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of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

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**PROPOSAL FOR 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**



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INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the proposed outputs selected for development by the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the 2022–2023 biennium.

Through a call for proposals from 4 August to 10 September 2021, all national statistical offices (NSOs) in Latin America and the Caribbean were invited to submit proposed outputs to be developed over the next two years. A total of 14 proposals were received from 8 countries.¹ These proposals were then submitted for consideration, and all the countries in the region were asked to indicate the 10 most relevant proposals for statistical development, along with those on which they could actively collaborate. On the basis of the outcomes of this process and the considerations of the Executive Committee, a total of 11 proposals were selected to be presented for adoption at the eleventh meeting of the Conference.

The selected proposals aim to contribute to the development of official statistics through the preparation of guidelines and recommendations in: peer review, data stewardship, gender, household survey quality, administrative record quality, administrative records related to children, disaster indicators, labour and labour informality, measurement of perceptions, penitentiary systems and input-output tables.

Below are the programmes of work for each proposal, which include, for the first time, a section describing the contribution of the output to the visibility and mainstreaming of the gender perspective in statistical production, in accordance with the provisions of the tenth meeting of the Conference (Santiago, 2019).²

¹ Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

² See paragraph 26 of resolution 11(X) [online] <https://cea.cepal.org/10/sites/cea10/files/cea.10-resolution.pdf>.

I. PEER REVIEW MECHANISM IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. Background

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has put additional pressure on NSOs in the region. There is an increasing need for timely official statistics with greater thematic coverage and quality that are useful for public policy decision-making. In addition, the proliferation of new data sources and statistical processing techniques has allowed the data ecosystem to expand, creating a pressing need to strengthen governance and statistical capacity.

In this context, quality assurance is even more important. The legitimacy of NSOs as leaders of national statistical systems (NSS) derives from their adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and other international and regional standards such as the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, so the relevance of the information produced depends, to a large extent, on the ability of NSS to demonstrate a high level of compliance.

ECLAC member countries have made significant progress in promoting statistical quality assurance. For example, the working group to develop a guide to the implementation of a quality assurance framework for official statistics for the 2020–2021 biennium prepared a self-assessment tool based on the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics to enable the countries of the region to identify areas for improvement and monitor progress. However, there are other statistical quality assurance tools to be explored.

External peer review is a fundamental tool for building credibility based on an impartial evaluation by other institutions or NSOs. Nonetheless, such instruments are not common to all Latin American and Caribbean countries. The development of this type of methodology has been led mainly by institutions such as Eurostat, where regular peer reviews are carried out among European Union countries, or the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which uses this mechanism in its process to evaluate the access of potential members.

An adaptation of these methodologies for Latin American and Caribbean countries could be very useful for quality assurance in NSOs, and for strengthening regional statistical institutions. The self-assessment tool, the Eurostat peer review methodology and the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean are presented in this context as inputs to promote the assurance of statistical principles through the adoption of a peer review system for Latin America and the Caribbean.

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Consolidate a regional peer review methodology institutionalized within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, based on the analysis of regional references such as the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, and international peer review methodologies such as that of Eurostat.

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Update the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, using as a reference the codes of good practices of the countries in the region and the challenges in terms of producing statistical information, to ensure it is suited to the new data ecosystem.
- (ii) Prepare the methodological document and the necessary instruments for the development of the peer review, according to the outcomes of the analysis of international benchmarks and implementation experiences in the countries.
- (iii) Implement a pilot test of the proposed peer review methodology to identify opportunities for improvement and generate a basis for its implementation in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. Expected outcome

The peer review methodology is expected to encourage the use of international and regional quality assurance standards and strengthen statistical cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean countries through a joint contribution to the promotion of good practices and the transfer of knowledge.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

Part of the review of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean will be focused on integrating the mainstreaming of the differentiated and intersectional gender perspective in the production of official statistics. Moreover, the peer review mechanism is expected to consider the inclusion of the gender perspective as an evaluation variable in the methodology used for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. Coordinating country

Colombia: National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE).

6. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

The costs associated with the work of the working group are borne by the coordinating and member countries based on the in-kind contributions derived from the human resources allocated by each for the achievement of the proposed objectives. However, taking into account the importance of the output to be prepared, the participation of regional development banks and international organizations would ensure the output is robust and guarantee its implementation.

8. Workplan

Activity	Start date	End date
Updating of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean		
Preparation of the proposal to update the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted in 2011 in accordance with the new data ecosystem	January 2022	June 2022
Workshop on the proposal to update the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean	August 2022	August 2022
Methodological design for peer review in Latin American and Caribbean countries		
Review of international benchmarks and analysis of peer review implementation mechanisms	August 2022	October 2022
Preparation of the methodological document and instruments for peer review in Latin American and Caribbean countries	November 2022	May 2023
Workshop to inform the countries of the region of the methodology designed for peer review	June 2023	June 2023
Design and implementation of the pilot test of the peer review methodology		
Selection of the NSO for the pilot test and formation of the peer review team	July 2023	July 2023
Review	August 2023	September 2023
Preparation of the peer review report	October 2023	October 2023

II. ASSESSMENT OF DATA STEWARDSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. Background

As the availability of non-traditional data sources has increased and new actors have emerged to generate useful data for the production of statistics, it has become necessary to reconsider the functioning of NSS, along with the role of NSOs beyond data production. Globally, the concept of data stewardship has been used to describe the type of function required in this new context. This new role goes beyond the management and maintenance of information security; it is framed in a governance policy that permeates the data life cycle and highlights the public value and building of trust in official statistics.

In the framework of the fifty-second session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presented a summary of case studies on national practices that may be associated with the concept of data stewardship, including the experiences of Argentina, Colombia and Mexico. On that occasion, the creation of a working group on global data stewardship was also adopted, with the following objectives:

- (i) Enhance knowledge and provide recommendations in respect of data stewardship, including approaches to governance, collaboration, methods and access, which can be applied to a wider data ecosystem, taking into account different national statistical office starting points.
- (ii) Promote the commitment of the statistical community and other stakeholders to work on the implementation of data governance in the national statistical system, in particular through the national statistical office's coordination role.
- (iii) Promote collaboration around data, whether public-public or public-private, that allows the regular use of public interest data for the generation of official statistics, preserving confidentiality and privacy.
- (iv) Improve the performance of national data ecosystems through the expansion of methods and access inspired from a data stewardship approach.

The discussion on data management at the global level is led, to a large extent, by countries with a high level of statistical development and whose functioning is closer to this concept than is usual for Latin American and Caribbean countries. In order for the concept of data management to be useful in guiding statistical development in the region, it needs to be brought closer to the regional reality, taking into consideration its particularities and challenges, as well as its different starting points. For example, a functional and correct translation of the concept for the region is necessary, since it can be interpreted in different ways (custody, safeguarding, control and administration, among others).

