Lastly, a representative of the ECLAC Statistics Division, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Group, drew attention to the efforts made by INE of Chile, in collaboration with ECLAC, to create a computational library for R statistical software which could, in principle, be used automatically by national statistics offices of the region in the publication and dissemination of official statistics and figures. In addition, he underscored the availability of the Statistics Division to support national statistics offices in the design and analysis of household surveys and the disaggregation of information through small area estimation methodologies.

Quality assessment tool for administrative records

36. The representative of DANE of Colombia presented the progress made by the Working Group, which aimed to develop recommendations for the management of administrative records for use in the production of official statistics by strengthening an assessment tool for Latin American and Caribbean countries. To that end, the idea was to identify countries' quality management processes for administrative records, develop a glossary and a quality assessment tool for administrative records by systematizing results, and conduct a pilot study. The glossary would include 20 concepts that should be shared among the region's national statistics offices to ensure the correct use of the tool. The tool would be divided into two sections. The first would consist of an assessment of the management of administrative records, both from an administrative standpoint and from a statistical quality perspective. The second would seek to evaluate the way in which the national statistics office interacted with the managers of records, with reference to delivery and feedback on the quality of the records.

37. In the ensuing discussions, the representative of ILO emphasized the importance of complementarity between administrative records and surveys. She also highlighted the need to strengthen national statistics offices in the framework of national statistical systems to ensure access to administrative records. For her part, the representative of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica said that small countries needed support to know how to use administrative records for statistical purposes.

Recommendations on the integration of childhood-related administrative records

38. The presentation was made by the representative of INE of Chile, who spoke about the activities carried out by the Working Group to improve the quality and use of administrative records to follow up on Sustainable Development Goals related to children, as well as to design public policies. A questionnaire had been sent to national statistics offices to assess the level of integration of administrative records in various countries. At the same time, interviews were being conducted in each country, alongside consultations with experts in the field. Regarding the content of the document, apart from the assessment, there were plans to develop a typology of the integration systems identified in the region, as well as to develop strategies and recommendations for each type. Preliminary observations had been made on the information that had already been collected and she noted the great willingness of countries to make progress towards increased data linkage and capacity-building. In addition, she said that there were plans to include the gender perspective in the final report.

39. In the ensuing discussions, the representative of the National Statistics Institute (INE) of Spain highlighted the importance of administrative records in the production of official statistics. The delegate of the United Nations Children’s Fund remarked on the need to put national statistics offices at the heart of statistical production, which would require not only technical elements, but also political and legal will.

Tools for the production of disaster-related indicators

40. The representative of INEI of Peru presented the progress made by the Working Group, whose main objective was to develop a regional website that brought together reference materials and tools on disaster-related indicators. He explained the organization of work, which included bimonthly meetings and the creation of subgroups, as there were 12 member States. He presented the various aspects of the working process, including the requirements, assessment, the institutional and methodological matrix, and the regional and global approach to user consultation. It was hoped that the outcomes would contribute to global efforts related to disaster-risk statistics, the strengthening, monitoring and reporting of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and the optimization of resources and efforts to improve the quality of data. Lastly, he highlighted the need for a cross-cutting approach to the gender perspective through data disaggregated by gender, age and disability in measuring the impact of disasters, while applying the six guiding principles for a gender-based approach.

Assessment of statistics on work relationships and labour informality

41. The representative of INE of Chile spoke briefly about the Working Group’s objectives, which included progress towards harmonizing statistics on work relationships and labour informality. He then presented the programme of activities, highlighting the progress made in each of the Group’s areas of work. There had been consultations on the practices in each country for identifying and analysing work relationships and labour informality. Workshops had also been carried out and their content was available on the website of the Knowledge Transfer Network. Lastly, he detailed the activities carried out by the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics, which had revised a definition of informality and encouraged countries to research and participate in such decision-making, and enumerated the challenges, both statistical and legal, that Latin American and Caribbean countries faced in adopting the resolutions of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

42. The representative of ILO recalled that, in 2023, the twenty-first International Conference of Labour Statisticians would take place, with the main topic being the updating of measurements of

informality standards. She also mentioned the progress on analysis of employment during the COVID-19 pandemic that had arisen from the implementation of the resolutions of the nineteenth Conference and called on countries that had not yet completed the process to do so.

