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

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BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES, 2018-2019, OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CONTENTS

WORKING GROUP ON CENSUSES

1.   Objectives

(a) General

Promote coordination and cooperation among the region's countries so as to strengthen their technical and methodological capacities as part of the preparations for the 2020 census round.

(b) Specific

(i)   Support the region's countries in assessing, analysing and identifying lessons learned from the 2010 population and housing censuses, with a view to preparing for the 2020 census round.

(ii) Support improvements in the calculation of population estimates and projections.

(iii) Encourage exchanges of knowledge and experiences among the region's countries.

2.   Rationale

The 2020 census round has started in Latin America and the Caribbean; between 2017 and 2018 at least five countries in the region undertook or will undertake their respective censuses, and the rest are planning to do so between 2019 and 2022. The region faces substantial challenges to provide, on the basis of these censuses, basic information to measure the progress of sustainable development and the well-being of the population.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international agreements will require countries to generate a great deal of information for the various indicators used to monitor progress. Data from housing and population censuses and vital statistics will provide inputs for estimating those indicators for small areas and specific population groups, which will support public policies aimed at reducing the region's persistent inequality.

For the region's countries, the 2030 Agenda poses challenges such as the international comparability of contents and measurement methods, in light of the wide range of objectives that make up the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); as do the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the needs of each individual national statistical system (NSS), all of which exerts pressure on census instruments. This is compounded by the fact that individual national statistical systems are also working to integrate different the sources of statistics: censuses, surveys and administrative records.

In addition, addressing these challenges requires a statistical infrastructure that can respond with greater precision and timeliness. In particular, these requirements demand improvements to mapping updates and the inclusion of technological resources at the different stages in the census process.

The region must take advantage and incorporate new innovations in tools, processes and technologies with a view to improving the coverage and quality of census information. Most of the region's countries only seem to engage in these processes every 10 years, with little evidence of equipment updating between cycles. Thus, South-South cooperation is vital to share lessons learned and optimize resources.

All of this must take place under the increasingly demanding oversight of public opinion as regards transparency, efficiency and quality, with the growing and active participation of civil society and the increased and active scrutiny from mass media and social networks, compounded by restrictions linked to shrinking budgets.

In the light of those challenges, at the seminar entitled "2020 census round: possibilities and challenges presented by the Sustainable Development Goals and the Montevideo Consensus within the framework of the 2030 Agenda," held in 2016, four working subgroups were set up to address the following topics: content of censuses, integration of censuses with other data sources, cartography and census technologies.

3.   Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating country**: Chile

(b) **Technical secretariat**: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

(c) **Member countries:** Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

- Coordinating countries of the working subgroup on content: Argentina and Uruguay
- Coordinating countries of the working subgroup on integrating data sources: Colombia and Ecuador
- Coordinating countries of the working subgroup on cartography: Brazil and Chile
- Coordinating countries of the working subgroup on technology: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Colombia

4.   Programme of work

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Coordinate and follow up the activities of the working subgroups on content, integration with other data sources, mapping and technology	Create and develop programmes of work for each subgroup for the 2018-2019 biennium. These must consider at least the activities contained in this programme and including relations with other thematic groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC Follow up the activities of each working subgroup	Programme of work for each subgroup for the 2018-2019 biennium. Inclusion, in the Working Group's follow-up reports, of a section describing the activities of each subgroup	CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile	2018-2019
Discuss and standardize census content for the 2020 census round Discuss mapping updates for the 2020 census round Discuss the use of technology for the 2020 round	Establish the working methodology to enable the region's progress in each of the four topics to be undertaken by the subgroups through videoconferences and submission of working papers	Document containing the design of the work methodology and prioritization of topics Records with the main themes addressed and agreements reached by the discussion meetings	INE of Chile CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC Working subgroup	2018-2019

