



UNITED NATIONS



Distr.
LIMITED

LC/L.3861(CE.13/4)
8 August 2014

ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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

Santiago, 12-14 August 2014

**REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKING GROUPS
IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2014**

CONTENTS

BACKGROUND.....	3
A. WORKING GROUP ON CENSUSES	3
B. WORKING GROUP ON HARMONIZATION OF STATISTICS ON INCOME POVERTY AND PUBLIC TRANSFERS.....	4
1. Members of the working group and technical secretariat	4
2. Objectives	4
3. Final activity report for the period between December 2013 and June 2014.....	4
4. Programme of work 2014-2015.....	5
C. WORKING GROUP ON THE MONITORING OF PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS.....	6
1. Members of the working group and technical secretariat.....	6
2. Objectives	6
3. Progress report on activities in the first half of 2014.....	7
4. Activities as of the second half of 2014.....	9
D. WORKING GROUP ON NATIONAL ACCOUNTS	16
E. WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES.....	19
F. WORKING GROUP ON LABOUR-MARKET INDICATORS.....	21
G. WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTION-BUILDING.....	24
H. WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS.....	26
I. WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS.....	29
J. WORKING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS	32
K. WORKING GROUP ON HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS.....	34
L. WORKING GROUP ON STATISTICS ON CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE.....	35
M. WORKING GROUP ON PUBLIC SECURITY AND JUSTICE STATISTICS.....	37
N. TASK FORCE ON QUANTIFICATION OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION	39

BACKGROUND

This is a compilation of reports on activities carried out by the working groups in the period between the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (November 2013) and June 2014. This reporting has been carried out as per the instructions in *Proposed operational guidelines for working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC*,¹ a document approved at the aforementioned meeting.

The programmes of work of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers and the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals are included along with the programmes of work for the biennium 2014-2015 that were not in the *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*,² which was submitted in November 2013. Also included is the draft work plan of the task force on quantification of South-South cooperation, which was set up during the seventh meeting of the Conference.

A. WORKING GROUP ON CENSUSES

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Second Latin American and Caribbean Course on Population Estimates and Projections	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)- Population Division of ECLAC, Latin American Population Association (ALAP), CELADE, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	8 to 13 September 2014	Selecting speakers and coordinating their participation. Logistical coordination for the completion of the course. Drawing up programme content. Holding a call for participants from the countries of the region.	The course was originally scheduled for June and July 2014 but was postponed to ensure the participation of speakers. Applications are currently being received in response to the call for participants.

¹ LC/L.3694(CEA.7/4).

² LC/L.3664(CEA.7/3).

B. WORKING GROUP ON HARMONIZATION OF STATISTICS ON INCOME POVERTY AND PUBLIC TRANSFERS

1. Members of the working group and technical secretariat

The group will be coordinated jointly by Colombia and Uruguay, with the ECLAC Statistics Division as technical secretariat. The countries of the region will be consulted to determine the members of the group.

2. Objectives

(a) General

The Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers aims to bring about greater harmonization of the poverty statistics provided by the countries of the region.

(b) Specific

- To document the current situation in respect of the practical challenges in measuring income in the countries of the region and propose strategies with a view to overcoming them.
- To make recommendations on how to progress towards the harmonization of aspects used to measure monetary poverty, with particular emphasis on the measurement of income.
- To produce recommendations on how to gather information on essential dimensions of well-being by means of household surveys, which may serve as guidelines for countries on the multidimensional measurement of poverty and/or well-being.
- To analyse elements arising from the post-2015 development agenda and their relationship with the measurement of multidimensional and monetary poverty with a view to achieving as much complementarity as possible with national systems of measurement.

3. Final activity report for the period between December 2013 and June 2014

No working group activities took place with the exception of a meeting between the country coordinators and the technical secretariat in Mexico City on 3 June at which the new programme of work presented in point IV was revised.

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Coordination meeting	Colombia, Uruguay and ECLAC	3 June 2014	The working group programme of work for 2014-2015 was revised.	

4. Programme of work 2014-2015

Activities	Sub-activities	Lead organization	Date	Expected outcome
Concerning monetary poverty	(i) Design of a system for the classification of income.	ECLAC	July 2014	System for the analysis of questionnaires based on the recommendations of the Canberra Group.
	(ii) Analysis of more recent questionnaires using the scale.	Uruguay and ECLAC	July 2014	Tables identifying income variables of collected in household survey questionnaires.
	(iii) Review by countries and modifications.	Uruguay and member States	August 2014-October 2014	Correct and improve the initial tables on the basis on the review carried out by the countries.
	(iv) Report comprising a comparative analysis of questionnaires.	Uruguay and ECLAC	March 2015	A report comparing the aspects of income measured in the region.
	(v) Exchange of experiences on challenges in improving the measurement of income (face-to-face meeting or videoconferencing, depending on available resources).	Uruguay and ECLAC	April 2015	Identifying challenges and drawing up a roadmap for progress in improving measurement of income.
Concerning multidimensional poverty	(i) Drawing up a proposal on the dimensions of well-being to be addressed by the group.	Colombia	July 2014	Providing guidance in the selection of the dimensions of poverty to be addressed by the group.
	(ii) Selection of the dimensions to be addressed by the Group (e-mail exchange).	Colombia, ECLAC, member countries	September 2014	List of dimensions, providing background information on the activities of the group.
	(iii) Collection and systematization of methods of measuring the selected dimensions in the countries of the region (based on contributions from the countries).	Colombia and ECLAC	December 2014	Producing contributions so as to draw up an overview of how the different dimensions are measured in the surveys in the region.
	(iv) First report summarizing the information collected and identifying similarities and differences.	Colombia and ECLAC	February 2015	Overview of how the different dimensions are measured in the surveys of the region.
	(v) Discussion on relevant considerations in the measurement of the dimensions: challenges, points for improvement, etc. (face-to-face meeting).	Colombia, ECLAC member States	May 2015	Identifying challenges and drawing up a roadmap for progress in improving measurement of certain relevant dimensions of poverty.
	(vi) Report on the discussion and conclusions drawn.	Colombia and ECLAC	August 2015	Systematization of the previously identified challenges.
Concerning the post-2015 development agenda	Report on post-2015 development agenda indicators concerning monetary and multidimensional poverty and their relationship with national measurement systems.	Colombia, Uruguay and ECLAC	To be defined	Contribution on how to increase complementarity between post-2015 development agenda indicators and national measurement systems.