Recommendation for measuring perceptions in household surveys

43. The representative of INEGI of Mexico presented the progress made in the activities of the Working Group, in which eight countries participated and whose final output would be a document containing recommendations for measuring perceptions in the household surveys conducted by the region's national statistics offices. Those recommendations would include the consideration of international experiences in the area, the design and implementation of national consultations to identify the priority topics that would require further research, and the development of a proposed annotated index for the final document. He also highlighted the experience of INEGI in measuring perceptions, noted the importance of incorporating a gender perspective and said that the final document should be submitted in November 2023.

44. In the ensuing discussions, a representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Group, said that the need to collect information on perceptions had been raised at previous events, such as the twentieth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, at which a high-level dialogue had been held on the concept of development in transition, on the basis of *Latin American Economic Outlook 2019: Development in transition*.³ There was a consensus that official statistics on the subject remained poor and that it was highly important for national statistics offices and ministries to participate, in particular in the identification of relevant topics. The representative of DANE of Colombia expressed his country's satisfaction with the composition of the Group and said that it valued the leadership of INEGI in guiding the process, given that it had been one of the first national statistics offices in the region to gather information on perceptions systematically. He mentioned that mental health was a topic of great interest in the area.

Compilation of experiences in generating statistics relating to prison systems

45. The representative of INEGI of Mexico began his presentation by establishing a contrast between the high level of prison overcrowding in Latin American and Caribbean countries and the low capacity to produce official statistics to highlight the human rights situation in prison facilities. That had led the Working Group to develop a document on institutional capacities to produce statistics on the region's prison systems, which would make it possible to identify the main challenges in that area and improve the harmonization of statistics. He said that the Group had agreed on an annotated index for the final documents, developed an instrument to assess institutional capacities and made progress in gathering and systematizing the experiences of countries and in preparing some chapters. Lastly, he said that it was hoped that the final document would be delivered in August 2023.

46. In the ensuing discussions, the representative of the National Statistics Office of the Dominican Republic thanked INEGI for its leadership of the Group and wished to acknowledge, in particular, the support of the Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victims of Crime, Public Security and Justice (jointly established by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and INEGI). That support had been essential to the development of a plan to strengthen statistics on security in her country. She also announced that a prison census would be conducted in the Dominican Republic in 2023.

³ LC/PUB.2019/14.

Guide on the compilation and use of input-output tables

47. The representative of the Bank of Guatemala presented an overview of the progress made on the subject by the Working Group, whose aim was to provide a guide on the compilation and use of input-output tables that would facilitate and support the creation of such tables by the region's national statistics offices by providing recommendations on statistical processes with a gender perspective. He reported on the progress in the programme of activities for the biennium, had six stages; the first of those, on the preparation of a draft compilation of rectangular input-output tables, had already been completed and progress was being made on the second stage, which concerned recommendations on the treatment of secondary outputs. He emphasized that the guide was being developed with a narrative suited to the region, taking into account the specific features of individual countries, such as the high proportion of people working in the informal economy.

48. In the ensuing discussions, a representative of ECLAC, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Group, said that the progress made by the Group would be presented at the next annual seminar on national accounts, organized by ECLAC.

Knowledge Transfer Network

49. The representative of INE of Chile first provided some background information on the Knowledge Transfer Network, highlighting its increased importance in building knowledge and strengthening cooperation in the region. The objective of the 2022–2023 biennium was to continue to promote exchange activities through the platform, and there were therefore plans to conduct at least one monthly activity related to topics of regional interest arising from information-gathering carried out to identify such needs. She also mentioned the launch of the pilot stage of the Knowledge Transfer Network Community of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, a new virtual tool made up initially of two groups, one on issues of population and housing censuses and the other on the Sustainable Development Goals. She described the components of the new website, highlighting its features and the possibilities it offered to facilitate dialogue and knowledge-sharing. She said that the two groups were formed of focal points from the region's national statistics offices and explained how to apply to join.