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Make progress in the definition of a regional concept of data management in order to propose enabling elements for its implementation and mainstreaming by NSS, particularly NSOs, taking into account the particularities, challenges and different starting points of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Establish the core aspects of the concept of data management and its applicability in the countries of the region.
- (ii) Assess the forms and conditions of access of NSOs to administrative records and other data sources external to the institution, and identify the most common access mechanisms, based on the work already done (Generic Law on Official Statistics for Latin America, Working Group on Institution-building, among others).
- (iii) Create spaces for dialogue at the regional and intraregional levels (through virtual or face-to-face seminars) to exchange perspectives on the concept of data management in the region and to consider the best available experiences and practices.
- (iv) Establish proposals for actions to move towards the implementation of data stewardship in the various national contexts, examining the ethical frameworks of official statistics.
- (v) Create recommendations on the conceptualization and translation of data management to facilitate greater understanding and possible implementation in the region.
- (vi) Contribute to the mainstreaming of the concept by commenting on the documents resulting from the work of the working groups adopted for the 2022–2023 biennium.
- (vii) Determine the relationship between data management and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Expected outcome

Fostering of the implementation of the data management function in Latin American and Caribbean NSOs, by establishing the main elements of the concept, providing a current status and proposing possible steps to follow in order to move forward on this path and promote its incorporation into the region's NSS.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

In conducting the assessment of the regional situation, consideration should be given to ensuring that administrative record data sources and other sources that provide information to the NSOs allow for correct disaggregation by sex, as well as an assessment of possible biases in the capture of information on the situation of men and women. It is also hoped that the assessment will shed light on good practices related to the role of data stewards as promoters of the inclusion of the gender perspective in the generation of their own statistics and those of the other members of the NSS.

5. Coordinating countries

Argentina: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC).

Colombia: National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE).

6. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

The costs associated with the work of the group will be borne by the NSOs in kind through the efforts of staff assigned by each NSO to meet the objectives of the group. Depending on the health situation, funding sources will be sought if face-to-face seminars are organized.

8. Workplan

Activity	Start date	End date
Preparation and validation of the data gathering questionnaire	January 2022	February 2022
Circulation of the questionnaire, systematization and analysis of results	March 2022	April 2022
Preparation of a note on the main elements of data stewardship and proposed definition of the concept	April 2022	June 2022
Preparation of a report with detailed mapping by country of access to administrative data and other sources	July 2022	October 2022
Seminars to present and discuss results	October 2022	December 2022
Preparation and publication of the final document	January 2023	June 2023

III. GUIDELINES FOR MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO STATISTICAL PRODUCTION

1. Background

Gender mainstreaming was established in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) as a central strategy for addressing gender equality in public policy. The Beijing Platform for Action stresses the importance of timely gender statistics for policy formulation, and requests national, regional and international statistical services “to ensure that statistics related to individuals are collected, compiled, analysed and presented by sex and age and reflect problems, issues and questions related to women and men in society”.³

At the regional level, in the framework of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, a Regional Gender Agenda has been developed which underscores the importance of States’ producing and disseminating gender-sensitive data and statistics for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies. Information systems have also been singled out as one of the ten fundamental pillars for achieving sustainable development in the region from the standpoint of gender equality and women’s autonomy and human rights.

The Statistical Conference of the Americas has also recognized the importance of the production, dissemination and use of statistics with a gender perspective. This led to the creation of the Working Group on Gender Statistics during the fourth meeting of the Conference held in Santiago in 2007. The group operated until 2019 and met its objective of promoting the production, development, systematization and consolidation of the generation of statistics and gender indicators to inform the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies.

At the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in Santiago in November 2019, the governments of the region recognized “the cross-cutting nature of gender issues and [asked] that the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas mainstream the gender perspective into their work, along with other cross-cutting elements of statistical work such as classifiers”.⁴ This regional initiative has inspired the global statistical community to adopt gender mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations Statistical Commission.⁵

Several countries have made efforts to mainstream the gender perspective in the production of official statistics, through actions such as developing statistics that are crucial for gender equality (such as the measurement of the use of time and unpaid work and its accounting in national accounts, statistics on gender-based violence against women and access to and control of assets, among other issues); the creation of gender units in national statistical offices and the preparation of documents with guidelines for incorporating the gender perspective into statistical operations.

³ United Nations, *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1), New York, 1996, para. 206 a.

⁴ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report of the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: Santiago, 19–21 November 2019* (LC/CEA.10/9), Santiago, 2020, para. 26.

⁵ “The Statistical Commission: [...] (b) Requested that a gender perspective be adopted and integrated into all the agenda items of the Commission, as is, for example, the current practice in the Statistical Conference of the Americas” (United Nations, *Statistical Commission Report on the fifty-first session (3–6 March 2020)* (E/2020/24-E/CN.3/2020/37), New York, 2020, agreement 51/115).

However, challenges remain in terms of incorporating the gender perspective into statistical production, especially in emerging issues, such as the link between gender inequalities and the economic and environmental spheres, which require further conceptual development and guidelines for progress in the production of statistics.

In 2016, the United Nations Statistics Division developed a handbook, *Integrating a Gender Perspective into Statistics*,⁶ which is a starting point for the regional guide. This guide will also seek to systematize the work of various countries in the region to integrate the gender perspective into statistical production and will be enriched with information from other entities, international organizations and advances in other regions.

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Provide a methodological and conceptual tool to guide the incorporation of the gender perspective into the production of official statistics, mainly with respect to those priority issues.

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Identify, review and systematize the work of the countries of the region (and other regions) as well as the most recent advances of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to integrate the gender perspective in the production of statistics related to education, labour, poverty, the environment, food security, decision-making, health, migration and forced displacement, violence against women, and any other issue that may be related to gender inequality, particularly emerging and non-traditional ones in gender statistics.
- (ii) Provide a general conceptual framework on the gender perspective in the field of statistical production, including considerations of gender identity variables.
- (iii) Define criteria to be considered, as well as recommendations to be followed in order to incorporate the gender perspective into each phase of the statistical production process.
- (iv) Contribute with useful recommendations for establishing statistical standards that the countries of the region can adapt to their conditions, types of NSS, institutional environments, processes and outputs, for the production and presentation of information with a gender perspective.

3. Expected outcome

Improvement of the quality and thematic coverage of statistical production with a gender perspective and ensuring these statistics are more clearly available so that they can be more widely used by those who design and implement public policies.

Closure of existing gaps in the production of statistics with a gender perspective and standardization of their production in official sources.

⁶ United Nations, *Integrating a Gender Perspective into Statistics* (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/111), New York, 2016.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

Statistics is an essential tool for measuring the differences and inequalities faced by women and men in various areas of life. Gender-sensitive statistics make it possible to measure and detect the needs, opportunities and contributions of women and men to society.

It is therefore essential for the production of statistics to follow cross-cutting guidelines that ensure that each phase of the process takes into account the conceptual and methodological resources needed to avoid gender bias, and to ensure that gender roles, relations and inequalities are captured. It is also important for the statistics generated to capture differences in distinct groups of women and men.

