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

Bávaro, Dominican Republic

16-18 November 2011

## **ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

## **A. BACKGROUND**

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 tenth meeting, held in Havana from 6 to 8 April 2011, the Executive Committee, chaired by the Dominican Republic, considered and approved the provisional agenda of the sixth meeting of the Conference and decided on the date and venue of that event. This 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, promoting statistical and methodological capacities relating to gender, the environment, national accounts, monitoring implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, information and communications technologies and poverty measurement, and promoting coordination and international cooperation in the region. Also included are three seminars on substantive issues relating to official statistics: (a) environmental statistics; (b) quality and technological innovation in the 2010 round of population censuses, and (c) existing and future challenges for the development of national statistical systems in the region.

At the sixth meeting of the Conference, member States will need to examine and adopt the Report on the implementation of the 2009-2011 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, the proposed 2012-2013 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities and the update of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Conference. Lastly, the countries will elect the Executive Committee of the Conference for 2012-2013.

## **B. CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONFERENCE**

In accordance with resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Dominican Republic, in its capacity as Chairperson of the Executive Committee, will preside over the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference.

## C. ANNOTATIONS

### 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Committee will have before it for consideration and adoption, with any amendments deemed appropriate, the following provisional agenda:<sup>1</sup>

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues:
  - (a) Seminar on environmental statistics;
  - (b) Seminar on quality and technological innovation in the 2010 round of population censuses;
  - (c) Seminar on existing and future challenges for the development of national statistical systems in the region.
3. Review of implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference for the biennium 2009/2011.
4. Adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference for the biennium 2012-2013:
  - (a) Institution-building
    - Working Group on Institution-building
  - (b) Promotion of training of competent human resources
    - Programme of activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network
  - (c) Building of technical capacity
    - Working Group on Gender Statistics
    - Working Group on Environmental Statistics
    - Working Group on Censuses
    - Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals
    - Working Group on National Accounts
    - Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies
    - Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers
    - Establishment of a working group on international classifications

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<sup>1</sup> LC/L.3368(CEA.6/1).

## (d) Promotion of international cooperation and coordination in the region

- International Comparison Programme
  - Project on the regional statistical framework for the directories of businesses and establishments
  - Report of the committee of countries on the Human Development Report
  - Subregional coordination initiatives
5. Review of proposals for updating the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.
  6. Other matters.
  7. Report of the Rapporteur.
  8. Adoption of agreements.
  9. Election of the Executive Committee for the biennium 2012-2013.
  10. Closing session.

**2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues**

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

## (a) Seminar on environmental statistics

Mexico, with support from ECLAC, will organize this activity on behalf of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics. The Seminar will be an opportunity for member countries of the Working Group to share their experiences in the production and use of environmental statistics and to analyse the challenges, best practices and methodological and institutional requirements of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in this domain. It will be divided into two segments: in the first, members will present their experiences with emphasis on institution-building, while in the second, the focus will be on the presentation of statistical operations on the environment for decision-making. Moderated discussions will be held at the end of each segment. A summary of the main conclusions and recommendations will be presented at the end of the Seminar.

## (b) Seminar on quality and technological innovation in the 2010 round of population censuses

This Seminar is being organized by Paraguay on behalf of the Working Group on Censuses, with support from the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Its main objective is to present the most relevant national experiences in use of technology and new methodologies for improving the quality of data at different stages of the process: use of technology to generate digital mapping for analysis of population and environment; collection of census material, supervision and follow-up; use of scanning technology in the data-capture process; analysis of the relationship between population and environment as revealed by census data; use of registers as a basis for conducting population censuses; and application of quality control methodologies. This will make it possible to share experiences and to provide concrete information that may be relevant especially for those countries that have not yet carried out their census.