50. In the ensuing discussions, the representative of the Dominican Republic mentioned a women's leadership workshop for managers and assistant managers that was being organized by her country and suggested following up on the topic through a community of practice under the Knowledge Transfer Network. The representative of ECLAC recalled how important the Network had been in the first months of lockdown after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, facilitating communication between the national statistics offices of the region. He also drew attention to the creation of communities that made it possible to address new areas of joint work, and offered countries the opportunity to propose topics via the platform.

Regional follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (agenda item 4)

51. In this section, the main outcomes of the work plans of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were presented, as well as the progress made by the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

52. The representative of Colombia presented the work plan of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group for the period 2022–2023 and indicated the main activities that had been carried out. The Group had been focusing its efforts on compiling information on capacity-building and training programmes, as well as on identifying good practices in innovation in data use, non-traditional methods of calculating indicators, and methods and guidelines that would facilitate a greater volume of disaggregated data. On the latter point, she referred to the support that the Group had provided to countries for small area estimation and the disaggregation of data by geographical location. She highlighted activities intended to improve the flow of information between countries and the bodies responsible. Lastly, she indicated the importance of participating in multilateral spaces through open monthly and quarterly meetings held by the Group as a way of linking the regional and global levels.

Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

53. The representative of Argentina spoke about the mandate and composition of the High-level Group, highlighting the work it carried out to improve the participation and degree of representation of members in the Group's activities. He mentioned forthcoming meetings, drawing attention to the fifth United Nations World Data Forum, which would take place in November 2024 in Medellín (Colombia) and would provide an opportunity to show the region's consistency in following up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as to highlight the work of the Statistical Conference of the Americas as a good regional practice in promoting, strengthening and ensuring the coherence of statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. Lastly, he referred to the Group's work to improve the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data and data creation mechanisms and their funding to follow up on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Report of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

54. The representative of ECLAC referred to the work carried out by the Group in 2022. In particular, he presented the online information system on national statistical capabilities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to produce the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. He provided background information on the project and described the system's functions and uses, its inclusion of national goals and indicators, its alignment with the capacity-building activities of the United Nations system, the identification of supply and demand in technical cooperation at the indicator level, the possibility of including all actors that generated information for following up on the 2030 Agenda, the inclusion of online reports and the possibility of having a control panel that took statistical institutions into account for that purpose, among other things. He also spoke about the creation of a collaborative online platform to improve communication on the Sustainable Development Goals, through the website of the Knowledge Transfer Network Community, and about the agreements reached at the Group's fifth meeting. Lastly, he mentioned the interest shown by Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago in participating in the pilot project on the online system, and indicated the steps that would be taken in the coming weeks to launch that project.

55. The representative of Mexico noted that the online system described was a tool of great use to countries and for Mexico in particular. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed his country's interest in being part of the pilot project, emphasizing that it would be highly useful.

56. The representative of Costa Rica expressed her country's concern about the dissolution of the national statistics office of El Salvador. She said that that country's General Directorate of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC) had been in operation for almost 140 years and had been taking steps to becoming an institution. She highlighted the fundamental role of national statistics offices in producing official statistics, in accordance with fundamental principles, including technical independence and the principles included in the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, she underscored that the regional statistical community must play a key role in ensuring that the authorities understood the importance of producing official statistics.

Other matters (agenda item 5)

Presentation of the document "Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030"

57. The representative of the ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs described the process of drafting and revising the document, highlighting countries' participation and contribution in the form of comments and observations on earlier versions. She then presented the index and provided a summary of the content of each of the chapters. The first chapter addressed the structural challenges of gender inequality, which concern socioeconomic inequality, the rigid sexual division of labour, the concentration of power and patriarchal cultural patterns. The second chapter referred to the regional institutional architecture supporting the production of gender statistics and their comparability, with a spotlight on bodies such as the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The third and fourth chapters addressed the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in national statistical systems and the partnerships between data producers and data users. The last chapter of the document focused on the production of gender statistics and on what should be measured to make move towards a care society.

