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

Santiago, 5-7 November 2013

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. INTRODUCTION

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 resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, 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.

At its twelfth meeting, held in Pucón, Chile, on 24-26 April 2013, the Executive Committee considered and adopted the provisional agenda of the seventh meeting of the Conference and selected the date and the venue. The provisional agenda includes the most important issues for statistical development in Latin America and the Caribbean, namely, institution-building for national statistical systems and offices, human resource training, statistical and methodological capacity-building, and international and regional cooperation in these areas. Lastly, four seminars will be held on substantive issues in important areas for the development of official statistics and public policies: (a) the post-2015 development agenda and challenges for national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean; (b) development of basic economic statistics in the framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) in Latin America and the Caribbean; (c) progress and challenges regarding gender mainstreaming in producing statistics within national statistical systems; and (d) pro-quality institutional strengthening of national statistical offices and systems.

Member States will be asked, at this seventh meeting of the Conference, to review and adopt the Report on the implementation of the 2012-2013 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015. Lastly, the countries will elect the Executive Committee of the Conference for 2014-2015.

B. CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE

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

C. ANNOTATIONS

1. Adoption of the agenda.

The Conference will have before it for consideration and adoption, with any amendments deemed appropriate, the following provisional agenda:¹

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues:
 - (a) The post-2015 development agenda and challenges for national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (b) Development of basic economic statistics in the framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (c) Progress and challenges regarding gender mainstreaming in producing statistics within national statistical systems
 - (d) Pro-quality institutional strengthening of national statistical offices and systems
3. Report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2012-2013.
4. Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015.
 - (a) Review and adoption of the proposed operational guidelines for the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
 - (b) Biennial programme of the working groups
 - Institution-building
 - Gender statistics
 - Environmental statistics
 - Censuses
 - National accounts
 - Information and communications technologies
 - Harmonization of statistics on income poverty and public transfers
 - International classifications
 - Agricultural statistics
 - Labour-market indicators

¹ LC/L.3683(CEA.7/1).

- Household surveys
- Statistics on childhood and adolescence
- Statistics on public security and justice
- Activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network

(c) Promoting international coordination and cooperation in the region

- Statistical challenges in quantifying South-South cooperation
- International Comparison Programme
- Regional public goods projects: “Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments” and “Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean”
- Subregional coordination initiatives

(d) Other matters

5. Adoption of agreements.
6. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015.
7. Closing session.

2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues.

At its twelfth meeting, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC decided that the Conference would consider, at its seventh meeting, the following substantive issues:

- (a) The post-2015 development agenda and challenges for national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean

During this seminar, the directors and staff of national statistical offices in the countries of the region and other statistical agencies participating in the seventh meeting of the Conference will discuss the headway made internationally and regionally in the proposed post-2015 development agenda, and the associated statistical challenges. It is also expected that countries will share their experiences and describe their expectations and progress with respect to the implications for national statistical systems.

- (b) Development of basic economic statistics in the framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) in Latin America and the Caribbean

This seminar will examine the experiences and challenges of SNA 2008 implementation in the region. In particular, it will cover the following: overview of the SNA; methods of compiling the SNA and basic statistics; the SNA as a framework for coordinating basic economic statistics: the integrated economic statistics approach; and uses of the system of national accounts. Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay will deliver presentations on each of the themes and ECLAC will deliver a presentation on the status of SNA 2008 implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean and the regional plan.

- (c) Progress and challenges regarding gender mainstreaming in producing statistics within national statistical systems

Although the incorporation of a gender perspective into statistics has been the central theme of the international meetings organized each year in Aguascalientes (Mexico), the directors of national statistical offices are not always able to attend, making this a particularly important seminar. The focus will be on economic statistics, since social statistics have been more widely disseminated. The seminar will be divided into two parts: the first will provide a conceptual overview, while the second will take a more practical approach. Colombia and Guatemala will share their experiences regarding the first topic and Brazil, Ecuador and Mexico will present their views on the second issue.

- (d) Pro-quality institutional strengthening of national statistical offices and systems

The aim of this seminar is to discuss the region's different experiences of enhancing the quality and credibility of official statistics in legal, organizational, operational and technical terms, with a view to establishing minimum requirements for statistical institutions. Chile, Colombia and Mexico will present their experiences.

3. Report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2012-2013.

The secretariat will submit a report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2012-2013.

Working document:

- Report on the implementation of the 2012-2013 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities and draft 2014-2015 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3664(CEA.7/3))

4. Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015.

- (a) Review and adoption of the proposed operational guidelines for the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

This theme responds to a request from the Executive Committee of the Conference, adopted at its twelfth meeting in April 2013, for the secretariat to prepare rules of procedure governing the formation and operation of the working groups and other task forces of the Conference, to be submitted for consideration and adoption by the Conference at its seventh meeting. The proposed guidelines and rules of procedure take into account the contents of the progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations, as discussed and adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee, as well as the experience of the international statistical community in this area.

Working document:

- Proposed operational guidelines for the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3694(CEA.7/4))

(b) Biennial programme of the working groups

The coordinating countries of the working groups will present their draft biennial programmes for the period 2014-2015. Delegations will have before them for their consideration and adoption a document setting out the objectives and proposed activities of the working groups for the biennium 2014-2015.