C. WORKING GROUP ON THE MONITORING OF PROGRESS TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. Members of the working group and technical secretariat

Argentina, coordinating country
 Bahamas
 Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
 Colombia
 Costa Rica
 Cuba
 Dominican Republic
 Mexico
 Panama
 Peru
 Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) technical secretariat

2. Objectives

(a) General

Since its inception in June 2005, the general aim of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals has been to understand and reduce the discrepancies between the data produced by the countries and those used by international bodies in monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, by broadening and improving the quality of statistical data in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and promoting inter-institutional coordination both within countries and among the countries and international organizations.

(b) Specific

The working group's current specific objectives, as set out in the programme of work for 2012-2013 adopted at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, held in Bávaro (Dominican Republic) in November 2011. These are the following:

1. To continue promoting the development of official statistics for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals at the regional, national and subnational levels.
2. To continue developing actions aimed at statistical reconciliation by identifying and analysing discrepancies between national data and the data available at the international level, as well as by building up national coordination mechanisms for the production of statistics for the Millennium Development Goals and for proper inclusion of the Goals in national reports.
3. To improve communication between the member countries of the working group by incorporating the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) into their operations.
4. To promote and facilitate training activities on the production and use of statistics relating to the Millennium Development Goals among producers and users of statistics in the different countries of the region, making use of the Knowledge Transfer Network.

5. To evaluate the activities carried out during the current biennium and to adjust the activities and timeline proposed for outstanding tasks, as well as to propose some initial lines of action for the biennium 2014-2015.
6. To identify and channel financial resources to help build up and strengthen countries' statistical capacities to produce indicators showing progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and to promote their use in the corresponding reports and by other users.

3. Progress report on activities in the first half of 2014

Pursuant to the request of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, as lead organization of the country coordinator of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, hereby submits a progress report on the activities scheduled for the first half of 2014, in the current biennium.

The working group coordinators are working to ensure completion of the tasks set out in the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, approved at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, held in Santiago from 5 to 7 November 2013.

The activities carried out by the working group between December 2013 and 30 June 2014 are therefore outlined below:

In respect of objective 1 (promoting the development of official statistics for monitoring the MDGs) and the holding of regional seminars as forums for debate on specific aspects of the monitoring of the MDGs, the working group is drafting a questionnaire to enable the member States to gather information of interest to the working group as well as current statistical requirements and demands. The results of the online survey conducted by the Knowledge Transfer Network on the training needs of national statistics institutes will also be used to carry out the initial assessment.

The consultation carried out as part of the questionnaire will also include work on activities covered under the second goal (strengthening national coordination mechanisms and supporting statistical conciliation activities) to develop an inventory of indicators, which also entails defining their sources and scope.

Work, meanwhile, continued on activities concerning objective 3 (improving communication between the member countries of the working group by incorporating the use of ICT into their operations). Although the development of the information platform (that became operational in the second quarter of 2012) was a major step forward in forging links between the focal points, participation levels were low, and the way in which the platform was used varied from member country to member country. The following activities were therefore undertaken in the first half of 2014 to increase the level of participation and encourage more widespread use of this tool:

- Updating of data maintained by the member countries' focal points.
- Incorporation of content deemed relevant for the working group members, such as reports and technical documentation from recent meetings of the ECLAC SCA.
- The establishment of an alert system to inform the focal points and members of the technical secretariat of all posts made on the platform.

As for the fifth objective (identifying outstanding issues and challenges in the short and medium term and deciding how to address them and, more specifically, designing post-2015 guidelines), members were encouraged to read and discuss materials from the most recent regional seminar on the Millennium Development Goals (all presentations from country delegates, the technical secretariat and international agencies available on the ECLAC website) so as to promote, supplement and support efforts to review and revise the proposals made at global level on the post-2015 development agenda, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their implications for national statistical systems.

Work is also ongoing to design a virtual training course on statistical aspects of the MDGs and to draw up an assessment of the strengths, limitations and new challenges of, as well as lessons to be drawn on, the post-2015 development agenda for national statistical systems. This course will provide technical training for focal points in the countries of the region, and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina (INDEC) has earmarked technical, educational and computer resources for its design and development. It is currently 60% completed; some of the course modules are now being reviewed and others are in advanced stages of development. All modules relating to course content are expected to be completed by early September; virtual implementation is then scheduled to begin.