Statistical activities of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

58. The representative of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) began her presentation by speaking about demographics and social statistics. She mentioned activities that had been carried out during the 2020 census round and a project to upgrade an e-portal containing data from censuses conducted in different countries. Regarding economic statistics, she mentioned collaboration on national accounts carried out with the United Nations Statistical Division, as well as the participation of CARICOM in the International Comparison Programme. With regard to agricultural statistics, she drew attention to a web seminar on agricultural records that had been conducted with Italy. Regarding statistics on the environment and climate change, she noted collaboration with ECLAC to carry out workshops and online courses, and the upcoming training on the StaTact tool with the United Nations Statistical Division in September 2022. As for multidomain statistics, she highlighted two regional workshops on data on gender-based violence. In the area of data analysis and dissemination, she mentioned a number of publications and journals on various topics. Lastly, she spoke about other activities related to issues such as the statistical quality framework, the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) and the launch of the online platform for statistical training and research in the Caribbean (e-CISTAR), among other things.

Progress in the International Comparison Programme (ICP)

59. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, after having spoken about the origins of the Programme, said that 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries had participated in the 2021 cycle. She referred to the status of implementation of the various surveys and capacity-building and information-validation activities of the ongoing cycle. She highlighted the support received from the World Bank, CARICOM and experts on various issues, as well as the continuous support of ECLAC, especially for those

Caribbean economies that did not use a demand-based approach to gather information on gross domestic product. The challenges faced included as financial and human resources-related constraints, mobility restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and the carrying out of the 2020 census round in that context, as well as the natural disasters that had occurred in some Caribbean countries, which had, in both cases, increased the demand on work teams and, ultimately, delayed the submission of data for the Programme. Lastly, she invited countries to continue to support the Programme and related work.

Regional cooperation activities of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21)

60. The representative of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS21) said that that body was a global statistical alliance for development in the twenty-first century that was part of the Statistics and Data Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Its main mandate was to help the national statistics offices of low-income countries to strengthen their planning capabilities, and its fundamental instrument was a national plan for statistical development. One of the relevant issues was funding for statistical data and the body had a clearing house for that purpose. Under that topic, it had developed a virtual platform with the aim of providing a tool that would link countries that gave money to those that received it so that countries could know where greater funding was required. He also mentioned the key activities that PARIS21 had undertaken with some of the region's countries, such as a regional seminar on climate change with Caribbean countries and ECLAC. The entity was keen to continue working on the issues of gender and communications, providing support to offices to better disseminate the work carried out. Lastly, he spoke about the Partnership's plans for collaboration with ECLAC, including in the United Nations World Data Forum and an online seminar on the coordination of national statistical systems, with the aim of expanding its activities in the region.

Report on the data ecosystem in Latin America

61. The representative of the Centre for International Strategic Thinking (CEPEI) presented the report on the data ecosystem in Latin America that his organization had prepared with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data. The aim of the document was to characterize the region's data ecosystems and understand how they worked in order to identify challenges and opportunities for development. The concept of the data ecosystem had been gaining traction since 2014, and included both producers and users of data. The main messages of the document included the need to rethink the role of national statistics offices, whose priorities were complying with their regular operations and which continued to struggle with traditional problems, and the need to create the conditions for innovation, as well as to use non-traditional data sources and make intensive use of administrative and geospatial data registries. In view of the above, the recommendations in the report focused on modernizing institutional frameworks, improving coordination and linkage mechanisms, innovation and incorporating non-traditional data sources in the production of official statistics.