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Discuss integrating censuses with other sources of data for the 2020 round Country participation would be reflected in their involvement in discussions, coordination efforts, revision of documents, remote and face-to-face meetings Funding needs will depend on how ambitious each programme of work is, which in turn will determine if external financing is needed or if each participating country will draw on their existing budget	Establish the calendar of discussions to ensure continuity with the seminar "2020 census round: possibilities and challenges presented by the Sustainable Development Goals and the Montevideo Consensus within the framework of the 2030 Agenda" Interact with other working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, including: − Gender Statistics − Disability Measurement − Household Surveys − Administrative Records − Childhood	Report on recommendations for the 2020 census round		
Analyse and publish the results of the seminar "Experiences, good practices and challenges for the national statistical systems of the countries of Latin America in the 2020 population and housing census round"	Analyse the results of the seminar Publish and disseminate the results	Publication of seminar report, including suggestions and recommendations to guide the 2020 round	CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC Chilean Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AGCID) Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Department of Economic and Social Affairs INE (Chile) Participants: 23 of the region's countries; 20 from Latin America and 3 from the Caribbean	2018

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Assess and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the countries' technological infrastructure, as indicated by the results of the regional survey on technological infrastructure	Disseminate the instrument Implement the instrument Analyse and compile the results of the survey carried out in the region: identification of weaknesses and strengths, and discussion on strategies to be followed in the 2020 census round	Report on the results of the regional survey, identifying strengths and limitations and enabling regional and national measures aimed at mitigating or addressing issues through coordination efforts, recommendations and South-South cooperation	United Nations Statistics Division CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC INE (Chile) Working subgroup on technology	2018-2019
Exchange experiences among the countries based on observations from the pilot tests in the region	Create a calendar for tests in the region's countries Disseminate and raise awareness among the region's countries of the following milestones in the pilot tests, to coordinate technical visits to the countries	Calendar of pilot tests in the region's countries in preparation for the 2020 census round Systematization of pilot test results Active exchange of experiences between countries on census processes, thus promoting mutual learning	CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC INE (Chile)	2018-2019
Hold a workshop on population estimates and projections Note: funding for the activity must be obtained	Undertake preparatory activities to select participants Invite countries Organize workshop	Presentations made at the workshop Documents distributed at the workshop Workshop completion report	CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC UNFPA	2018-2019
Hold workshop to exchange experiences on procedures for verifying, validating and imputing census data Note: funding for the activity must be obtained	Undertake preparatory activities to select participants Invite countries Organize workshop	Presentations made at the workshop Documents distributed at the workshop Workshop completion report	CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC UNFPA INE of Chile	2019

WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Objectives

(a) General

Support the countries of the region in adopting or adapting new versions of international classifications, to contribute to the development of official statistics in the different statistical programmes.

(b) Specific

(i) Identify and pursue regional and subregional cooperation actions to strengthen member countries' capacities in the process of adopting international classifiers.

(ii) Exchange and document experiences, knowledge and good practices relating to the implementation of international classifications.

(iii) Provide regular updates on the progress made with new revisions to international classifications, particularly in connection with conducting economic and population censuses and changing the base year for national accounts in the region's countries, as well as with 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 blocs of countries.

(v) Prioritize the translation into Spanish of international classification texts to enable 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.

(vii) Promote the formation of a network of experts in international classifications, to provide the countries with tools for communicating about and updating classifications and nomenclatures.

2. Rationale

The activities of this Working Group strengthen the strategic plan by supporting the pursuit of the general and specific objectives through the implementation of activities that advance the adoption of international best practices for the proper integration and coordination of national statistical systems by national statistical offices; promote the dissemination and implementation of international standards and best practices for the management of national statistical offices; promote the continuous training and education of the human resources of national statistical offices and other agencies responsible for producing official statistics, to help ensure they have sustainable institutional capacities; and encourage exchanges of information and good practices among the members of the regional statistical community.

The existence of the Working Group is an indication of the mutual, selfless and good-faith support of the region's national statistical offices in carrying out tasks of common interest towards the adoption or adaptation of standard international classifications that will be used to collect, process and publish economic and social statistics. International agencies have acknowledged the importance of those tasks, which include producing Spanish translations of international classifications, concept documents dealing with classification issues and classification implementation guides, and which will enable areas for improvement to be identified. One significant element is the feedback that the national statistical offices give to the international agencies

responsible for maintaining the classifications and the valuable answers and support that the offices receive directly from those international custodians. Other examples include the forging of horizontal partnerships between national statistical offices in the development of tools to facilitate classification work, including automated and assisted coding systems, and the socialization of methodologies and tools to provide enhanced classification training. The ties established between the Working Group and the United Nations Expert Group on International Statistical Classification ensure that national statistical offices are promptly informed about the latest classification updates and other relevant discussion topics.

3. Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating country**: Mexico

(b) **Technical secretariat**: Statistics Division of ECLAC

(c) **Member countries**: Argentina, Barbados, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.

4. Programme of work

Activity[a]	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Specific objective (iii)				
Conduct the online survey on international classifications in Latin America with regard to the adoption or adaptation of international classifications by the region's countries		Information on the adoption or adaptation of international classifications and on problems encountered in the process	ECLAC	2018-2019
	Review the previous survey questionnaire		National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Costa Rica National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile	January to June 2018
	Approve the questionnaire		Steering Committee (in discussions with the Working Group)	January to June 2018
	Implement the pilot survey		ECLAC INEC (Costa Rica) INE (Chile)	July to December 2018
	Implement the survey		ECLAC	July to December 2018
	Present the summary and analysis of the survey results to the fifth meeting of the Working Group		ECLAC	July to December 2019
	Identify the next steps based on the survey results		Steering Committee (in discussions with the Working Group)	July to December 2019

Activity[a]	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Specific objectives (i) and (ii)				
Produce a Spanish-language training video on the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO)[b]		Spanish-language video about ISCO	International Labour Organization (ILO) INEC (Costa Rica)	January to December 2018
	Review the technical script		ILO	January to June 2018
	Approve the technical script		ILO	January to June 2018
	Produce video		ILO	July to December 2018
	Present video		ILO	July to December 2018
	Disseminate video		Mexico (Working Group coordinator) ILO	July to December 2018
Produce a series of Spanish-language training videos on the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC)[b]		Spanish-language video about ISIC	National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico United Nations Statistics Division	January to December 2018
	Review technical script		United Nations Statistics Division	January to June 2018
	Approve the technical script		United Nations Statistics Division	January to June 2018
	Produce video		United Nations Statistics Division	July to December 2018
	Present video		United Nations Statistics Division	July to December 2018
	Disseminate the video		Mexico (Working Group coordinator) United Nations Statistics Division	July to December 2018
Produce a Spanish-language training video on the Central Product Classification (CPC)[b]		Spanish-language video about CPC	National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia United Nations Statistics Division	January 2018 to June 2019
	Prepare the technical script		Colombia	January to June 2018
	Review the technical script		United Nations Statistics Division	July to December 2018
	Approve the technical script		United Nations Statistics Division	July to December 2018
	Produce video		United Nations Statistics Division	January to June 2019

Activity[a]	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
	Present video		United Nations Statistics Division	January to June 2019
	Disseminate the video		Mexico (Working Group coordinator)	January to June 2019
			United Nations Statistics Division	
Specific objective (i)				
Standardize, by including the scientific names, the list of agricultural products that are known by different names in different national statistical offices but which are the same product		List of agricultural products that are known by different names in different national statistical offices but which are the same product, with the corresponding scientific names	CPC translation subcommittee	January to June 2018
	Compile a list of agricultural products that are known by different names in different national statistical offices		CPC translation subcommittee	January to June 2018
	Standardize the list of agricultural product names		CPC translation subcommittee	January to June 2018
	Present the list of agricultural product names to the Working Group coordinator		CPC translation subcommittee	January to June 2018
	Distribute the list of agricultural product names via the e-forum and by e-mail		Working Group coordinator	January to June 2018
Specific objectives (iii) and (vi)				
Hold the seventh annual face-to-face meeting of the members of the Working Group and seventh annual face-to-face meeting of the Steering Committee[c]		List of actions based on assessments of the proposals put forward at the meeting	Working Group	January to December 2018
		The meeting of the Working Group's members is expected to assess progress with the programme of work and tasks assigned to the subcommittees, and to share experiences, results of horizontal partnerships and good practices on classifications		
		The meeting of the Steering Committee will address the identification of common problems, examine the support		