Activities	Participants	Period of implementation	Results	Remarks
Propose the establishment of an inventory of indicators and defining the sources and scope.	INDEC (Argentina)	Draw up a form: first half of 2014	Review questionnaires and instruments previously used to collect diagnostic information from national statistics institutes. Draw up a preliminary questionnaire (under way).	Under way
Encourage and promote the use of the information platform for communication and virtual interaction between working group members.	INDEC (Argentina)	Updating platform content: first four months of 2014. Contact with member countries: throughout the biennium	Updating information held by the focal points. Incorporating the virtual platform into working group documentation and working materials. Establishing an alert system for each new post.	Completed
Plan training activities, both virtual and on-site.	INDEC (Argentina)		Developing the virtual training course for statistical capacity building for technical and professional of national statistics institutes.	Under way (60% complete)
Reflect on the post-2015 development agenda.	INDEC (Argentina)	First four months of 2014	Sending materials and presentations from the seventh Regional Seminar on the MDGs (Santiago, 4-5 November 2013) to focal points via the virtual platform as a basis for discussion on the post-2015 development agenda.	Completed

4. Activities as of the second half of 2014

The working group activities planned for the second half of 2014 include the following:

Work on objectives one and two will concentrate on the design and use of the questionnaire, which will serve as an instrument for the collection of information of interest to the working group from national statistics institutes on their current statistical requirements and demands and information as well as new challenges and opportunities for them in respect of the post-2015 development agenda. The results will then be used to draw up an assessment report that will help establish an order of priority between countries requiring support and assistance and lead to the holding of regional-level thematic and technical meetings for debate and statistical capacity-building for the institutes. The results of the Knowledge Transfer Network survey on the training needs of national statistics institutes —available online here: <http://www.ceacepal-rtc.org>— will also be used to carry out the assessment.

The questionnaire will also include one or more modules to gather specific information to help draw up an inventory of indicators and define their sources and scope.

A single survey, carried out by the member countries by completing the questionnaire, will therefore provide relevant and timely information which will be put to many different uses, thus saving time and resources.

Work on the third objective will most likely entail continuing to promote use of the virtual platform as a tool for contact, liaison and discussion between the focal points of member countries. Efforts will therefore be ongoing to update and disseminate content and materials of interest, and proposals will be made for the holding of issue-based forums for discussion between the members of the working group.

In respect of objective 4, work is expected to continue to develop and finalize the virtual course with a view to having it ready for use by the end of 2014.

As for objective 5, the review and assessment of the MDGs initiative, their strengths and weaknesses and lessons learned will continue, and will fuel the ongoing discussion (that will be deepened in the coming months) on the post-2015 development agenda. To this end, further work will be undertaken to disseminate relevant materials, propose consultations at national and regional level and hold virtual and face-to-face meetings.

Work on objective 6 will require the support of the technical secretariat in the management of financial resources to ensure that the activities scheduled for the current biennium can be carried out since the secretariat is better able to identify potential sources of financing and donors.

D. WORKING GROUP ON NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

Activities	Sub-activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
International coordination	<p>ECLAC forwarded the survey on progress in implementing the 2008 system of national accounts (SNA 2008) to the countries of the region.</p> <p>It is hoped that the results will be ready for distribution at the Annual Seminar on National Accounts and the thirteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the SCA-ECLAC, which will be held in Santiago from 12 to 14 August.</p>	Coordinating country and ECLAC.	June-July 2014	Evaluation of progress in implementing SNA 2008 in Latin America and the Caribbean.	ECLAC surveys progress in countries annually or, failing that, every two years.
	<p>The Annual Seminar of National Accounts of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Santiago: Regional implementation of the system of national accounts and satellite accounts.</p> <p>The main issues to be addressed are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State of progress in implementing SNA 2008 - Household accounts, sources and methods - Economic situation: Quarterly GDP and monthly indicators of economic activity - Satellite accounts in SNA 2008 	<p>Presentations by the United Nations Statistics Division, ECLAC, Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute (IBGE), Central Bank of Ecuador, Statistical Institute of Jamaica, National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, Central Bank of Uruguay, Central Bank of Honduras, National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile, National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of the Peru, Central Bank of Dominica, consultants and international experts; and participation of countries in the region.</p>	4-6 August 2014	National Accounts Seminar 2014.	Includes the analysis of various specialized national accounts issues, providing feedback on how to implement SNA 2008.

Activities	Sub-activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Methodologies concerning basic statistics in national accounts.	<p>As a technical secretariat, ECLAC has coordinated the collection of the requisite funding to complete the Advanced training course on national accounts.</p> <p>New modules of national accounts were developed and presented.</p> <p>The workshop aims to establish an advanced didactic and information tool able to put in place a process of self-training to hone the technical skills of statisticians producing national accounts, thereby raising the quality of statistics.</p>	Coordinating country, ECLAC and the countries in the region.	Second half of 2014	Coordination work for the third advanced workshop on national accounts.	The date of the workshop and its participants will be specified in cooperation with ECLAC.
	<p>The coordinating country is working on a draft manual of good practices in national accounts.</p> <p>The proposal will be put to the technical secretariat and member countries of the working group for their consideration. Its aim will be to improve the production, quality and timeliness of national accounts as well as to underpin the trust of users by fostering the use of international good practices.</p>	Coordinating country and ECLAC, in coordination with the countries of the region.	June 2014 to July 2015	Making progress on the draft manual of good practices in national accounts.	