5. Coordinating country

Mexico: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

6. Technical secretariats

Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

- Human resources of NSOs.
- Support from the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

8. Workplan

Activity	Start date	End date
Launch of the working group and confirmation of the countries and focal points interested in participating in the preparation of the Guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective into statistical production	November 2021	November 2021
Internal dissemination of the confirmation of countries and focal points and convening of a preparatory meeting	November 2021	December 2021
Preparation of an annotated index and formation of working subgroups for chapter development, and beginning of activities in subgroups	December 2021	February 2022

Activity	Start date	End date
Collection of sources and internal review of progress	February 2022	March 2022
Consultation with the member countries of the working group and representatives of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on efforts to mainstream gender in statistical production and its systematization	March 2022	April 2022
Development in parallel of chapters, according to the annotated index of the guidelines	April 2022	June 2022
Review and presentation of progress	June 2022	September 2022
Round of comments on the chapters	September 2022	October 2022
Preparation of an integrated draft of the guidelines	October 2022	February 2023
Consultation of the Conference member countries on the draft guidelines	March 2023	April 2023
Incorporation of comments into the document	April 2023	August 2023
Presentation of the final document to the Executive Committee of the Conference for adoption	September 2023	September 2023
Editing and printing of the final document	October 2023	December 2023

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QUALITY ANALYSIS OF HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

1. Background

Household surveys represent a particular method of social research which allow specific factors to be investigated at the individual, household or dwelling level, in order to obtain accurate inferences about constructs of interest in a wide range of topics (economic, labour, social, educational, health and time-use issues, among many others). In addition, the result of these statistical operations is a robust and consolidated instrument for monitoring the indicators required for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, and for tracking countries' progress in terms of common goals and objectives.

For example, the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, presented at the forty-ninth session of the Statistical Commission, concluded that a total of 77 of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators can be estimated from household surveys, on topics as diverse as health, education, gender equality, poverty, hunger, labour and justice, among others.⁷

Although the household surveys implemented in Latin America vary in type and characteristics, they share similarities in the concepts and processes used for their design and analysis, and face common challenges. One challenge is the absence of clear criteria and reference documentation regarding the limits of disaggregation of information, the measurement of sampling error and the relevance of the use and dissemination of figures from the processing of these statistical operations, in addition to the absence of systematized tools and methods to measure the quality of the information generated for decision-making.

Although the precision of the estimations is often considered an indicator of quality, the correct estimation of sampling error and the determination of the precision of the estimators requires variables on the sample design which are often not available for the user of the statistics, as this information may affect statistical confidentiality. To overcome this challenge, several methodologies may be applied by NSOs, such as replicate weights, together with anonymization processes, which provide the necessary information for the correct estimation of sampling errors and their subsequent evaluation in terms of the statistical quality of the figure obtained.

In this context, it is considered appropriate to resume the regional collaborative work agenda to jointly address the challenges in the application and use of household surveys, taking as a reference the progress made by the Working Group on Household Surveys in previous bienniums, and focusing on the measurement of the statistical quality of user analyses.

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Develop recommendations for the harmonized analysis of the quality of the figures resulting from household surveys and for the measurement of sampling error, using methodologies that are affordable to the users of these statistics.

⁷ United Nations, *Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys. Note by the Secretary-General* (E/CN.3/2018/7), 2017 [online] <https://undocs.org/en/E/CN.3/2018/7>.

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Systematize the current state of publication and dissemination practices of figures from household sample surveys.
- (ii) Establish a regional standardized procedure following international recommendations and good practices, which can be adapted to the specific reality of each country and each survey, for measuring the quality and precision of the estimates resulting from the processing and analysis of household sample surveys.
- (iii) Examine the particular characteristics of database anonymization processes and their impact on the measurement of sampling error by users of household surveys.
- (iv) Define a set of appropriate methodologies for the estimation of sampling error with anonymized household survey databases using replicate weights.

3. Expected outcome

The document of methodological recommendations on the measurement of the quality of household survey figures will propose regional standards adaptable to the countries of the region, within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, to determine the reliability of the figures derived from the processing of household surveys, as well as the generation of novel methodological practices to estimate sampling error by external users using the anonymized databases published by the NSOs of the region.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

Household surveys are widely used to analyse gender inequalities. A specific example are the gaps in access to employment opportunities between men and women revealed by labour surveys, or the time spent on unpaid domestic work activities revealed by time-use surveys. The recommendations seek to ensure that the analysis of the surveys is able to generate accurate and consistent empirical foundations for measuring the gaps between men and women, and thus make the best possible contribution to the design of public policies for gender equality.

5. Coordinating country

Chile: National Institute of Statistics (INE).

6. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

Technical resources of the NSOs, technical support from staff of the Statistics Division of ECLAC.

In particular, INE of Chile and ECLAC will provide logistical support to the meetings arising from the plan of activities.

8. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date
Establishment of the working group to prepare a methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean, with countries and focal points confirming their interest in participating	November 2021	January 2022
First proposal on the content of the document and discussion with the working group	February 2022	March 2022
Systematization of information on the current state of quality assessment practices and the estimation of sampling error in household surveys in the countries of the region	March 2022	June 2022
Definition of standardized quality criteria on the figures produced on the basis of household surveys	June 2022	September 2022
Presentation of progress at the first virtual meeting of the working group	October 2022	October 2022
Definition of the methodologies that will be considered to estimate the sampling error with anonymized databases	October 2022	March 2023
Presentation of progress at the second virtual meeting of the working group	April 2023	April 2023
Consultation on the draft document with member countries of the working group	May 2023	June 2023
Discussion of the final draft at a virtual meeting of the working group	July 2023	July 2023
Final document sent to the secretariat of the Conference	August 2023	August 2023

V. QUALITY ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

1. Background

The use of administrative data as inputs for the production of statistical information has been increasing in different NSOs worldwide. This is because statistics based on administrative sources provide efficient alternatives for the generation of information with high public value and allow the structuring and implementation of integrated systems of statistical records. In addition, the increased capacity for data capture and management, along with the emergence of more efficient statistical tools, has created challenges and opportunities for the use of data of public interest to support the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policy.

In this regard, the importance of the use of administrative records has grown as these records are a good source for the monitoring of indicators and variables of the population in various dimensions, such as employment, demographics, business dynamics and public health, among others. Administrative records derive from the day-to-day operations of public and private institutions and, therefore, include transactions, facts or attributes of different types of agents that are not necessarily intended for statistical use.

As a result, a recurrent problem with the use of administrative records for statistical purposes is that the data sets that comprise them are compiled and updated by other entities of the NSS for administrative purposes,⁸ which may lead to missing values, under- or over-coverage and inconsistencies, among other problems. It is thus fundamental for NSOs to assess the quality of data sets using an effective and standardized approach that integrates both a focus on the source and the perspective of use.⁹ Despite the efforts made by the region's NSOs to promote the use of administrative records, there is still no tool that allows countries to determine the quality of these records for statistical use. The working group to develop a guide to the implementation of a quality assurance framework for official statistics and the working group to prepare a methodological document on conceptual aspects and statistical use of economic administrative records for the 2020–2021 biennium have made progress in defining good practices and guidelines for the statistical use of administrative records, but the region still lacks a standardized instrument for assessing the quality of these records. In fact, such practices have been more common in countries in other regions, such as the Netherlands and Norway.