Regional cooperation activities of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)

62. The speaker briefly explained that the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD) was a partnership with over 650 members from civil society, the private sector, government organizations and statistics offices, among other sectors. One of the topics addressed in the report was the "Data Values" project, under which a white paper had been developed that consisted of a road map for harnessing the potential of data and thereby improving people's lives. He also spoke about a group for collaboration on administrative records that aimed to address needs related to access to administrative data and the use of such data for statistical purposes. In addition, he referred to the project for data exchange

between the public and private sectors, explaining that the process had begun with two main areas of focus: the governance and structure of such mechanisms. He said that a high-level event on the effective exchange of public and private data for policy development had been carried out in Uruguay in hybrid format on 22 and 23 November, and had been co-organized by GPSDD and the country's National Statistical Institute (INE). Lastly, he invited countries to participate in the Festival of Data 2023, organized by GPSDD, which would be held in Uruguay in November of that year.

63. The representative of Uruguay reiterated the invitation to participate in the events that would take place in his country in November 2022 and November 2023, and recalled that one of the strategic pillars of INE of Uruguay was to promote the use of private sector data in statistical production. He emphasized that there were challenges that must be addressed in accessing and using such data, concerning factors related to privacy, accuracy and reliability, among other things.

Statistical framework for measuring the gender-related killing of women and girls, under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

64. The representative of UNODC said that the statistical framework had been developed together with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and adopted at the fifty-third session of the Statistical Commission. The relevance of the issue arose from empirical data that, around the world, on average, one woman or one girl was killed by a member of her family every 11 minutes. The representative confirmed that the challenge was to measure gender-related killings and specified how definitions of gender-based violence had been operationalized to create the statistical framework and the analytical variables used. Lastly, she invited countries to participate at the sixth International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics, which would take place in Seoul from 9 to 11 November 2022. The representative of the Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics, a joint initiative of UN-Women and INEGI of Mexico, said that the framework was intended to promote, improve and harmonize relevant data-collection instruments and was aimed at national statistics offices and other related bodies. She explained that the framework included a definition and typology of the gender-related killings of women and girls, and spoke about the context in which it had been created and the institutions that had participated in its development.

65. In the discussions that followed, the representative of the Inter-American Development Bank thanked the countries that had taken part in the survey of employees of national statistics offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, which had been intended to measure the competences of the employees of those bodies. He said that there had been a high level of participation and that the reports of the results would be available in the coming weeks, in addition to a regional report in early 2023. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations said that the ninth International Conference on Agricultural Statistics would take place in Washington D.C. in May 2023, and that the call for articles would be open until 14 October 2022. The representative of DANE of Colombia highlighted the presentations made, emphasized the importance of partnerships between organizations to making progress on different issues and referred to the links between the content presented and the experiences of Colombia.

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item 6)

66. The Executive Committee adopted the agreements contained in annex 1.

Closing session

67. At the closing session of the meeting, Rolando Ocampo, Director of the Statistical Division of ECLAC, and Marco Lavagna, Director of the National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC) of Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, took the floor.

68. The Director of the Statistical Division of ECLAC welcomed the variety of topics and stakeholders that had been part of the meeting, in particular the issues of national accounts and environmental statistics, and the work carried out by countries in the region. He highlighted the close collaboration with agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other organizations, and drew particular attention to CARICOM and the serious and determined efforts it had made in the area of statistics, especially in relation to the environment. Lastly, he thanked the Chair for all the support provided to the secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, as well as everyone who had contributed to the meeting.

69. The Director of INDEC of Argentina, serving as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, drew attention to the quality of presentations and inputs to the meeting, as well as the contributions of the Working Groups. It was essential to continue to work to promote the efforts of those Groups, which would primarily require the support of various countries and bodies. In order to implement the conclusions and recommendations and raise awareness on the various topics and issues, it was crucial to carry forward the necessary changes and innovations. In an era marked by the difficulties of the pandemic and the scarcity of human and financial resources, it was essential to collaborate to optimize work and make it more efficient. Lastly, he highlighted the work of ECLAC and Chile in the Knowledge Transfer Network, and called on countries to work together in the time remaining before the twelfth Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, which would take place in late 2023.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), at its twenty-first meeting, held in hybrid format on 24 and 25 August 2022,