Activities	Sub-activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Human resources development.	The draft survey for countries and experts will be analysed.	Coordinating country, ECLAC and the countries in the region.	2014	Plan for horizontal cooperation, and requests and needs of countries (under way).	Ascertain the requests and needs of countries by means of dedicated surveys and expert opinion, with a view to promoting technical cooperation.
	Work is scheduled to be resumed be resumed in the second half of 2014 on the project to improve basic economic statistics and the advanced training course on national accounts is to be incorporated into the initiative to promote regional public goods.	Coordinating country and ECLAC.	Second half of 2014	Presentation to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) (in preparation).	

E. WORKING GROUP ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Development of the module on ICT use in the health sector (methodological document and questionnaire).	Commission coordinated by Chile and made up of Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015) and the Centre for Studies on Information and Communications Technologies of Brazil (CETIC.br).	January to April 2014	Working paper for the workshop of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and several experts, held in Sao Paulo (Brazil) from 31 March to 4 April.	
Workshop of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies, revision of the draft version of the module on ICT use in the health sector in Sao Paulo (Brazil).	All working group members, as well as a representative of the Ministry of Public Health of Cuba, an expert on electronic health statistics from the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico and delegates from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), eLAC, CETIC.br and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).	31 March to 4 April 2014	Document revised, expanded and improved, and almost completed, by adding contributions from the participants, for final review before forwarding to the ministries of health and national statistics institutes in the region.	This tool will be adapted by each country according to their needs and context, and applied to measure use of ICT in the health sector in a joint effort by the ministries of health and the national statistics institutes.
Planning, together with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), workshops on ICT for English-speaking Caribbean countries and Haiti.	CARICOM, Suriname, Bahamas and Jamaica	January to June	Talks under way with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to request technical and financial support for the holding of a workshop and to set its objectives and agenda, on the basis of the assessment of the current situation on the measurement of ICT.	
Adaptation of the survey on ICT for ministries and institutions involved in setting the digital agenda.	INEGI of Mexico worked to adapt the draft questionnaire on ICT, with the support of the Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and eLAC.	January to June	Drafting under way, in collaboration with eLAC, of 2013 version of survey for use in institutions that are eLAC focal points.	The aim is to measure the level of take-up of ICT in government plans and progress in respect of the information society.

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Dissemination of the results of the 2013 version of the ICT survey to national statistics institutes.	Dominican Republic	July	Follow-up to the information provided by the national statistics institutes on countries' involvement in the harmonized ICT measurement process, establishing complementary ICT indicators and raising awareness of the digital strategy and how to use of ICT indicators.	
Participation in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and a panel held by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development to mark its tenth anniversary.	Dominican Republic, coordinating country	9 to 13 June 2014	<p>The overall purpose of the working group was to develop statistical and methodological capacities with a view to providing timely information within the guidelines laid out by the WSIS.</p> <p>With a view to improving the production and dissemination of data, ICT, by virtue of its cross-cutting nature, needed to be mainstreamed in national statistical plans.</p> <p>The working group was interested in stepping up collaborative work with the partnership with a view to helping it achieve its objectives.</p>	
Review of the form on indicators for monitoring eLAC2015.	Dominican Republic	June	Forwarding the questionnaire to national statistics institutes in the region with a view to helping eLAC compile information.	

F. WORKING GROUP ON LABOUR-MARKET INDICATORS

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Regional workshop on harmonizing indicators for the statistical measurement of the informal economy.	The workshop was held in Montevideo by the International Labour Organization (ILO), in the form of its Regional Office for Latin America and its Department of Statistics, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Uruguay and supported by FLACSO Chile. It was attended by representatives of all the statistical offices of the countries of Latin America.	28 to 30 April 2014	<p>Regional dissemination of the manual <i>Measuring informality: A statistical manual on the informal sector and informal employment</i> (ILO, 2013).</p> <p>Strengthening regional capacities by sharing the know-how and experiences of participants.</p> <p>Promoting a regional forum for meetings and the sharing of national experiences on measuring informality indicators.</p> <p>Presenting progress made in statistical harmonization at regional level.</p> <p>Chile, as the coordinating country of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators, shared the results of the regional assessment made in 2013 and held discussions on its role within the regional process of harmonization.</p>	<p>The countries undertook to continue the process of harmonization by mainstreaming these issues at institutional level.</p> <p>The ILO will continue to provide advice and technical assistance to countries requiring it. The working group therefore undertakes to incorporate this issue into its programme of work for the 2014-2015 biennium.</p> <p>Progress needs to be made in discussions on the methodology to use in surveys on informality, as this is unsatisfactory.</p> <p>The national statistical offices will be responsible for encouraging the development of labour statistics in their countries by looking into setting up formal arrangements for the measurement of informal sector and employment in the short term.</p>
Report of the second face-to-face meeting of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators: main points of discussion and outcomes.	The report outlines the main discussions and outcomes of the second face-to-face meeting of the working group, which was attended by representatives of all statistical offices of the countries in Latin America (or agencies responsible for producing official labour-market statistics, such as the central bank of the Dominican Republic), the members of the working group and representatives of ILO.	Drafted in the final quarter of 2013, agreed with the member countries in the first quarter of 2014.	<p>The meeting formed part of the activities planned by the working group for the 2012-2013 biennium, therefore fulfilling the objective of providing opportunities for the discussion and exchange of national experiences in the region by holding annual face-to-face meetings.</p> <p>The report outlined the debates held and main outcomes of the three days of work, during which the member countries openly discussed the different national realities on the measurement of the informal sector and employment, and put forward proposals and suggested improvements and objectives towards greater regional harmonization in the measurement of the informal economy.</p>	The meeting document was agreed upon by all working group members. The final version incorporated comments and details of progress made provided by countries in their review.