- (c) Seminar on existing and future challenges for the development of national statistical systems in the region

The overall objective of the seminar is to share international experiences and best practices with a view to the implementation of national statistical systems in the region. The Seminar will therefore consist of two panels: the first panel relates to experience in Europe and to the evaluation and follow-up of national statistical systems; the second will serve to present and exchange views on relevant experiences in developing national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean: design, implementation and functioning of the national statistical system in Spain, Colombia and the Dominican Republic; tools and European best practices in evaluating national statistical systems; National Information Subsystem on Governance, Public Security and Administration of Justice and the Center of Excellence of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

**3. Review of implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference for the biennium 2009/2011**

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 for the biennium 2009/2011.

**Working document:**

- Report on the implementation of the 2009-2011 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3389(CEA.6/16))

**4. Adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference for the biennium 2012-2013**

Delegations will have before them for consideration and adoption a document setting out the objectives and plan of activities of the working groups for the 2012-2013 biennium.

**Working document:**

- Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2012-2013 (LC/L.3390(CEA.6/17))

**Reference documents:**

- Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2009-2011 (LC/L.3072(CEA.5/12))
- Draft programme of work of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, 2012-2013 (DDR/2)

## (a) Institution-building

- Working Group on Institution-building

The Working Group will submit for discussion and approval a proposal for a Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, comprising three sections: institutional environment and coordination, statistical process and statistical production. The regional code seeks to promote the generation of quality statistics based on the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, using as a reference the European Statistics Code of Practice. For the biennium 2012-2013, the Working Group on Institution-building aims to disseminate and implement the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and to develop the proposal for the bank of good practices for statistical activity. With respect to the inventory of international statistical standards, delegations will have before them a status report on the inventory of international statistical standards, the different mechanisms for dissemination of the use of international statistical standards and the Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities on the inventory of global statistical standards.

**Working documents:**

- Report of the Working Group on Institution-building of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3376(CEA.6/4))
- Proposal for a Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and Implementation Plan for 2012-2013 (LC/L.3384(CEA.6/12))
- Report on the findings of the self-assessment survey on Compliance with the principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3395(CEA.6/18))

## (b) Promotion of training of competent human resources

- Programme of activities of the Knowledge Transfer Network

The overall purpose of the Knowledge Transfer Network is to serve as a tool for coordination of the training activities of all the working groups of the Conference. The Network is viewed as a regional public good designed to strengthen the capacity of countries to generate, analyse and disseminate official statistics by encouraging transfer of the best available knowledge. In the period 2012-2013, priority will be given to the following areas: coordination of the official statistics training programmes of the national and international agencies; coordination of existing national centres and programmes, creating information and communication channels that facilitate the best use of resources that help to make good the lack of training in the region; development of an online education platform that encourages the exchange of information, documentation and best practices in the region, remedial courses in statistical training for the human resources needed to fulfil the strategic objectives of the national statistical institutes.

**Working document:**

- Report of the Knowledge Transfer Network of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3379(CEA.6/7))

## (c) Building of technical capacity

- Working Group on Gender Statistics

The Working Group on Gender Statistics seeks to promote the production, development and systematization of gender statistics and indicators, and their dissemination and use in public policy in all countries of the region. In the light of the foregoing objectives and the responses received from the national machineries for the advancement of women as well as from statistical institutes in 22 countries of the region, the Working Group will report on the advances and achievements obtained during the biennium 2009/2011. The specific objectives posed for the current biennium will be maintained for 2012-2013: promoting development of the national statistical institutes' technical, methodological and analytical skills in building gender statistics; forging closer partnerships between the national statistical institutes and machineries for the advancement of women, and fostering cooperation, international technical assistance and regional collaboration for developing and disseminating gender statistics. The most important task during the forthcoming work period is to give a strong boost to the work among the groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas; in particular, to strengthen collaboration with the working groups on National Accounts, Institution-building and on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and to maximize the potential of the Knowledge Transfer Network in order to consolidate methodological advances, increase training and foster greater interchange and participation.