The lack of a tool to determine the approximate quality of administrative records may limit the consistent statistical use of these sources of information. Therefore, the joint development of a regional instrument for quality assurance of administrative records—based on the experiences of the working groups of the Conference, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and other international benchmarks—will strengthen the capacity to produce relevant, timely, high-quality statistical information in the region.

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Draft recommendations on the management of administrative records for use in the production of official statistics, with an emphasis on quality management and confidentiality, from the perspective of both sources and use, based on the consolidation of an assessment tool for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

⁸ P. Daas and others, “Evaluation of the quality of administrative data used in the Dutch virtual census”, *Administrative Records for Survey Methodology*, A. Chun and others (eds.), Hoboken, Wiley, 2021.

⁹ P. Daas and S. Ossen, *Report on methods preferred for the quality indicators of administrative data sources*, BLUE-Enterprise and Trade Statistics (BLUE-ETS), 2011.

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Identify the quality management processes for administrative records in Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- (ii) Build a quality assessment tool for administrative records based on systematization of results.
- (iii) Identify good practices at the regional level regarding quality management of integration of administrative records and traditional statistical operations such as surveys and censuses.
- (iv) Disseminate the outcomes of application of the tool in member countries.

3. Expected outcome

Promotion of the use of administrative records to produce timely, reliable and accessible statistical information, by consolidating a tool to assess the quality of administrative records as inputs for NSOs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

The gender perspective will be mainstreamed into the administrative record quality assessment tool in two ways. Firstly, the aim is to determine whether policies and instruments exist that ensure the inclusion of the gender perspective during consolidation of new administrative records, so that they can meet information requirements for variables that are relevant to ensuring gender equality through official statistics. Secondly, the intention is to include questions in the assessment tool regarding the existence of mechanisms for integrating administrative records with other data sources to ensure that they facilitate the consolidation of gender-disaggregated information.

5. Coordinating country

Colombia: National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE).

6. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

The costs associated with the work of the working group shall be borne by the coordinating and member countries based on the in-kind contributions derived from the human resources allocated by each for the accomplishment of the proposed objectives.

8. Workplan

Activity	Start date	End date
Preparation and validation of the questionnaire for identifying administrative record quality management processes in Latin American and Caribbean countries. This questionnaire will include a specific section on monitoring of the quality of the processes to integrate administrative records with censuses and surveys, as well as practices related to ensuring confidentiality.	December 2021	February 2022
Application of the questionnaire, systematization and analysis of results	February 2022	March 2022
Preparation of a note on quality management of administrative records	March 2022	April 2022
Design of a quality assessment tool for administrative records, based on information from the questionnaire	May 2022	June 2022
Selection of technological platform	May 2022	June 2022
Execution of pilot test	June 2022	July 2022
Seminars to present and discuss results	August 2022	August 2022
Preparation of the final document, which will include recommendations on the quality management of integration processes	August 2022	November 2022

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS RELATED TO CHILDREN

1. Background

Since 2015, the working group on statistics on childhood and adolescence has focused its efforts on improving the region's capacity to produce statistics on children and adolescents.

A recurring theme that has emerged during the group's work has been the statistical use of administrative records in the region. The migration and health crises have made it clear that current administrative record-keeping systems do not produce information quickly enough, exclude vulnerable populations and, in some cases, are fragile in crisis situations.

At the fourth face-to-face meeting of the working group on statistics on childhood and adolescence, held in Panama in October 2019, it was agreed that each country in the region should have integrated administrative record systems for children. An integrated records platform would reduce the cost of policy planning and assessment, generating information more frequently and allowing for more complex analyses, both by connecting variables from different thematic areas and by creating profiles over time of a country's inhabitants. In addition, because of the infrastructure required for integration, systems would also tend to be more resilient and inclusive.

However, the creation of an integrated records platform entails considerable challenges:

- The legal and policy environment must help to overcome the information silos in relevant ministries, which have often been responsible for producing child-related records (such as those concerning education or health).
- High-quality administrative records should have basic features to enable linkage, including digitization of records, use of unique identifiers and harmonization of data storage architecture.
- Administrative records should be inclusive or, at the very least, methodologies should be in place to determine the direction and extent of biases in the data.
- The necessary technological infrastructure must be in place to process and store information efficiently and securely.
- Countries must have the capacity to draw on administrative data records. The demand for an integrated systems platform confirms this need.
- Given the high likelihood of varying levels of maturity of administrative record systems in each country, the challenges and actions required to create integrated platforms in each country are also expected to be different from country to country, possibly by a great extent.

An assessment of the maturity of the records of each country in the region is the first step towards implementation of integrated national childhood records systems. The assessment will make it possible to formulate recommendations and strategies for modernizing and integrating the different types of record systems in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. It will also allow countries to accelerate development of their administrative records, given that, in the medium term, the results and the recommendations derived from the assessment will give rise to workplans based on a common understanding of methodologies and quality standards that are adapted to each country.

For records to be integrated they must also be modern, which is essential for delivering services, monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and planning in the fields of development and humanitarian issues. For example, integration of education and health systems, two important areas relating to children, would allow for more sophisticated analyses to explain educational or health-related achievements. Integration with other systems (employment, income, justice) would allow more complete profiles to be formed and enable causality to be attributed to relationships found in the analysis, all at a low cost in terms of resources and time.

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Improve the quality and use of administrative records for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and for the design of public policies to safeguard the rights of children and adolescents in the region.

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Perform an analysis of the level of maturity of the administrative records for childhood in the region, in order to determine the readiness of each system for integration.
- (ii) Prepare a typology for the development of record systems in the region.
- (iii) Formulate strategies or recommendations for preparation of each type of system to integrate records.
- (iv) Where possible, the analysis will include the integration of records with census information.

3. Expected outcome

The analysis and recommendations will lay the groundwork for regional efforts to develop administrative records on children and would feed national projects, projects with international agencies, and projects in the framework of South-South cooperation.

In the long term, it is expected that countries with records systems that are at different levels of development will move towards integrating them. This will lead to the production of more frequent, higher quality and more disaggregated data on SDG indicators for children.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

In addition to providing insight into the situation of girls at the local level, modernization and integration of administrative records will allow for more in-depth analysis of the reality in which they live. For example, a report on teenage pregnancy could be linked to records on health, justice, abuse or work. When systems are not integrated, it is not possible to form such linkages.

5. Coordinating countries

Chile: National Institute of Statistics (INE).

Uruguay: National Institute of Statistics (INE).

6. Technical secretariats

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

For the hiring of an expert to prepare the analysis and recommendations:

- Supplementary funding source: UNICEF - US\$ 50,000

From the bodies that are proposed for coordination and assurance of the technical quality of the output:

- Technical staff from INE of Uruguay and INE of Chile: it is estimated that each coordinator will contribute the equivalent of US\$ 7,000 in staff hours.

From other member countries joining the working group to provide inputs and guide output development:

- It is estimated that each participating entity will contribute the equivalent of US\$ 2,000 in working hours of their technical staff.

8. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date	Remarks
Formulation of the terms of reference for the expert who will prepare the output	Fourth quarter of 2021	First quarter of 2022	
Preparation and dissemination of workplan	First quarter of 2022	Second quarter of 2022	In this phase the scope of the project will be established. The features to be determined include the record systems to be addressed and the extent to which integration with census information will be addressed, according to the possibilities of the participating countries.

Activities	Start date	End date	Remarks
Design and application of the assessment tool	Second quarter of 2022	Second quarter of 2022	Based on previous experiences, it is recommended that the tool be applied through guided interviews, if possible
Performance of the assessment	Second quarter of 2022	Fourth quarter of 2022	
Formulation of typologies of administrative record systems	Fourth quarter of 2022	First quarter of 2023	
Recommendations for system integration according to typology	First quarter of 2023	Second quarter of 2023	
Dissemination workshop	Third quarter of 2023	Third quarter of 2023	

VII. TOOLS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DISASTER-RELATED INDICATORS

1. Background

According to the recent regional assessment report from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR),¹⁰ in the last few decades disasters have continued to grow in Latin America and the Caribbean. The reasons for this include the increasing vulnerability of millions of people who are increasingly exposed to hazards and, at the same time, to complicated socioeconomic situations that limit development of proper resilience to various dangerous events. Added to this is the limited understanding of the gender variable in the preparation of risk reduction plans, in the management of emergencies and in the post-disaster recovery stages. Many plans do not even consider women as being largely exposed to the consequences of disasters or as agents of change, even though they play a fundamental role in grassroots civil society organizations capable of consolidating inter-institutional mechanisms to make disaster risk reduction and disaster recovery effective in territories.

Following adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in March 2015, United Nations Member States have been committed to strengthening action to reduce and understand disaster risk. To this end, a set of 38 indicators to measure country-level progress towards the seven global targets in the Sendai Framework were agreed in a report adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in February 2017 in resolution 71/276.¹¹ Subsequently, most of the indicators were also adopted to measure disaster-related SDG indicators.¹²

By mid-2021, three years after the launch of the online system for monitoring and reporting these indicators, 77% of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were using the tool. However, several countries still face significant challenges in terms of data collection and measurement,¹³ largely related to compilation and sensitivity of data, quantification of damage and losses caused by disasters, and the lack of disaggregation of data for understanding disaster-related issues using a gender approach and a risk governance and information approach that facilitates coordination processes and mechanisms.

Faced with these major challenges, in November 2017, the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas adopted the programme of work of the working group on measuring and recording indicators related to disaster risk reduction, which then worked in the 2018–2019 and 2020–2021 periods, within the framework of the Conference. This working group comprises NSOs of nine countries in the region. It is coordinated by the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru and the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Paraguay, and its technical secretariat comprises the Statistics Division of ECLAC and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Over a short space of time, the working group has made great progress, including preparing a theoretical framework on

¹⁰ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), *Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges in Disaster Risk Reduction and Progress towards the Sendai Framework Targets*, Panama City, 2021.

¹¹ See United Nations, *Report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction. Note by the Secretary-General (A/71/644)*, 2016.

¹² Global targets of the Sendai Framework (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) and SDGs 1, 11 and 13 through target 1.5 (indicators 1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3 and 1.5.4), target 11.5 (indicators 11.5.1 and 11.5.2), target 11.b (indicators 11.b.1 and 11.b.2) and target 13.1 (indicators 13.1.1, 13.1.2 and 13.1.3).

¹³ UNDRR, *Regional Assessment Report on Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean: Challenges in Disaster Risk Reduction and Progress towards the Sendai Framework Targets*, Panama City, 2021.

measurement of indicators relating to disaster risk reduction¹⁴ and drafting a document which will be entitled “Institutional and methodological recommendations for measurement of Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to disasters and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”.¹⁵ In order to move towards disaster risk reduction and improved data quality as proposed by the working group, and given the growing need for tools and instruments to improve decision-making on disaster risk issues, it is proposed that in the 2022–2023 period an online toolkit and reference material be prepared, in order to produce indicators for the SDGs and the Sendai Framework in relation to disasters in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This toolkit will not only be a mechanism for online access to disaster risk reduction materials, information and inputs, but will also be built according to the institutional and methodological recommendations proposed by the working group for the 2020–2021 period. The proposal therefore highlights the importance of implementing the proposed actions, making them sustainable, and making renewed efforts to reduce disaster risks in the region.

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Strengthen statistical information management practices related to disaster risk reduction based on disaster-related SDG indicators and the Sendai Framework.

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Promote the methodological and institutional recommendations for disaster risk estimation related to SDG indicators and the Sendai Framework.
- (ii) Strengthen the Sendai Framework implementation reporting processes, including the role of statistics in achieving the SDGs and Sendai Framework targets.
- (iii) Provide a regional interactive toolkit and reference materials through a web portal (on an existing platform).¹⁶
- (iv) Enhance technical and methodological capacities to produce quality statistical information on data disaggregated by sex, age, income and territorial level in the indicator reporting process.
- (v) Increase integration and coordination between national statistical systems and national systems for disaster risk management, among other key stakeholders.

3. Expected outcome

Improve the capacities of Latin American and Caribbean countries to have consolidated and statistically valid information and data from different sectors to measure progress in the implementation of global agendas focused on sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, climate change and extreme weather events.

¹⁴ Output prepared in the 2018–2019 biennium [online, Spanish only]: <https://rtc-cea.cepal.org/es/documento/marco-teorico-sobre-la-medicion-y-registro-de-indicadores-relativos-la-reduccion-del>.

¹⁵ Planned output for the 2020–2021 biennium, in the process of being finalized.

¹⁶ It will include the matrix of recommendations, DesInventar Sendai with data disaggregated by sex, the damage and loss assessment (DaLA) methodology of ECLAC, quantification of the differential impact on women according to DesInventar Sendai, collection tools such as damage assessment and needs analysis (DANA) and other tools created by the countries of the region.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

Women and girls are often disproportionately affected by disasters, further exacerbating existing inequalities and gaps. However, women are drivers of change for knowledge-based disaster risk reduction and management, from the local level to the global level, including innovative solutions.

It is essential to have information that facilitates identification of these underlying disaster risk factors and their successful management, including aspects of women's exposure to hazards, and their vulnerabilities and capacities.

The outcomes of using gender-differentiated statistics through this initiative will be better reflected in the DesInventar Sendai national damage and loss databases and, together with gender-sensitive reference materials and tools, will strengthen the monitoring and reporting process, by mainstreaming gender and making gender a key element of public policies, for effective disaster risk management and reduction.

5. Coordinating countries

Paraguay: National Institute of Statistics (INE).

Peru: National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI).