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Drawing up a fact sheet or metadata on the measurement of the informal sector and informal employment for the working group member countries, as per objective 1 of the work programme for the 2014-2015 biennium.	The coordinating institutions (DANE of Colombia and INE of Chile) were entrusted with drafting the fact sheet.	Between May and June 2014 (preliminary results are expected for between August and September 2014).	<p>A fact sheet or explaining in detail the methodologies currently used for measuring the informal sector and informal employment in the member countries of the working group.</p> <p>The main objective is to review and document the indicators currently published by the countries with a view to drawing up up-to-date inventory to help identify gaps in regional harmonization.</p> <p>Countries without an official methodology for the measurement of the informal sector and informal employment are also expected to be able to use the document as the basis for a future measurement system.</p>	The fact sheet or metadata will be forwarded in early July, and preliminary results are expected by between August and September 2014.
Preparations for the third face-to-face meeting of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators (covered under objective 3 of the biennial plan).	Together with representatives of the national statistical institutes, representatives of the member countries' labour ministries also expected to attend.	Organizational work for the meeting: first quarter of 2014. Meeting: second half of 2014.	<p>The coordinating countries, in cooperation with the ILO, have already drawn up a preliminary agenda for the meeting which proposes addressing the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing national experiences on defining and establishing systems of indicators on decent work and strengthening institutional arrangements for monitoring and evaluating such systems. - Further harmonization of indicators for the statistical measurement of the informal economy (the informal sector, employment in the informal sector and informal employment), especially in regard to the implementation of the various methodologies set out in the ILO manual on measuring informality. - Present progress made by the working group and the achievement of the stated aims for 2014. 	Arrangements have been made to find an alternative means of financing the meeting.

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
<p>Application for the project to harmonize statistics of informality in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on the social protection of workers to be included in the IDB initiative on regional public goods.</p>	<p>For reasons of eligibility of the application, the project has the official support of the national statistical offices of Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, and counts on the collaboration of FLACSO Chile, as executing agency, and ILO, as technical adviser. The scheduled activities financed under the programme will, however, benefit all member countries of the working group.</p>	<p>30 months, beginning in 2015 (subject to IDB approval).</p>	<p>Presentation of a proposal for the harmonization of statistics of informality in Latin America and the Caribbean, focused on the social protection of workers.</p> <p>In line with one of the IDB's priorities, namely to improve the functioning of labour markets and expand the coverage of social security, the proposal aims to contribute —through training, horizontal technical cooperation, workshops, exchanges of experiences and pilot projects— to the harmonization of labour statistics, particularly indicators on informality and access to social protection for workers in Latin America and the Caribbean by means of the working group's objectives and planned activities.</p>	

G. WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTION-BUILDING

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Drawing up a regional assessment on statistical planning and results-based management.	Eduardo Pereira was appointed international consultant Sample of seven countries elected by the consultant: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Dominican Republic and Uruguay.	December 2013 to May 2014	Assessment of statistical planning and results-based management in seven countries of the region.	The report is available here: [online] https://www.dane.gov.co/files/varios/taller_capacitacion/diagnostico.pdf . The comments and feedback from the participants in the workshop stressed the importance of results-based management, thus confirming their wish for more training of this type and the use of results-based management in statistics.
Training workshop on statistical planning and results-based management (Bogota).	Eduardo Pereira, international consultant in statistical planning, and Rafael Gómez, results-based management consultant of IDB. Attended by representatives from 18 countries in the region: Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), together with a representative of the technical secretariat of the working group.	12 to 14 May 2014	Discussion and presentation of concepts and experiences on statistical planning and results-based management by representatives of the countries present.	Material from the workshop is available here: [online] https://www.dane.gov.co/index.php/sala-de-prensa/eventos .

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Revision of the methodology of assessment of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.	Pedro Fernández as international consultant.	Under way since April 2014	Initial assessment of which principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean need to be reviewed.	
Preparation for the overall assessments of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.	<p>In July 2014 compliance assessments in respect of the code will be carried out in Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.</p> <p>The assessments will cover the countries' institutional environment, coordination arrangements, as well as timeliness, punctuality, accessibility and clarity.</p> <p>Two teams of assessors will take part, composed as follows:</p> <p>(i) International experts: Pilar Martín-Guzmán and Luis Beccaria Pair of assessors: one delegate from Colombia and one from Costa Rica.</p> <p>(ii) International experts: Ernesto Azorín and Máximo Aguilera. Pair of assessors: one delegate from Colombia and one from Peru.</p>	Under way since February 2014.	<p>List of documents requested by the experts.</p> <p>Programmes of the visits to each of the six countries.</p> <p>Guide on how to carry out the overall assessments.</p>	

H. WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Managing the regional public goods project: "Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean".	Project participants, IDB, INEGI (executor), ECLAC, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).	December 2013 to June 2014	Will be outlined in the subsequent fields of this report.	
Hiring of the individual consultant to provide advice on how to improve project management.	Executing agency.	December 2013 to May 2014	Deliverables to help improve project management.	
Hiring of the individual consultant to work as project officer.	Executing agency.	February to June 2014	Deliverables to help improve project management.	Consultant to provide permanent back-up for the duration of the project.
Drawing up technical specifications for the hiring of comprehensive service provider.	Executing agency and IDB.	January to May 2014	Terms of reference approved and incorporated into the comprehensive service contract used to hold the first workshop of the project's Technical Committee.	
Drafting the agenda of the first workshop of the project's Technical Committee.	Executing agency, ECLAC, IDB, coordinating countries of component 1 of the project (Jamaica and Costa Rica).	March 2014	Satisfactory completion of the agenda and other support materials for the sessions of the workshop.	

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Holding the first workshop of the project's Technical Committee.	Executing agency.	April 2014	<p>Key project information, such as its components, governance bodies and rules of operation was distributed to attendees.</p> <p>The most recent development in environmental statistics methodology were outlined and discussed.</p> <p>Past global and national experiences in analysing and taking stock of official environmental statistics were considered.</p> <p>Fundamental aspects for inclusion in the self-assessment tool to be produced under the project so as to take stock of the situation in respect of official environmental statistics in the region were discussed and agreed upon.</p>	<p>As planned, representatives of the statistics agencies and ministries of environment of the member nine countries attended, with the exception of the ministries of environment of the Bahamas, Jamaica and Suriname, which are yet to appoint project representatives.</p> <p>Officials of the international organizations providing advice and support to the project —IDB, ECLAC, CARICOM, the UNEP and the Statistical Division of the United Nations— also attended.</p> <p>Minutes were taken of the agreements made, under the supervision of the executing agency.</p>
Requests were sent to the ministries of environment of the Bahamas, Jamaica and Suriname for them to appoint representatives on the Technical Committee of the project.	Executing agency.	April 2014	Follow-up under way	
Drawing up terms of reference for individual consulting on component 1 in respect of the assessment of the production of environmental statistics.	Executive secretary and executing agency of the project.	March to May 2014	Technical specifications for consulting activities drawn up without objection from the IDB.	Certain concepts discussed at the first workshop of the project's Technical Committee were included.
Selection process for the individual consultant for component 1.	Executive secretary and executing agency of the project.	May to June 2014	Individual consultant for component 1 selected.	

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Drawing up contract for hiring the individual consultant for component 1: "Assessment of environment statistics."	Executing agency.	June 2014	Contract drawn up and application made for notice of non-objection from IDB.	
Drawing up and submitting justification of disbursement of project funds.	Executing agency.	June 2014	Being processed by IDB management system.	
Drawing up and submitting new application for advance on project funds.	Executing agency.	June 2014	Being processed by IDB management system.	

I. WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Continuing to encourage the members of each subcommittee of the working group to follow-up the activities with which they have been entrusted.	Mexico, as working group coordinator, and the coordinators of each subcommittee.	December 2013 to June 2014	<p>Proposal for a training programme on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) rev.4.</p> <p>Training programme on the Central Product Classification (CPC), version 2.</p> <p>Translation into Spanish of CPC, version 2.</p>	
Conference call with the members of the steering committee of the Working Group on International Classifications.	Chile (INE), Costa Rica (INEC), Mexico (INEGI), ECLAC, United Nations Statistics Division and ILO.	April 2014	<p>Report of the conference call. It was determined that only one annual face-to-face working group meeting would be held, a possible venue for the third meeting was put forward and the status update on progress in the group's work was given.</p>	<p>Mexico convened the conference call, which was conducted via Skype. Positive results were obtained and communication costs were kept low.</p> <p>Due to technical issues the representative of the Andean Community could not be contacted but the report was subsequently sent to him.</p>
Draft agenda for the third meeting of the working group.	Mexico	April and May 2014	Final agenda for the third meeting of the working group.	The draft agenda was drawn up in line with the designation of tasks and with the approval of the other members of the steering committee of the working group.
Management of the third face-to-face meeting of the members of the working group and the meeting of the steering committee of the working group.	Colombia, Mexico, ECLAC, the United Nations Statistics Division and ILO.	December 2013 to June 2014	The third face-to-face meeting of the working group will be held in Bogota from 4 to 8 August 2014.	Funding for the meeting was secured from the United Nations and the ILO, together with logistical support from DANE.
Drawing up the proposal for a training programme on ISIC Rev.4.	Working group subcommittee on training, composed of Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador and Uruguay (coordinator).	November 2013 to March 2014	Proposal for a training programme on ISIC Rev.4.	The objective is to formalize training on ISIC, its scope and content.