Working document:

- Report on the implementation of the 2012-2013 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities and draft 2014-2015 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3664(CEA.7/3))

- Institution-building

This working group aims to help strengthen national statistical systems in the region. In order to achieve this objective, activities are proposed in the following areas: (i) implementation of the Regional Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean; (ii) monitoring and assessing compliance with the principles of the Code; (iii) statistical planning in the framework of the Code, with a focus on results-based management; and (iv) drafting a proposal for a formal structure within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for implementing the Code.

- Gender statistics

This working group seeks to promote the production, development, systematization and consolidation of gender statistics and indicators, to be used to shape, monitor and evaluate public policies. With this objective in mind, the group's activities will aim to: (i) boost national statistical offices' technical, methodological and analytical capacities with regard to gender statistics; (ii) forge closer partnerships between national statistical offices and national machineries for the advancement of women; (iii) foster horizontal and triangular cooperation, international technical assistance and regional collaboration for developing, analysing and disseminating gender statistics; (iv) promote the use of gender statistics to formulate, implement and evaluate public policies; and (v) promote the organization of national and regional meetings to encourage specialized debate on gender statistics.

- Environmental statistics

The purpose of this working group is to promote the regional implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the development of official basic environmental statistics systems that underpin those accounts, with a view to incorporating them into the national statistics systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. To achieve this objective, the group proposes to: (i) assess the current situation with respect to environmental statistics and the SEEA in the countries participating in the project, with a view to developing and strengthening them by improving their technical quality; (ii) promote coordination at the national level between institutional stakeholders

on statistics, indicators and environmental accounts; and (iii) strengthen regional collaboration in order to promote the standardization and comparability of common environmental statistics and implement the SEEA in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Censuses

The general objective of the working group on censuses is to promote and pursue initiatives that support countries engaged in evaluating and analysing the 2010 round of population and housing censuses through training activities, boosting the exchange of knowledge and experiences among countries (concerning, for example, the use of new technologies in population and housing censuses and data editing procedures), determining how countries carried out their recent censuses in terms of content, methodologies and technologies, and evaluating the experience in the light of the results obtained. The following activities are proposed: (i) assessing the state of the art in the region in relation to the 2010 round of censuses and using and analysing census information for public policymaking; (ii) providing training in the preparation of population estimates and projections and in the use of the System for retrieval of data for small areas by microcomputer (REDATAM); and (iii) assessing vital statistics and how they relate to census data.

- National accounts

The overall objective of this working group is to contribute to the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008) in the countries of the region and thereby to promote greater integration between the producers of basic economic statistics, national accounts and users. Activities are proposed in the following areas: (i) international coordination; (ii) development of methodologies and standards for basic statistics and national accounts; (iii) regional harmonization; and (iv) human resource development.

- Information and communications technologies

This working group's general objective is to contribute to the development of capacities and methodologies within national statistical offices in the measurement of information and communications technologies (ICTs). To this end, the group will take the following action: (i) coordinate efforts to ensure that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have relevant statistics on the use, availability and impact of ICTs on the economy and society in general, and set a baseline for indicators common to the region; (ii) promote the dissemination of indicators on access to and use of ICTs; (iii) update the compendium of practices on the inclusion of ICT questions in household and business surveys; (iv) promote the strengthening of the regional database on the website of the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC); and (v) contribute to defining the quantifiable targets and indicators for the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015).

- Harmonization of statistics on income poverty and public transfers

At its meeting on 3-4 September 2013, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference agreed that the working group's original goal of producing an up-to-date map of the status of national experiences relating to the measurement of income poverty should be considered fulfilled, and that tackling the multidimensional measurement of poverty should be a priority, given that countries have shown a keen interest in this matter. In light of the technical and political complexities, as well as those concerning existing sources of information, the members of the group have agreed to request that ECLAC draft a

proposal for an ad hoc group within the framework of the Statistical Conference, with support from the two countries that already carry out multidimensional poverty measurements (Colombia and Mexico).

- International classifications

The overall objective of the Working Group on International Classifications is to support the countries in the region in adopting or adapting the new versions of international classifications in order to contribute to the development of official statistics in the various statistical programmes. With this objective in mind, the group proposes to: (i) identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities to boost the capacity of member countries in the processes of adopting or adapting international classifications; (ii) exchange and document experiences, knowledge and good practices relating to the implementation of international classifications; (iii) provide regular updates on the progress made in terms of the new revisions to international classifications, particularly with a view to conducting economic and population censuses and changing the base year in countries' national accounts, as well as ensuring the proper management of directories of businesses and establishments; (iv) promote the creation of inter-agency platforms for collaboration in, and coordination and integration of, regional initiatives on international classifications among blocks of countries; (v) prioritize the translation into Spanish of the texts on international classifications, thus enabling their timely adoption by the countries of the region; (vi) make the arrangements necessary to hold meetings of this working group, with a view to promoting the use and dissemination of economic and social classifications; and (vii) promote the establishment of a network of experts on international classifications to provide countries with mechanisms for communication and for updating classifications and nomenclatures.