6. Technical secretariats

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

The outputs are expected to be produced mainly by drawing on the human resources of the institutions participating in the working group. Additional funding will be secured or managed through the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

8. Workplan

Activity	Start date	End date	Remarks
Perform a regional assessment of progress in measuring disaster-related SDG indicators and the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, challenges and opportunities.	1 February 2022	15 January 2023	From application of the matrix, information from the Sendai Framework monitor and other sources

Activity	Start date	End date	Remarks
Develop an interactive online version of the framework of institutional and methodological recommendations for the measurement of disaster-related SDG indicators and the Sendai Framework	1 March 2022	15 December 2022	Interactive online version of the 2020–2021 working group output
Systematize successful experiences and good practices from Latin America and the Caribbean on the role of NSOs in disaster risk management, for inclusion in the toolkit and web portal	1 February 2022	30 April 2023	An adapted version of the report of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will be prepared, tailored to the context of the region, with experiences and good practices from Latin America and the Caribbean
Systematize other institutional and methodological tools that strengthen measurement and make them available on the web portal	1 May 2022	30 June 2023	
Create and launch the web portal	1 March 2022	1 August 2023	Possible launch to coincide with the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October

VIII. ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICS ON WORK RELATIONSHIPS AND LABOUR INFORMALITY

1. Background

At the regional level, it is crucial to foster the proper measurement and analysis of labour statistics within a conceptual framework that is aligned with the latest international recommendations, and which, in turn, provides harmonized indicators to compare and evaluate individual countries' progress in the area of decent work and gender equality.

The standards used in the region to compile work relationship statistics date back to 1993. To adapt to changes in labour markets and respond to countries' demand for new indicators to measure all work relationships, the International Labour Organization (ILO) reviewed existing standards, culminating in the adoption, at the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in 2018, of a new resolution on this topic, which sets out the revised International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-18).

The updated labour force surveys will help to measure the nature of the economic risks and the type of control that workers have over the organization of their work (whether they are dependent or independent), the strength and nature of their attachment to the economic unit in which they work, and the impact of economic and social changes on their work and on gender equality.

Adoption of ICSE-18 will help to strengthen labour statistics as a whole, since it is an essential input variable in the socioeconomic analysis of work. It is also key to the construction and interpretation of other indicators, such as informal economy and labour income indicators, and to progress on gender equality in the labour market.

Given the regional diversity in statistical data collection contexts and capacities, and in order to maintain the comparability of labour statistics, a process was begun in the 2020–2021 biennium to support the countries of the region in identifying good practices that will make it possible to jointly resolve existing statistical gaps, within the framework of a participatory and considered process on the methodological challenges relating to adoption of ICSE-18 in household or labour force surveys. As part of this process, the countries' experiences and progress were shared through a joint learning strategy that included regional consultations, technical meetings, online workshops and the systematization and preparation of a methodological document of best practices employed to date. However, there are still pending challenges related to the definitive adoption of the calculation algorithms or sets of questions that enable identification of the different categories of the new classifier in the questionnaires, in addition to challenges linked to splicing of series, and the systematization of the dissemination strategies of ICSE-18 and its correct interpretation by users.

Informality, not only in the traditional sense of the informal sector but also in the broader sense of labour relations becoming increasingly informal, continues to play a central role in the structure of labour markets in Latin America and the Caribbean and is therefore a major public policy challenge, highlighting the enormous gaps that must be overcome to incorporate broad swathes of the population into a system of contractual guarantees, thus consolidating systems of rights. Underlying much of the inequality and vulnerability is insufficient coverage of guarantees and inadequate institutional protection, which would otherwise provide certainty to those who in their day-to-day lives participate in the production of goods and services.

Although important steps were taken to measure informality, as a result of the outcomes of the fifteenth and seventeenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, the measurement of broad aggregates of informality is insufficient, given the changes that are taking place in labour market participation. The platform economy and teleworking, as well as different modalities of what the twentieth ICLS called dependent contractors, insofar as they combine characteristics of dependent and independent work, represent a challenge to existing labour laws; it is therefore not surprising that they operate, to a large extent, informally. Thus, the landscape is increasingly one of new informality coexisting with the pre-existing informality, meaning that a statistic of broad aggregates that encompasses a growing heterogeneity is losing its capacity to guide public policy. That is why better characterization of informality is needed, along with identification of components or sub-universes that can be targeted by differentiated policy measures.

Furthermore, there is not only the problem of the new patterns, but also of other patterns that have not yet been solved, which are a historical debt of current conceptual frameworks, one example being the pressing reality of informality in farming. As this area is often subject to specific legislation or exemptions, it has not yet become clear how to address it from the point of view of informality. A broader and more nuanced understanding is needed of the gradients of vulnerability of those who are engaged in such tasks, who are often governed by social policy rather than labour policy per se, or any other policy focused on their activity.

Moreover, for systems of national accounts (SNA) and NSOs, there is a growing need to better understand the linkages between the formal economy, the informal economy and the illegal economy.

In view of this, the twenty-first ICLS, which will take place in 2023, is an opportunity to organize the experience of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to provide feedback for the new recommendations that will be issued following the review of the standards for the conceptualization and measurement of informality.

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Advance in the statistical harmonization for the measurement of work relationship and informality statistics, incorporating good practices of the countries of the region, that will enable identification of progress and challenges in this area, as well as gender gaps.

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Promote, among countries, the conceptual and methodological harmonization of labour statistics with the new international ILO standards for statistics on work relationships, adopted at the twentieth ICLS (2018).
- (ii) Based on the best practices for measuring informality in the region, highlight the fundamental consensus on its identification, the possibilities of measuring the informal economy and its components in statistical programmes, produce a wider range of indicators, and draft a road map for improving measurement of informality statistics.
- (iii) Create spaces for dissemination of progress on the project, through virtual meetings, regional workshops and other activities.

- (iv) Contribute to gender equality by identifying the impact of statistical standards on labour relations and informality on the analysis of gender gaps in the labour market.
- (v) Prepare a methodological document compiling progress made, challenges and good practices in the adoption of ILO international standards for the measurement of statistics on labour relations and informality.

3. Expected outcome

It is expected that a methodological document that systematizes pending progress by the countries of the region in the adoption and adaptation of the latest ILO recommendations (twentieth ICLS) will help to guide and support those countries that are at different stages of that process. Specifically, during this biennium, progress is expected to be made in the adoption of algorithms or sets of questions evaluated or implemented by the countries to identify the categories included in ICSE-18, as well as methodological strategies to evaluate possible splicing of series and good practices in the dissemination of the new classifier within national statistical systems.

Update NSOs on the required changes in the standards for measuring informality, so that they are clear on the state of the art of statistics in this regard. Likewise, to promote the region as a leading interlocutor for the ILO in the modernization of statistics on informality, which will allow for the development, diversification and deepening of information on informality in the region as part of the regular output of NSOs.

At the same time, benefits are expected to be derived from the national capacities that will be developed and established in each participating country, building a wealth of knowledge and experiences that can be exchanged among the countries of the region when measurement instruments need to be adjusted in response to changes in the labour market, such as those arising from the recommendations and the resolution concerning statistics on work relationships adopted at the twentieth ICLS, and from future discussions in the framework of the twenty-first ICLS in 2023 on statistics for labour informality or the emergence of new statistical information needs.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

This proposal is expected to contribute to gender equality by identifying the impact of statistical standards on labour relations and informality in the analysis of gender gaps in the labour market.