Activity[a]	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
		given to countries in adopting or adapting classifications and assess the Working Group's meetings and results		
	Explore availability of funding for the face-to-face meeting		Steering Committee	January to June 2018
	Contact institution(s) that could provide financial support for the meeting		Working Group coordinator	January to June 2018
	Send out formal support requests to institution(s) that could provide financial support for the meeting		ECLAC	January to June 2018
	Hold seventh meeting		Working Group	July to December 2018
Specific objectives (ii) and (iii)				
Prepare the report of the seventh meeting		Seventh meeting report.	Working Group coordinator	July to December 2018
	Prepare the report		Working Group coordinator	July to December 2018
	Approve the report		Steering Committee	July to December 2018
	Distribute the report to the national statistical offices by email		Working Group coordinator	July to December 2018
	Disseminate the report via the Working Group's e-forum		Working Group coordinator	July to December 2018
Specific objectives (iii) and (vi)				
Hold the eighth annual face-to-face meeting of the members of the Working Group and eighth annual face-to-face meeting of the steering committee[c]		List of actions based on assessments of the proposals put forward at the meeting	Working Group	January to December 2019
	Explore availability of funding for the face-to-face meeting		Steering Committee	January to June 2019
	Contact institution(s) that could provide financial support for the meeting		Working Group coordinator	January to June 2019
	Send out formal support requests to institution(s) that could provide financial support for the meeting		ECLAC	January to June 2019
	Hold eighth meeting		Working Group	July to December 2019

Activity[a]	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Specific objectives (ii) and (iii)				
Prepare the report of the eighth meeting		Report of the eighth meeting	Working Group coordinator	July to December 2019
	Prepare the report		Working Group coordinator	July to December 2019
	Approve the report		Steering committee	July to December 2019
	Distribute the report to the national statistical offices by email		Working Group coordinator	July to December 2019
	Disseminate the report via the Working Group's e-forum		Working Group coordinator	July to December 2019
Specific objective (vii)				
Prepare the report on the Working Group's activities, for presentation at the meeting of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications		Report on the Working Group's activities, for presentation at the meeting of the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications	Working Group coordinator	July to December 2019
	Prepare the report		Working Group coordinator	July to December 2019
	Approve the report		Steering Committee	July to December 2019
	Present the report		Working Group coordinator	July to December 2019

[a] The fourth objective (promote the creation of inter-agency platforms for collaboration in, and coordination and integration of, regional initiatives on international classifications among blocs of countries) was fulfilled with the creation of the e-forum. The fifth objective (prioritize the translation into Spanish of international classification texts, thus enabling their timely adoption by the countries of the region) was addressed in the 2016-2017 programme of work and no translations are planned for this period.

[b] The national statistical offices will submit examples of problematic classifications, occupations and products for the production of the training videos. The videos will be produced with simple technological tools, to facilitate the process.

[c] The meetings of the Working Group are divided as follows: All the Group's members meet on the first four days of any given session, with the members of the steering committee meeting on the fifth day. A single report, divided into two parts, is prepared.

5.   Funding

This Working Group has no programmed budget. At the end of each face-to-face meeting, the steering committee of the Working Group decides on the funding strategy to be followed. A part of the funding is assumed by the national statistical office of the meeting's host country, on account of the interest in its continuation expressed by members of the Working Group.

WORKING GROUP ON NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

1. Objectives

(a) General

Coordinate and contribute to the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA) in the region's countries and to the strengthening of basic economic statistics, in order to better integrate the production of these statistics, national accounts and users.

(b) Specific

(i)   Ascertain the implementation status of 2008 SNA in Latin America and the Caribbean.

(ii)   Promote the regular publication of national account information.

(iii)   Help the countries incorporate databases and indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their national accounts.

(iv)   Promote horizontal cooperation activities to build national capacities for preparing national accounts and basic statistics.

(v)   Promote the exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices related to national accounts and basic statistics.

(vi)   Provide support to ensure that countries have human resources who can guarantee the quality of basic information and national accounts.

2. Rationale

Programme activities include improving the production of basic economic statistics and facilitating the adoption and implementation of the Luxembourg Recommendations on Global Implementation and Outreach for the System of National Accounts, the general objective of which is to promote the implementation and dissemination of international standards in national accounts and basic economic statistics in developing countries.