- Agricultural statistics

The general objective of this group is to refine and harmonize agricultural statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and define the implementation plan for the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. Activities are proposed in the following areas: (i) promotion of the Global Strategy in the region; (ii) institution-building; (iii) assessment of countries' statistical capacity; (iv) training for institutions; (v) technical assistance; and (vi) development of methodologies.

- Labour-market indicators

This working group's general objective is to help strengthen and develop national statistical systems, as well as propose new labour-market indicators. It also aims to further the comparability of labour-market indicators at the regional level by exchanging national experiences and harmonizing methodologies. Activities are proposed in the following areas: (i) establish a regional position as to the current definitions of employment, unemployment and underemployment, which will be revised during the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) to be held in Geneva on 2-11 October 2013; (ii) review the tools used by the countries in the region to measure employment, unemployment, underemployment, informality and decent work, with the aim of producing an up-to-date inventory of related practices followed by the countries of the region; (iii) promote a strategic plan for the development of a system of basic indicators for monitoring and assessing progress towards decent work; (iv) work towards incorporating decent work indicators into the national statistical systems of the Latin American and Caribbean countries; and (v) reach a consensus on the best way to obtain the basic information needed to construct indicators on underemployment, informality and decent work.

- Household surveys

This working group aims to support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in improving household surveys as a basic source of information for the analysis of well-being and the establishment and implementation of policies designed to improve living standards. It thus proposes to: (i) support the formation of integrated household survey systems as a framework for the implementation of household surveys and standardize their structure; (ii) document and exchange experiences and good practices in the statistical design of household surveys; (iii) strengthen the use of methodologies for generating transverse and longitudinal estimators based on continuous surveys; and (iv) identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities to strengthen the capacities of member countries to implement good-quality household surveys.

- Statistics on childhood and adolescence

This group's overall objective is to promote the generation, systematization and integration of statistics and indicators on childhood and adolescence with a view to the evaluation and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at fulfilling commitments on the rights of the child undertaken by all the countries of the region. With this in mind, it proposes to: (i) boost regional coordination in the production of statistics and indicators on childhood and adolescence in the Latin American and Caribbean countries; (ii) enhance the comparability of statistics within the region; (iii) improve the reliability of administrative records; (iv) achieve coordination both cross-sectorally and with international agencies in order to contribute to the development of indicators that promote and protect the rights of the child; (v) generate information for the formulation and evaluation of public policies; (vi) check for information gaps and discrepancies in member countries' statistics on childhood and adolescence; and (vii) initiate a process to harmonize member countries' statistics on childhood and adolescence.

- Statistics on public security and justice

This working group's general objective is to coordinate efforts to generate, develop and standardize statistical information on security and criminal justice in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, focusing on international and regional projects, initiatives and mandates regarding statistical information on these issues for the purpose of generating better data to support evidence-based public policy design and decision-making in these areas. To achieve this goal, the working group will take the following action: (i) contribute to the generation and development of an international classification of crimes for statistical purposes; (ii) promote the use of victim surveys and contribute to their implementation; and (iii) promote and support the strengthening of administrative records on security and criminal justice.

- Activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network

Mexico will report on development of the Knowledge Transfer Network and the process of transferring responsibility for coordinating the network to Colombia, while Colombia will describe the challenges ahead and proposals for the network's work during this new phase.

- (c) Promoting international coordination and cooperation in the region
- Statistical challenges for quantifying South-South cooperation

The secretariat will report on the requirement of various countries in the region for statistical systems to carry out the necessary activities for quantifying South-South cooperation. Participants are expected to share views and adopt the measures they consider appropriate.

Reference document:

- Factibilidad de construcción de indicadores de cooperación Sur-Sur en América Latina y el Caribe (DDR/1)
- International Comparison Programme

ECLAC will present the Progress report on the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is an updated version of the report analysed during the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee. This new document describes the work carried out since then and the steps to be taken; a brief project timeline is also provided for reference.

Working document:

- Progress report on the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3708(CEA.7/6))
- Regional public goods projects: “Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments” and “Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean”

Participating countries will present a brief report of the main results of the regional public goods projects: “Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments” and “Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean”, placing particular emphasis on the Compendium of technical recommendations and best practices.

Working document:

- Compendium of technical recommendations and best practices for preparing directories of enterprises and establishments
- Subregional coordination initiatives

Under this item, the various coordination agencies in the Caribbean, Central America, the Andean Community and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) will report on their programmes of work and their contribution to the implementation and preparation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

(d) Other matters

Under this item, participants will consider any other issues they may wish to raise.

5. Adoption of agreements.

The Conference will adopt the agreements it deems appropriate.

6. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the biennium 2014-2015.

In accordance with resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Conference will elect an Executive Committee consisting of a Chair and six members, and will seek to ensure that all the subregions are represented. The members of the Executive Committee may be re-elected for three successive terms. The Chair may not be re-elected in that office for a second consecutive term, but may be elected as a member of the Committee. Anyone who has been a member of the Committee for three successive terms may be elected again after two years have elapsed since the end of that person's last term of office.

7. Closing session.