Being in informal work makes the female population doubly vulnerable. It is often the only option to join the labour force that is flexible enough on two fronts: labour and workloads in the household. As part of the deepening of the statistics on informality, indicators focused not only on individuals but also on persons will be fostered, taking into account the family and household settings, to obtain a better understanding of why people opt for informal work. The methodological document to be prepared will explore the extent to which the information already captured without these approaches is useful for these purposes and the extent to which changes in collection systems are needed.

Inclusive language will be used, to avoid expressions that perpetuate gender stereotypes or bias the activities and outputs of the working group.

5. Coordinating countries

Chile: National Institute of Statistics (INE).

Mexico: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

6. Technical secretariats

International Labour Organization (ILO).

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

In view of the current COVID-19 pandemic situation and the excellent results of the online regional workshops held in 2021, the intention is to maintain this good practice, as it does not entail member countries incurring additional travel and transport costs. In this case, the greatest costs are the availability and commitment of the member countries to participate in the working meetings, prepare documents or deliver specific information within the framework of the Group's activities, which entails having focal points willing to spend working hours on these tasks.

8. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date	Remarks
Formation of the working group			
Ratification of the focal points of the working group's member countries	January 2022	February 2022	Normal task of working groups
Updated assessment of countries' harmonization gaps			
Regional consultation on plans for adoption of the recommendations	March 2022	April 2022	Will focus solely on outstanding challenges, and existing national projects and plans to address those challenges.
Performance of the regional consultation of member countries	May 2022	June 2022	Countries will have one month to complete the questionnaire
Preparation of a regional assessment document	July 2022	September 2022	This activity will provide inputs for the planned document
Dissemination of the regional assessment	October 2022	October 2022	Preparation of the document presenting the results

Activities	Start date	End date	Remarks
Identification of good practices			
Identification of countries with significant progress in the adoption of ICSE-18	January 2023	March 2023	Identified according to the information gathered in the assessment at the regional workshop
Guidelines provided to countries for the preparation of a document detailing national experiences	April 2023	May 2023	Countries will have one month to submit national documents or reports
Systematization and preparation of a methodological document with good practices	June 2023	August 2023	This activity will provide inputs for the planned document
Exchange of countries' experiences of adopting and adapting to the new recommendations			
Online regional workshop	October 2022	December 2022	Dissemination of results of updated gap assessment
Online regional workshop	August 2023	September 2023	Dissemination of good practices
Updated assessment of measurement of informality in the countries			
Performance of the regional consultation on measurement of informality	March 2022	April 2022	Will focus solely on outstanding challenges, and existing national projects and plans to address those challenges.
Performance of the regional consultation of member countries	May 2022	June 2022	Countries will have one month to complete the questionnaire.
Preparation of an updated regional assessment document	July 2022	September 2022	This activity will provide inputs for the planned document
Dissemination of the regional assessment	October 2022	October 2022	Preparation of the presentation of results
Identification of good practices for measurement of informality			
Identification of countries with significant progress in measuring informality in accordance with the most recent international standards	January 2023	March 2023	Identified according to the information gathered in the regional assessment

Activities	Start date	End date	Remarks
Delivery of guidelines to the countries for the preparation of a document compiling national experiences in the measurement of informality	April 2023	May 2023	Countries will have one month to submit national documents or reports
Systematization and preparation of a methodological document with good practices for measurement of informality	June 2023	August 2023	This activity will provide inputs for the planned document
Sharing of experiences on the process of countries adopting and adapting to the new recommendations			
Online regional workshop	January 2022	March 2022	Dissemination of ICLS global expert group progress
Online regional workshop	October 2022	December 2022	Dissemination of the results of the updated assessment of gender gaps
Online regional workshop	January 2022	March 2022	Dissemination of ICLS global expert group progress
Online regional workshop	August 2023	September 2023	Dissemination of good practices
Dissemination of the final output			
Online regional workshop	October 2023	November 2023	Closing activity of the biennium

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEASURING PERCEPTIONS IN HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

1. Background

In recent years, there has been growing interest in the international community in considering, within assessments of social progress and well-being, information on people's perceptions, evaluations and experiences of their own lives to complement information on material living conditions. This interest has been reinforced by the wave of social protests in different countries around the world in recent years, and also by the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both phenomena have highlighted the disconnection between elites and the rest of the population, and have made clear the need to better measure and understand people's feelings and perceptions in order to consider them in the design of public policies.

This growing interest in subjective information has been expressed in the inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of perception-based indicators, such as those on discrimination and insecurity, and also in the "How's life?" initiative of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in which indicators of perceptions coexist with standard measures of material well-being.¹⁷ However, there is still a long way to go. Although the report by Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi report¹⁸ recommended that NSOs make an effort to incorporate more subjective information in their multipurpose surveys, few Latin American countries have included such questions in their surveys.

Between September and October 2020, ECLAC and OECD held a series of four webinars, "Measurement of people's perceptions, evaluations and experiences: key issues and best practice from Latin America and the world".¹⁹ These addressed some conceptual, methodological and practical aspects for measuring quality of life based on people's perceptions and feelings.

As a result of these webinars, opportunities were identified for the countries of the region to make substantial progress on this issue through collaborative work in the context of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. At the twentieth meeting of the Executive Committee, participating countries agreed on the importance of producing information based on the measurement of perceptions to complement the information routinely collected on the physical living conditions of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean, in the context of the generation of official national statistics. ECLAC was asked, in conjunction with the countries of the region that so wished, to prepare the terms of reference for the possible creation of a working group on the measurement of perceptions at the next meeting of the Conference.

¹⁷ The term "perception indicators" brings together a wide range of issues that can be measured at different levels, for example: subjective well-being, interpersonal and institutional trust, perceptions of corruption, expectations of social mobility, perceptions of discrimination and injustice. These issues, in turn, can be measured at the micro (individual, family), meso (community) or social (macro) levels, and their measurement can be based on information about events (such as the experience of having been a victim of violence) or on the judgments that people make about their living conditions and those existing in their society. Perception indicators can be used as proxies for objective phenomena (such as poverty), or as measures of subjective states that are not directly observable (such as psychological empowerment).

¹⁸ Stiglitz, A. Sen and J-P. Fitoussi, *Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress*, 2009.

¹⁹ See [online] <https://www.cepal.org/es/notas/medicion-percepciones-evaluaciones-experiencias-personas-cuestiones-clave-mejores-practicas>.

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Contribute to strengthening the capacities of national statistical systems for the measurement of well-being based on subjective information.

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Characterize and analyse international experiences in the measurement of perceptions to provide relevant references for the region.
- (ii) Identify the thematic areas relevant to the countries in the region in the measurement of perceptions.

3. Expected outcome

- Establishment of a regional baseline agreement on the importance of incorporating perception-derived statistics into regular NSO offerings.
- Provision of NSOs in the region with a reference for the implementation of perception-based surveys, addressing the challenges involved and proposing a set of questions of common interest.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

By focusing on direct experiences rather than on third-party interpretations, the perceptions approach provides insight into the different situations experienced by men and women, thereby contributing to a better understanding of gender gaps.