The quality of national accounts is highly dependent on the quality of basic statistics, which, in turn, depends on the development of national statistical systems.

The survey of 29 Latin American and Caribbean countries conducted by ECLAC in 2014 revealed an uneven adoption of 2008 SNA in the region: the survey results indicated that 21 countries (72.4%) were using 1993 SNA, 6 countries (20.7%) were using 2008 SNA, and 2 countries (6.9%) were still using 1968 SNA.

Thus, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are not implementing 2008 SNA in a harmonized fashion, using milestones that have been defined and agreed on, mainly because of differences in their basic economic statistics. Consequently:

- The basic economic statistics system must be strengthened in a sustainable manner, given that this is one of the obstacles facing the region in preparing national accounts and incorporating the recommendations of SNA 2008.

- The progressive implementation of the System of National Accounts in the region's countries is of vital importance because it offers a framework for statistical coordination, and decisions or strategies adopted to implement it will help to develop and strengthen the countries' statistical systems.

3.   Members of the Working Group

(a) Coordinating country: Peru, through the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI)

(b) Technical secretariat: Statistics Division of ECLAC

(c) Member countries: Argentina (National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, INDEC), Chile (Central Bank of Chile), the Dominican Republic (Central Bank of the Dominican Republic), Ecuador (National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, INEC, and Central Bank of Ecuador), Mexico (National Institute of Statistics and Geography, INEGI), Peru (National Institute of Statistics and Informatics, INEI) and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (National Institute of Statistics, INE).

The fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (June 2016) recommended the establishment of a task force to promote the development and improvement of quarterly national accounts and their international comparability.

In a videoconference held on 23 August 2016, the Working Group approved the creation of the task force on quarterly national accounts, coordinated by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and comprising the following members: Brazil (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, IBGE), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Central Bank of Venezuela), Chile (Central Bank of Chile), Colombia (National Administrative Department of Statistics, DANE), the Dominican Republic (Central Bank of the Dominican Republic), El Salvador (Central Reserve Bank), Mexico (National Institute of Statistics and Geography, INEGI), Paraguay (Central Bank of Paraguay), Peru (National Institute of Statistics and Informatics, INEI) and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (National Institute of Statistics, INE).

4.   Programme of work

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Create databases, including available SDG indicators in national accounts		Database, including SDG indicators in national accounts	INEI (Peru) ECLAC	2018-2019
	Collect data on SDG indicators in national accounts			2018-2019
	Present compilation of SDG indicators			July to December 2019
Conduct survey on the region's supply of and demand for horizontal cooperation for preparing national accounts and basic statistics		Diagnostic of the region's supply of and demand for horizontal cooperation for preparing national accounts and basic statistics	INEI (Peru) ECLAC	June 2018 to June 2019
Assess status of quarterly account estimates according to SNA on the		Report on the status of the quarterly account	Central Bank of Venezuela INEI (Peru)	January to December 2018

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
basis of the survey conducted in 2017		estimates according to SNA	ECLAC	
Compile electronically specialized methodologies related to national accounts and basic statistics		Electronic library of national accounts and basic statistics	Working Group, coordinated by INEI (Peru) and ECLAC	2018-2019
	Centralize digital files of methodologies			2018-2019
	Disseminate the electronic library			2018-2019
Organize e-forums on issues relating to national accounts and basic statistics		Results of the forums on improving industrial and services statistics and the implementation of 2008 SNA	Working Group, coordinated by INEI (Peru) and ECLAC	2018-2019
	Define topics			2018-2019
	Schedule dates			2018-2019
	Organize forums			2018-2019
Organize face-to-face courses		Three face-to-face courses (output subject to the availability of funding)	Working Group, coordinated by INEI (Peru) and ECLAC	January to December 2019
	Course on planning, implementing, processing and analysing the results of industrial and services statistics surveys			January to June 2019
	Course on basic statistics and volume and price indicators			January to June 2019
	Course on national accounts			July to December 2019
Organize face-to-face meeting of the Working Group on National Accounts		Evaluation of the progress made with actions (as part of the Annual Seminar on National Accounts)	Working Group, coordinated by INEI (Peru) and ECLAC	July 2018 to December 2019

5.   Funding

The in-kind contributions from the participating countries and the technical secretariat total US$ 208,000.