1. *Thanks* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for their presentations on experiences in recently conducted population and housing censuses and the outlook from countries that are about to conduct them;

2. *Urges* the countries to continue implementing the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, taking into account the lessons learned from recent experiences as well as relevant international recommendations and standards to support the production of indicators and statistics that are essential for decision-making;

3. *Notes* the holding of the seminar Beyond GDP: statistical challenges of measuring development and the presentations given on updating the System of National Accounts and identifying complementary indicators for measuring development on issues such as gender gaps and different manifestations of inequalities, unpaid work and the relationship with the environment and its ecosystems, among others;

4. *Recognizes* that the production of multi-domain statistics such as environmental statistics, climate change statistics and statistics on disaster risk require close coordination between national statistical offices and the ministries and institutions responsible for these issues;

5. *Takes note* of the *First report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2022-2023, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*;¹

6. *Endorses* the Institutional and methodological recommendations for the measurement of disaster-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction² and urges the countries of the region to use them as a reference to strengthen the generation of disaster-related statistics;

7. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the successful preparation of the outputs produced by the working group to prepare an assessment of the capacities of statistical systems to measure international migration, which include “Priority initiatives, methodological resources and dissemination platforms in Latin America and the Caribbean relating to international migration”,³ “Assessment of national capacity for the production of data on international migration. Regional report by the member countries of the

¹ LC/CE.21/3.

² LC/CEA.11/20.

³ LC/CE.21/DDR/1.

working group on migration”,⁴ “Methodology for building an international migration statistics register”⁵ and “Methodological recommendations for the inclusion of information on the international migrant population in the calibration of expansion factors in household surveys: case study of the National Employment Survey in Chile”;⁶

8. *Thanks* the secretariat for the editing of the Spanish and translation into English of the complete versions of the methodological documents endorsed at the eleventh meeting of the Conference and the twenty-first meeting of the Executive Committee, in particular the “Methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean”, the “Methodological document on statistical use of economic administrative records”, the “Framework of reference for security and criminal justice statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”, and the “Guide for the implementation of a quality assurance framework for statistical processes and outputs”;

9. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the progress achieved by the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in carrying out the activities planned for the biennium and urges them to continue their work in order to complete the agreed outputs by the next meeting of the Conference;

10. *Appreciates* the efforts made by the working groups to mainstream the gender perspective into their work, seeking to contribute to gender equality, the elimination of stereotypes and policymaking by integrating the gender perspective in the production, analysis and use of statistical information, and encourages them to intensify these efforts in line with the recommendations shared by the advisory group on gender mainstreaming;

11. *Welcomes* the creation of virtual communities under the Knowledge Transfer Network on the themes of population censuses and the Sustainable Development Goals and invites countries to actively participate in these initiatives intended to encourage dialogue and the sharing of experiences on issues of importance for the countries of the region;

12. *Takes note* of the *Report on the activities of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean*,⁷ welcomes the progress in the development of an information system for the continuous update of the inventory of national capacities to produce the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goal global indicator framework, and invites countries to coordinate with the secretariat the action needed to implement them;

13. *Also takes note* of the document “Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030”⁸ and welcomes it as a combined contribution of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas towards strengthening the production of information on gender inequalities and supporting the implementation of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030;

⁴ LC/CE.21/DDR/2/Rev.1.

⁵ LC/CE.21/DDR/3.

⁶ LC/CE.21/DDR/4.

⁷ LC/CE.21/4.

⁸ LC/MDM-E.2022/3.

14. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the progress made in the implementation of the 2021 round of the International Comparison Programme in the region and urges countries to continue to address information needs and to move forward in incorporating the tasks related to the Programme in the regular work plans of statistical institutions, applying relevant international recommendations and standards and taking into account the importance of its results in the production of indicators and statistics that are essential for decision-making;

15. *Requests* that, at the thirty-ninth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Buenos Aires from 24 to 26 October 2022, the Chair report on the main activities undertaken by the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

Annex 2

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