**Working document:**

- Report of the Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3378(CEA.6/6))
- Working Group on Environmental Statistics

The purpose of this Working Group is to promote the development of relevant statistics on natural resources and the environment and their integration into the national statistics systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean by promoting and creating inter-agency collaboration, coordination and integration platforms for implementing regional initiatives relating to statistics, indicators and environmental accounts. Accordingly, the Working Group will report on the advances and progress achieved during the biennium 2009/2011. For the period 2012-2013, the Working Group on Environmental Statistics will focus its activities on the implementation of the project "Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics in support of public policymaking in Latin America and the Caribbean", financed under the Regional Public Goods Program of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The main objective of this project is to create a regional strategy and plan of action for the development and strengthening of official environmental statistics systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This strategy will encompass institution-building and development of the necessary technical procedures for producing basic statistics and environmental indicators and accounts, in accordance with the priorities and resources existing in each country; in addition, a methodological framework will be established for purposes of comparison and production of aggregate regional information.

**Working document:**

- Report of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3377(CEA.6/5))

- Working Group on Censuses

The programme of work 2009/2011 provides for this Working Group to continue to promote and pursue initiatives in support of countries engaged in planning or conducting their population and housing census of the 2010 round; promote and pursue activities aimed at training, sharing of experiences on management and census operations, and harmonization and technology for capture and processing of census data and analysis and dissemination of information. Thus, the Working Group will report on advances and successes in fulfilling the above-mentioned objectives during the period 2009/2011. The programme of activities for the biennium 2012-2013 provides for the Group to continue to conduct activities in support of those countries that have not yet carried out their census for the 2010 round and to promote broad dissemination of the census results and their use by decision-makers.

**Working document:**

- Report of the Working Group on Censuses of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3385(CEA.6/13))
  - Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

This Working Group seeks to comprehend and reduce the discrepancies that arise between the data produced by the countries and those used by international agencies in monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals by expanding and improving the quality of statistical information on the Goals in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and by promoting inter-agency coordination within countries and between them and international agencies. In the light of these objectives, the Working Group will report on the advances and progress achieved in the biennium 2009/2011. In the biennium 2012-2013, its programme of work will focus on continuing to promote the production of official statistics for monitoring progress towards the Goals at the regional, national and subnational levels; continuing with the adoption of data reconciliation measures by identifying and analysing discrepancies between national data and data available internationally, as well as by strengthening national coordination mechanisms for producing statistics relating to the Goals and the proper coverage of these Goals in national reports. In addition, it has been suggested that information and communications technologies (ICT) be incorporated to enhance communication between member countries of the Working Group, and that the Knowledge Transfer Network be used to provide training and skills development for users and producers of statistics relating to the Goals and for the different countries in the region. Lastly, activities have been proposed for identifying and channelling financial resources in order to continue to build and strengthen the statistical capacity of countries to produce indicators for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

**Working document:**

- Report of the Working Group on Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development goals of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3387(CEA.6/14))



- Working Group on National Accounts

The overall objective of this Working Group is to contribute to the implementation of the System of National Accounts in the countries of the region and to promote greater integration between the producers and users of basic economic statistics and national accounts. Thus, the Working Group will report on the advances and progress achieved in the period 2009-2011. For the 2012-2013 biennium, the Working Group will pursue activities in the areas of international coordination; dissemination of methodologies, best practices and basic statistical standards and national accounts; promotion of the harmonization of methodologies, classifications, periodicities and coverage relating to national accounts and basic statistics; support for capacity-building and specific technical skills through courses, symposiums and seminars, among others, for the staff of national statistical institutes and central banks.

**Working document:**

- Report of the Working Group on National Accounts of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3380(CEA.6/8))
  - Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies

The main objective of this Working Group is to ensure that all countries have, depending on their circumstances, relevant statistics on the use, availability and impact of ICT on the economy and society as well as a minimum set of standard indicators for the region. Thus, the Working Group will report on the advances and progress achieved in the period 2009-2011. One of the main aspects of its work in the biennium 2012-2013 will be to contribute to the definition of targets and quantifiable indicators of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015). In addition, the compendium of practices is being reviewed with a view to preparing an updated version for 2012 on the implementation of ICT questions in housing and business surveys, developing technical capacities on an updated ICT module for business surveys designed for those countries that have not prepared assessments in this sector, and the design of a module on ICT access and use in the health sector.