WORKING GROUP ON HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

1.   Objectives

(a) General

Help to strengthen, improve and coordinate among the countries of the region, the household survey methodologies used to analyse the population's well-being, with a view to obtaining better quality data for public policy decision-making.

(b) Specific

(i)   Become a technical reference point for the region with regard to the thematic areas associated with household surveys, in order to address the challenges and specificities of different social phenomena that it seeks to measure through income and expenditure surveys, time-use measurements, public safety and gender statistics, among other instruments.

(ii)   Contribute to the sharing of experiences, promoting good methodological practices when designing the statistical production processes of household surveys, including sampling frames, sample designs (including master samples and selecting balanced samples), the calculation and calibration of expansion factors and indicators of the quality of survey processes.

(iii)   Identify and promote regional and subregional cooperation activities, through the member countries of the Working Group and other related working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), by strengthening national capacities to implement high-quality household surveys.

2.   Rationale

Challenges related to accessing respondents, ensuring cooperation, obtaining information and processing the given information, among others, are common to household surveys. These complexities related to the production of statistical data on households call for specific strategies in each area, which can range from information gathering strategies to highly complex analysis methodologies, aspects that have still to be systematized and included in surveys as a part of the overall process.

Meanwhile, the countries of the region have limited reference documents on the design, implementation and results of measurements that explain how a change in the housing sampling frame of household surveys affects estimators. Furthermore, there are gaps in country-specific documentation regarding estimates of possible effects (ex ante evaluations) as a result of the official implementation of a new sampling frame; what little information there is comes from studies carried out after the change was officially implemented (ex post evaluations).

Having the opportunity to discuss those common challenges and strategies to address them, as well as other problems faced by different national statistical offices, allows for the exchange of good practices to strengthen and improve the quality of household surveys in the region, developing an approach among countries that fosters data comparability at the regional level.

The Group's workplan considers the development of a different agenda for each year of the biennium, namely, a thematic one in the first year and a methodological one in the second.

Activities in 2018 will focus on the methodologies, designs and processes linked to household income and expenditure surveys, in as much as these entail complex difficulties and specificities from a statistical production perspective. Also identified are the potential adaptations and standardizations to be implemented to measure the prevalence of undernourishment (target 2.1.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals) in the population by using these types of surveys.

Meanwhile, in 2019 the work plan will examine issues common to all household surveys. In particular, efforts will focus on identifying appropriate methodologies to measure the impact of changes in housing sampling frames on household survey estimators, bearing in mind that the majority of the region's countries are preparing for the 2020 census round, thus offering an opportunity to define, develop and implement future sampling frames for household surveys. As part of this line of work, the Working Group will seek to generate synergies with the Working Group on Censuses.

3.   Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating country:** Chile.

(b) **Technical secretariat:** Statistics Division of ECLAC.

(c) **Member countries:** to be defined.

4.   Programme of work

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Prepare an assessment of the state of income and expenditure surveys in countries of the region		Report on the results of the consultation on the state of income and expenditure surveys in Latin American and Caribbean countries	National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile ECLAC	January to June 2018
	Prepare questionnaire, incorporating the experiences of working groups that are active in related areas, such as the Working Group on Institution-building, the Working Group on Censuses, the Working on Poverty Statistics and the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators		INE of Chile ECLAC	January to June 2018
	Approve the questionnaire		INE of Chile, ECLAC	January to June 2018
	Administer the questionnaire		Sent by: INE of Chile and ECLAC Respondents: Working Group member countries	January to June 2018
	Prepare the assessment		INE of Chile ECLAC	January to June 2018
	Present findings		INE of Chile ECLAC	July to December 2018

