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Thirteenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas
of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 25–27 November 2025

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA



A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is a subsidiary body of the Commission, established pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7, which defined as follows the objectives of the Conference: to promote the development and improvement of national statistics and work to ensure that they are comparable internationally, bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations; to promote international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies; and to draw up a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the demands of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources.

The activities of the Conference of the Americas of ECLAC are framed within the Strategic Plan, 2015–2025, which established as the pillars of action of the Conference the achievement of more robust institutions and a stronger governing role for national statistical offices; the development of human resources and statistical production in order to ensure quality; and regional and international coordination and cooperation for the development of official statistics in the region.

At the thirteenth meeting of the Conference, the member States will review the outcomes of the biennial programme of regional and international activities, 2024–2025, review and endorse the establishment of working groups for 2026–2027 and elect its Executive Committee for 2026–2027.

Participants will also discuss key issues related to strengthening national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, including emerging data governance and administration challenges, in particular where national data ecosystems are in a constant state of evolution driven by technological innovation, growing demand for timely and quality data, and the need for inter-institutional coordination. Discussions will also address the limitations of GDP as the main indicator of progress and alternative measurement methods that better reflect the multidimensional nature of sustainable development, to support the work of the high-level expert group on the Beyond GDP initiative .

Chair

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7, the Dominican Republic, in its capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, will preside over the thirteenth meeting of the Conference.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues:
 - (a) Challenges in data governance and administration in evolving national ecosystems;
 - (b) Measuring development beyond GDP: challenges and opportunities.

3. Outcomes of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2024–2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Review and adoption of the Strategic Plan, 2026–2035, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2026–2027, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Other matters.
7. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.
8. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the period 2026–2027.

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Conference will have before it the provisional agenda for adoption or amendment.¹

2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues

The following important issues for regional statistical development will be addressed in seminars:

(a) Challenges in data governance and administration in evolving national ecosystems

In this session, participants will address fundamental aspects of strengthening national statistical systems amid the increasing complexity of data production and use. The discussion will include progress in and implementation of new statistical legislation, and its role in institutional modernization; strengthening the technical autonomy of national statistical offices; and designing regulatory frameworks that facilitate access to data from various sources and the responsible use of such data. A central topic of discussion will be the use of administrative records, including population registers and the transition to register-based censuses, which presents both significant opportunities and challenges in terms of coverage, quality and the continuous updating of information.

In addition, participants will share national and regional experiences regarding information system interoperability and progress in linking data sources through technological platforms and robust institutional frameworks. Lastly, the discussion will address personal data protection and the ethical principles that should guide the use of data, especially from private sources, in the production of official statistics.

¹ LC/CEA.13/1.

(b) Measuring development beyond GDP: challenges and opportunities

The high-level expert group on the Beyond GDP initiative was established in 2025 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in fulfilment of the mandate set forth in the Pact for the Future. Its purpose is to develop a conceptual framework and a set of sustainable development indicators to complement and go beyond GDP. The indicators should be limited in number, universal and comparable while also reflecting diverse national realities, and should build on existing statistical progress made, in particular the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The group is composed of 14 recognized experts in economics, public policy and sustainability and presided over by two co-chairs, with technical support from various United Nations entities.

The session on the theme “Measuring development beyond GDP: challenges and opportunities” will provide a space for open and informal dialogue as part of the high-level expert group’s consultations. Under this agenda item, participants will examine the limitations of using GDP as the main indicator of progress and consider alternatives that more adequately reflect the multidimensional nature of sustainable development, including the social, environmental and human well-being dimensions. These consultations will elicit inputs from national statistical offices and other specialized agencies at the national and regional levels to strengthen the legitimacy, relevance and applicability of the expert group’s recommendations, ensuring that the proposed metrics align with and contribute to the effective implementation of member States’ priorities.

Reference documents:

- Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1)
- Seville Commitment (A/RES/79/323)
- Report of the seminar on the measurement of development and its relationship to international cooperation (LC/OR.2025-1/1)
- High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP: Interim Progress Report. November 2025

3. Outcomes of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2024–2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

At its twelfth meeting, the Conference adopted its biennial programme of regional and international activities, 2024–2025, which included the workplans of the working groups functioning during the biennium. Under this agenda item, the outcomes of these working groups will be reviewed, and the peer review mechanism of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean will be submitted for adoption by the Conference, having already been through a review and comment process at an earlier stage as part of a regional consultation.