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Drawing up a proposal for a training programme on CPC version 2.	Working group subcommittee on training, composed of Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador and Uruguay (coordinator).	April to June 2014	Proposal for a training programme on CPC version 2.	The objective is to formalize training on CPC, its scope and content.
Translation into Spanish of CPC version 2.	Subcommittee on translation of CPC version 2, composed of Chile, Colombia (Coordinator), and Peru, as well as a review with the representative of the Statistical Division of the United Nations and Mexico.	July 2013 to March 2014	Unofficial version of CPC version 2 translated into Spanish.	INEGI, as working group coordinator, sent the translation of CPC version 2 to the Subcommittee on translation of CPC and the members of the steering committee. The translation will be published on the United Nations website as an unofficial version. The representative of the United Nations drew up the final version on the basis of his final observations and those of the delegate from Mexico.
Translation into Spanish of the implementation guide to ISIC Rev. 4.	Subcommittee on the translation into Spanish of the implementation guide to ISIC Rev. 4, made up of Argentina, Chile (coordinator) and Mexico.	May 2013 to 2014	Preliminary version of the implementation guide to ISIC Rev. 4 (parts 0, 1, 2, 4 and 5) translated into Spanish.	The preliminary version is undergoing review by the Statistical Division of the United Nations. This Spanish translation is an essential tool to assist countries with the adoption or adaptation of ISIC.
Invitation to national statistics offices selected at the third meeting of the Working Group to give presentations on progress in implementing ISIC, CPC and the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO).	INEGI (Mexico)	June 2014	At the third meeting of the working group the national statistics offices made presentations on progress in implementing ISIC, CPC and ISCO.	

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Drafting the report on activities carried out by the working group between November 2013 and January 2014.	INEGI (Mexico)	February 2014	Report on activities carried out by the working group between November 2013 and January 2014.	At the request of the National Institute of statistics and censuses of Ecuador (INEC), as Chair of the Conference of Statistics of the Americas of ECLAC, the report on activities carried out by the working group between November 2013 and January 2014 was forwarded for presentation at the briefing on the Conference, which was held on 3 March 2014 at the headquarters of the United Nations.
Drafting the report of the working group for the first quarter of 2014.	Mexico submitted the report, which had been approved by the other members of the working group steering committee.	April 2014	Report of the Working Group on International Classifications for the first quarter of 2014.	A status report on the group's programme of work was submitted to the Executive Committee of SCA-ECLAC.

J. WORKING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Twelfth international meeting of experts and experts in generation and analysis of information on time-use and unpaid labour (Mexico City).	Organized by: office of UN Women in Mexico, Gender Affairs Division of ECLAC, National Institute of Women (INMUJERES) and INEGI of Mexico. Participants from nine countries attended.	2 and 3 June	The meeting was successful and saw the presentation of the Guide for producing satellite accounts on unpaid work in households, prepared by ECLAC.	Four countries (Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru) gave presentations on progress in estimating the satellite account of unpaid work of households.
Side event to the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women: "Gender statistics and the data revolution in the context of the post-2015 agenda" (held at United Nations headquarters).	Presentations were made by the following: INMUJERES, office of UN Women in Mexico, Gender Affairs Division of ECLAC and INEGI of Mexico. The event was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and more than 60 people attended.	17 March 2014	The event focused on showcasing the coordination work on gender statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean carried out by the Working Group on Gender Statistics.	Feedback from participants from other regions of the world was positive.
Distribution of a note containing the date of the XV International Meeting of Gender Statistics, to be held in Aguascalientes (Mexico), from 5 to 7 November 2014.	INEGI	14 April 2014	The gender focal points were informed of the meeting.	
Presentation of a note on the activities of the working group at the briefing of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, held as part the forty-fifth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (United Nations headquarters).	INEGI	3 March 2014	Presentation of a note on activities carried out by the working group between November 2013 and January 2014.	

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Meeting of the Working Group on Gender Statistics during the informal meeting of the Executive Committee of ECA (United Nations headquarters).	Representatives of the ECA member countries participating in the forty-fifth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The meeting was chaired by the Office of the Vice-President of the Governing Board of the INEGI and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.	3 March 2014	Exchange of information on recent developments in gender statistics at global level.	
Forwarding the first draft of the agenda for the fifth Global Forum on Gender Statistics to the focal points of the working group.	INEGI	1 April 2014	The focal points were informed.	An invitation to national statistical offices to propose subjects for their presentations was sent out with the draft agenda. The fifth Global Forum on Gender Statistics will be held in Aguascalientes (Mexico) from 3 to 5 November 2014.
Forwarding the hyperlink to the recently launched United Nations Statistics Division system for dissemination of the minimum set of gender indicators to the focal points of the working group.	INEGI	1 April 2014	The focal points were informed.	The system can be accessed here: [online] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/data.html .

K. WORKING GROUP ON HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

Activities	Subactivities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Drawing up an assessment of the state of member countries' integrated household survey systems (IHSS).		Ecuador	February to June 2014	Report based on the self-assessment form for measuring the conceptual structure of IHSS.	An assessment document is expected to be completed of the state of member countries' IHSS.
Making progress on methodology for devising the IHSS master sample.	Report on the main points of drawing up the IHSS master sample.	Ecuador	January to August 2014	Document on Ecuador's IHSS Exchange of experiences and methods on the make-up of Ecuador's IHSS.	
	Collect information from each of the member countries on the creation of units within the framework—framework stratification—and the establishment and ongoing updating of the master sample.	Ecuador and ECLAC	February to June 2014		Methodological documents for the main elements needed to create master samples in each of the Member countries are expected to be completed.