5. Coordinating country

Mexico: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

6. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

The outputs are expected to be produced mainly by drawing on the human resources of the institutions participating in the working group. The possibility of financial support from international organizations for the possible implementation of pilot questionnaires will be evaluated.

8. Workplan

Activity	Start date	End date
Review of international experiences	December 2021	May 2022
Design of a regional consultation to identify the thematic areas of greatest interest and relevance for the design of countries' public policies, and to gather information on national experiences in measuring well-being through subjective information, with an emphasis on the methodologies used	May 2022	May 2022
Implementation of the consultation	June 2022	July 2022
Systematization and assessment based on the consultation	July 2022	September 2022
Preparation of standard questions	October 2022	December 2022
Testing of sample questions	January 2023	June 2023
Development of the basic questionnaire through the testing of standard questions	July 2023	August 2023
Writing of the report	September 2023	October 2023
Presentation of the report	November 2023	November 2023

X. COMPILATION OF EXPERIENCES IN GENERATING STATISTICS RELATING TO PRISON SYSTEMS

1. Background

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), there are nearly 12 million people in prison worldwide. Nearly one third of these persons have not received a sentence and prisons are overcrowded in half of the countries. Data show that incarceration rates have soared, while the institutional capacity of prison systems has not kept pace. The number of women in prison has grown at a faster rate than that of men.

The budgetary pressure resulting from high incarceration rates translates into poor conditions, services and care, which in turn have a huge impact on the ability to respect human rights and provide a real rehabilitative process. In the case of women, the impact is even greater, as they lack specialized services such as the provision of prenatal and postnatal treatment or adequate materials for their care.

However, beyond general trends, statistics on prisons and incarcerated persons are scarce. Few countries have comprehensive and systematic data collection systems. The generation of complete, accurate and accessible data on the prison system is not only a prerequisite for effective prison management and strategic planning, but is also an essential tool to ensure respect for and defence of the human rights of prisoners, with full recognition of the differentiated needs of incarcerated men, women and minors. If prison systems lack such data, they cannot guarantee minimum rights and international commitments in this area. Consequently, the rehabilitative purpose of this system is undermined, along with public confidence in the criminal justice system and the rule of law in general.

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Identify experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean for the generation of prison system statistics to strengthen the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies based on data, report on the progress of the relevant indicators of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and learn about the observance of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules).

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Identify statistical projects related to prison systems developed by countries in the region and their relevance for informing public policymaking.
- (ii) Contrast the scope of these outputs with the minimum requirements for monitoring and reporting on progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and international standards on prisons.
- (iii) Outline the main challenges in the collection, processing and use of these statistics and the strategies that countries have developed to address them.

3. Expected outcome

In the short term, the countries of the region will have a reference to expand their knowledge on the development of statistical projects related to prison systems. In the medium term, this output will facilitate the consultation of methodologies for the design or strengthening of such projects and will help to identify possibilities for international cooperation for the exchange of information and experiences.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

Owing to the very nature of the prison system, the statistics derived from its composition and functioning are key to measuring aspects directly related to gender equality (both in the prison population and in prison staff). In this regard, the document will seek to identify the existence (or lack) of a gender approach in all the statistical operations analysed.

In turn, the findings, indicators, challenges and key issues identified in the document will be framed by the recommendations and obligations set out in the Bangkok Rules. This set of rules outlines specific considerations for the diverse needs of women in prison.

5. Coordinating country

Mexico: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

6. Technical secretariats

The Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Public Security, Victimization and Justice (UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence).

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence: US\$ 3,000

8. Workplan

Activity	Start date	End date
Meeting of the working group to determine content	December 2021	December 2021
Development of the annotated index	December 2021	January 2022
Feedback on the annotated index	February 2022	March 2022
First partial submission (annotated index)	March 2022	March 2022

Collection of information	April 2022	June 2022
Analysis of information	June 2022	October 2022
Meeting to present preliminary findings	October 2022	October 2022
Drafting of the document	October 2022	January 2023
Feedback on the draft document	February 2023	March 2023
Second partial submission (draft)	March 2023	March 2023
Follow-up meeting of the group	April 2023	April 2023
Writing of the final version of the document	April 2023	June 2023
Feedback on the final version of the document	June 2023	August 2023
Final submission (final version)	August 2023	August 2023

XI. GUIDE ON THE COMPILATION AND USE OF INPUT-OUTPUT TABLES

1. Background

Input-output tables are one of the most widely used tools by users of national accounts when carrying out simulations related to the evolution of the economy, in terms of both volume and prices. These tables are easily adaptable to a variety of functions, including providing valuable information on the structure of economies, making them a powerful tool for reporting and analysing industrial structure. They are also the basis for the construction of a variety of economic models that allow the accurate assessment of the impacts of economic policy changes and analysis of the use of renewable energy, the carbon footprint, pollution deriving from various industries or social accounting matrices. Within the analytical framework, input-output tables make it possible to include information on employment and wages, which shows their effect on the economy by allowing, for example, the analysis of impacts by sector, by gender or by technical quality. Of the 33 member countries of Latin America, only 14 have compiled input-output tables and only one has done so since 2016. This output aims to provide guidelines to determine the minimum requirements to build input-output tables and the steps to be followed with a focus on statistical soundness and the most common uses for evaluation purposes and scenario simulation.

2. Objectives

(a) General objective

Provide national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean with a guide to build input-output tables, with suggested statistical procedures and some guidelines for use.

(b) Specific objectives

- (i) Provide guidelines for obtaining a use table in basic prices and auxiliary matrices.
- (ii) Formulate recommendations for the compilation of the employment and wage vector with a gender perspective.
- (iii) Analyse the treatment of secondary outputs.
- (iv) Provide guidelines for building input-output tables.
- (v) Provide guidelines for interpreting results and performing simulations.

3. Expected outcome

This product is expected to motivate and promote the updating or building of input-output tables in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. Inclusion of the gender perspective

The specific objectives include the incorporation of the employment vector with a gender perspective, which then enables simulation and impact exercises to be carried out in different scenarios.

5. Coordinating country

Guatemala: Bank of Guatemala.

6. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC.

7. Budget and financing sources

Most resources are human resources from the participating institutions, in particular from the promoting institution, the Bank of Guatemala, and from the Statistics Division of ECLAC. Funds from a United Nations Development Account project are also being considered.

8. Workplan

Activity	Start date	End date	Remarks
Compilation of the use table in basic prices and auxiliary matrices	December 2021	June 2022	Auxiliary matrices in rectangular format
Recommendations for the treatment of secondary outputs	July 2022	November 2022	
Estimation of the employment and wage vector by sector and with a gender perspective	December 2022	March 2023	
Compilation of the input-output table, by output and by sector	April 2023	May 2023	
Exercises on uses of input-output tables in simulations	June 2023	July 2023	
Final document	August 2023	November 2023	