Working documents:

- Report on the outcomes of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2024–2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CEA.13/3)

- Peer review mechanism of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CEA.13/4)
- Practical guide for production of harmonized statistics on forced displacement and migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (summary) (LC/CEA.13/5)
- Manual on the use of administrative data and its integration for statistical purposes related to children and adolescents (summary) (LC/CEA.13/8)

Reference document:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2024–2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CEA.12/10)
- Analysis of technologies and methodologies for census mapping (LC/CEA.13/DDR/1)
- Data imputation methodologies applied in household surveys and population censuses (LC/CEA.13/DDR/2)
- Recommendations for incorporating small area estimation methodologies into the production of statistics (LC/CEA.13/DDR/3)
- Guidelines on metadata management when implementing the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (LC/CEA.13/DDR/4)
- Manual on the use of administrative data and its integration for statistical purposes related to children and adolescents (LC/CEA.13/DDR/5)
- Guidelines for development of an integrated system of well-being indicators (LC/CEA.13/DDR/6)
- Practical guide for production of harmonized statistics on forced displacement and migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CEA.13/DDR/7)
- Analysis of measurement of dependent contractors and the informal economy (LC/CEA.13/DDR/8)
- Recommendations for strengthening official environmental statistics systems (LC/CEA.13/DDR/9)
- Analysis of area frames in agricultural surveys (LC/CEA.13/DDR/10)
- Reference guide on police administrative records (LC/CEA.13/DDR/11)

4. Review and adoption of the Strategic Plan, 2026–2035, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Conference approved strategic plans for the periods 2005–2015 and 2015–2025 to guide its work as the main body for coordination, cooperation and strengthening with regard to the statistical systems of Latin America and the Caribbean. The plans have helped to identify common structural challenges, establish shared objectives and encourage coordinated action among the countries in order to contribute to the development of statistical capacities in the region. The Strategic Plan, 2026–2035, is a continuation of those efforts, with a renewed vision for the next decade, helping to guide collective action by the national statistical systems of the region in the framework of the Conference.

The new strategic plan offers a non-binding common regional framework, proposing joint lines of action and cooperation mechanisms that can be advanced by the Conference in its role as an intergovernmental forum. It also includes a set of indicators aligned with specific goals for biennial monitoring of progress in the plan's implementation. Under this agenda item, the Strategic Plan, 2026–2035, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of Latin America and the Caribbean will be submitted to the Conference for adoption, having already been through a review and comment process at an earlier stage as part of a regional consultation.

Working documents:

- Strategic Plan, 2026–2035, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CEA.13/6)

Reference document:

- Strategic Plan, 2015–2025 (LC/L.4070/Rev.1)

5. Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2026–2027, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Conference is responsible for analysing and endorsing the proposed outputs envisaged in the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2026–2027, which will steer the activities of the working groups in that period. Views and suggestions regarding the proposed activities will be shared. In addition, the completed and planned activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network and its communities of practice and other groups related to the Conference will be presented.

Working documents:

- Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2026–2027, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CEA.13/7)

Reference document:

- Guidelines for the formation and functioning of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (LC/CEA.11/10)

6. Other matters

Under this agenda item, representatives will have the opportunity to discuss any matters of importance for the region not addressed under the preceding items.

7. Consideration and adoption of resolutions

Under this item, the Conference will discuss and adopt the resolutions and agreements it deems appropriate.

8. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the period 2026–2027

Previously, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 on the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, the Conference elected an Executive Committee consisting of a Chair and six members. Henceforth, pursuant to resolution 13(XII) of the Conference, adopted at its twelfth meeting, and resolution 768(PLEN.37) of the Committee of the Whole of ECLAC, in which the Committee of the Whole took note of resolution 13(XII) of the Conference, the total number of members of the Executive Committee is increased to eight, with the additional seat being reserved for the country that served as Chair in the preceding biennium, without using a slot from that country's subregional grouping. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7, the Chair may not be re-elected for a second consecutive term but may be elected as a member of the Committee for the term following its chairship. Any country that has served on the Committee for three successive terms may be elected again after two years have elapsed since the end of its last term of office. Subregional representation will be based on the four country groupings established following geographical and linguistic considerations.

Reference document:

- Criteria for the formation of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC as from 2020 (LC/CE.17/5/Rev.1)