L. WORKING GROUP ON STATISTICS ON CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
<p>Detecting information gaps with a view to establishing indicators on childhood and adolescence in SCA countries.</p> <p>Progress made: The request made to the countries to provide opinions or comments on the report “Analysis of regional information gaps”, based on the annual UNICEF report, <i>the State of the World's Children 2012</i> was again made.</p>	<p>Member countries of the working group: Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic.</p>	<p>October 2013 and February 2014 (as requested)</p>	<p>Evaluation and validation by the countries of the document.</p> <p>Submission of information on actions undertaken.</p> <p>Drawing up an assessment (under way)</p> <p>UNICEF regional offices will assist the statistics institutes in coordinating working group activities.</p>	<p>The report was forwarded to the member countries of the group.</p> <p>The assessment will be drafted once the opinions provided by each of the countries has been collated.</p> <p>Comments from Colombia and Panama have been received, and opinions from other members of the working group are expected.</p>
<p>Detecting problems in respect of harmonizing indicators on childhood and adolescence among SCA member countries.</p> <p>Progress made: Work to follow up the consultation on the content of the template concerning the set of key minimum indicators needed to monitor and assess the implementation of the rights of children set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed by all member countries of the working group.</p> <p>The information used was taken from <i>The State of World's Children Report 2013</i>.</p>	<p>Member countries of the working group.</p>	<p>October 2013 and February 2014</p>	<p>Suggestions were submitted on how to bring about greater harmonization.</p>	<p>Responses have been received from Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic, and contributions from the remaining members of the working group are expected.</p> <p>The request for information has been forwarded to the national statistics institutes, although it refers to certain indicators that they do not provide.</p>

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
<p>Dissemination of information on indicators on childhood and adolescence.</p> <p>Progress made: Work is under way to develop an information platform using DevInfo technology.</p>	<p>INEC and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).</p>	<p>January to October 2014</p>	<p>Provide online access to indicators on childhood and adolescence in the region, which are currently being revised.</p>	<p>Under way.</p>

M. WORKING GROUP ON PUBLIC SECURITY AND JUSTICE STATISTICS

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Videoconferencing	Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic and the Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice.	26 February 2014	Review of the work plan.	<p>The request from the Executive Committee of SCA-ECLAC was sent out to ascertain the needs of the group, which are summarized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing an approach for the working group to security indicators within the framework of the post-2015 development agenda. - Dissemination of the group's output. - Forging links with other United Nations system initiatives or work (data revolution). - In-kind support (printing of materials). <p>It was agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess involvement in work to establish the international classification of crimes for statistical purposes. - Review draft versions of the contributions forwarded by the technical secretariat and contribute to the drawing-up of final versions, to be compiled in a concept paper on a statistical system on crime and criminal justice and an assessment of the state of crime and criminal justice statistics.

Activities	Participants	Implementation period	Results	Remarks
Meeting	Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Dominican Republic.	6 March 2014	The invitation to the second International Conference on Governance, Crime and Justice Statistics 2014, held in Mexico City from 18 to 21 June 2014, was distributed.	The meeting was held as part of work of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations. A working group on 21 June 2014 was announced, as part of the International Conference, to discuss the concept paper on a statistical system on crime and criminal justice. This was to be the first of the activities on the work programme agreed in November 2013 to be carried out since the establishment of the working group.
Meeting	Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic and the Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice.	21 June 2014	The agreements made at the meeting are included in the next column.	<p>To establish a permanent channel for direct communication between the members of the Working Group on Public Security and Justice Statistics while keeping the focal point of the institution informed at all times.</p> <p>To submit comments on the concept paper by no later than Thursday, 31 July 2014, for members of the working group to share with other stakeholders within the statistical system of their respective countries, as professionals of the criminal justice system.</p> <p>To disseminate the most recent version of the international classification of crimes for statistical purposes and the document outlining the results of its latest test-run.</p>

N. TASK FORCE ON QUANTIFICATION OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

1. Members of the task force and technical secretariat

Member countries: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

Participating entities: statistical institutes and international cooperation agencies of the member countries of the task force.

Technical secretariat: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

2. Objectives

(a) General

Prepare a methodological design to assess South-South cooperation qualitatively and quantitatively (where appropriate).

(b) Specific

- Prepare a glossary of statistical terms relating to South-South cooperation.
- Contribute to the international debate on aspects of South-South cooperation that need to be measured.
- Strengthen the work carried out by statistical institutes and national cooperation agencies.

3. Programme of work

Activities	Subactivities	Participants	Date	Expected results
Adoption of the programme of work of the group	- Exchange of preliminary information via e-mail	Member countries of the group	June 2014	Programme of work of the group adopted
	- Virtual meeting via videoconference		Third week of July 2014	
Definition of terms	- Virtual seminar for discussion of terminology	Member countries of the group	August 2014	Glossary of terms
	- Virtual meeting to agree on the terminology		First week of September 2014	
Preparation of a methodological design for measuring South-South cooperation	- Virtual discussions via videoconferences and e-mail on the methodological approach to measuring South-South cooperation	Member countries of the group	September 2014	First draft of the methodological design
	- I Face-to-face workshop to discuss the methodological proposal for measuring South-South cooperation (Bogota)	Group coordinating country	Second week of October 2014	
	- Virtual meetings to refine the methodological proposal		Between the first week of November 2014 and the last week of March 2015	