**Working document:**

- Report of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3381(CEA.6/9))
  - Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers

The key objective of this Working Group is to formulate a set of basic agreements on the harmonization of criteria and definitions for use in measuring income poverty and public transfers, to obtain an up-to-date map of the status of national experiences in this area and to promote horizontal cooperation and training activities. Thus, the Working Group will report on the advances and progress obtained during the biennium 2009/2011.

**Reference document:**

- Report on the implementation of the 2009-2011 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3284(CE.10/3))
  - Establishment of a working group on international classifications

At its tenth meeting, the Executive Committee agreed to set up an initiative committee for the establishment of a working group on international classifications, whose overall objective would be to assist countries of the region in adopting or adapting revised international classifiers with a view to developing official statistics; and requested that a programme of work identifying possible sources of financing for the planned activities should be prepared and submitted to the Conference at its sixth meeting, for review and approval. Accordingly, the initiative committee will submit to the delegations a document containing a proposed programme of work covering the following areas: regional and subregional cooperation for building member countries' capacities to adopt or adapt international classifiers; exchange and documentation of experiences, knowledge and best practices; continuous updates on the status of new revisions of international classifiers; promoting the creation of inter-agency platforms for collaboration, coordination and integration of regional initiatives relating to international classifiers, and creation of a network of experts in international classifications.

**Working documents:**

- Proposed plan of work 2012-2013 of the working group on international classifications of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (LC/L.3382(CEA.6/10))
- Findings of the Survey on International Classifications in Latin America (LC/L.3383(CEA.6/11))
- (d) Promotion of international cooperation and coordination in the region
  - International Comparison Programme

At the sixth meeting of the Conference, delegations will have before them a report on the status of the International Comparison Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to both the price component and national accounts. The organizational and financial aspects of the Programme will be analysed as well as the main agreements adopted on technical issues by the countries of the region participating in the 2011 round. A report will also be presented on forthcoming activities and on the commitments of national statistical institutes in the region with regard to the Programme of activities.

**Working document:**

- Status report on the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3388(CEA.6/15))

- Project on the regional statistical framework for the directories of businesses and establishments

The proposal of this project is to prepare a regional consensus strategy for the preparation, implementation and management of directories of businesses and establishments and to complement it with a set of tools for regional application which can be used to implement the strategy. The intention is to improve the quality of statistical information on business establishments in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to enhance international comparability and the sustainability of this category of statistics, thereby helping to close the gaps between countries in terms of methodologies, experiences and advances. This project is financed under the Regional Public Goods Program of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Delegations will receive the information from the project coordination on finalization of component 1: Diagnostic review of directories of businesses and establishments in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and on the start-up of component 2: Regional strategy and plan of action for the preparation, implementation and management of directories.

- Report of the committee of countries on the Human Development Report

Delegations will have before them the report prepared by the secretariat in response to the Executive Committee's request, at its tenth meeting, that the Expert Group on the Human Development Report should engage in thematic consultations with the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

**Reference document:**

- Minutes of the meeting of the Expert Group of the Statistical Conference of the Americas with the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (DDR/1)
- Subregional coordination activities

Under this item, the various coordination agencies in the Caribbean, Central America, the Andean Community and the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR) will report on their activities and their contribution to the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities.

**5. Review of proposals for updating the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 of the Conference**

Pursuant to an agreement adopted by the Executive Committee of the Conference at its tenth meeting, the secretariat will present a proposal for an update of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 listing and systematizing suggestions received from the countries.

**Working document:**

- Proposed updating of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015 (LC/L.3375(CEA.6/3))

**6. Other matters**

**7. Report of the Rapporteur**

One of the members of the Executive Committee, acting as Rapporteur, will give an oral summary of the proceedings and the main agreements adopted. The final report of the meeting will be prepared by the secretariat and sent to participating delegations for their comments.

**8. Adoption of agreements**

The Conference will adopt the agreements it deems appropriate.

**9. Election of the Executive Committee for the biennium 2012-2013**

In accordance with resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Conference will elect an Executive Committee consisting of a Chairperson 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 Chairperson 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.

**10. Closing session**