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Organize seminar on income and expenditure surveys in the region, to be held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago		Seminar on income and expenditure surveys in the region, at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago	INE of Chile ECLAC	July to December 2018
	Send the assessment on income and expenditure surveys in the region		INE of Chile ECLAC	July to December 2018
	Request presentations from all the region's countries covering topics agreed on the basis of the assessment		INE of Chile ECLAC	July to December 2018
	Prepare and hold the seminar in Santiago		INE of Chile ECLAC	July to December 2018
Prepare a document that systematizes the assessment, including the questionnaire and the information presented at the seminar on income and expenditure surveys in the region		Document that systematizes the assessment, including the questionnaire and the information presented at the seminar on income and expenditure surveys in the region	INE of Chile ECLAC	July to December 2018
Prepare an assessment of methodological practices and institutional strategies of the region's countries to measure the impact of a change in the sampling frame on the estimators derived from household surveys		Outcome document of the consultation with the region's countries on the implementation of methodological practices and institutional strategies to measure the impact of a change in the sampling frame on estimators derived from household surveys		January to December 2019
	Prepare questionnaire, incorporating the experiences of working groups that are active in related areas, such as the Working Group on Institution-building, the Working Group on Censuses, the Working on Poverty Statistics and the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators		INE of Chile ECLAC	January to June 2019
	Approve the questionnaire		INE of Chile ECLAC	January to June 2019
	Administer the questionnaire		Sent by: INE of Chile and ECLAC Respondents: Working Group member countries	January to June 2019
	Prepare the assessment		INE of Chile ECLAC	January to June 2019
	Present findings		INE of Chile	July to December 2019

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Prepare a document that systematizes the outcomes of the assessment of methodological practices and institutional strategies of the region's countries to measure the impact of a change in the sampling frame on the estimators derived from household surveys		Guidance document, approved by the Working Group member countries that collates the different experiences of measuring the impact of a change in the sampling frame on the estimators derived from household surveys, and makes recommendations based on findings	INE of Chile ECLAC	July to December 2019

5.   Funding

ECLAC will fund the seminar on income and expenditure surveys to be held in Santiago.

The work plan ideally will include a seminar to be held in 2019., However, this has not been included in the agenda as funding has yet to be secured. Funding will be sought from international and regional entities that provide training and technical assistance, and others who provide mainly funding, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat.

WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

1. Objectives

(a) General

Strengthen capacities for the development of regionally-relevant environmental statistics, indicators and accounts in the countries of the region, with emphasis on the production of environmental indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change indicators and urban environmental indicators.

(b) Specific

(i) Strengthen statistical work in environmental matters in the community of peers, by promoting collaboration among the countries and facilitating dialogue; share experiences and outcomes; and manage knowledge about solutions and adaptations needed to produce sustainable environment statistics.

(ii) Contribute to statistical development and the harmonized production of environmental SDG indicators that are regionally relevant.

(iii) Facilitate and nurture the development of a regionally-relevant programme of work on climate change statistics and indicators, with emphasis on the impact of disasters and adaptation.

(iv) Promote and facilitate the building and strengthening of statistical and institutional capacities in the area of environmental statistics in the countries of the region.

(v) Promote and monitor the development of relevant environmental accounts in the region.

(vi) Promote urban environmental indicators that are relevant to the region, in particular those related to Sustainable Development Goal 11.

(vii) Contribute to efforts to strengthen and foster links between the geospatial community and environmental statistics in the countries of the region.

2. Rationale

Environmental statistics and indicators is the newest and least developed statistical area within the data that countries have to produce in order to report on their national sustainable development plans and their progress in the implementation of the SDGs and their international commitments. In this regard, the regional collaborative work within the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) must be to continued and strengthened in an effort to accelerate development in this statistical domain, focusing on three areas of high and growing demand for quantitative environmental information for the biennium 2018-2019: environmental SDG indicators; evidence of the impact of climate change on the countries of the region and their adaptation efforts; and urban environmental indicators.

3.   Members of the Working Group

   (a) Coordinating country: Brazil

   (b) Technical secretariat: Statistics Division of ECLAC.

   (c) Member countries: Bahamas, Belize, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Suriname.

While the Working Group member countries will be consulted on the Group's activities, all specialists in the region will be convened to meetings and updated on a regular basis, an information web page on universal access will be built, and the Working Group will report regularly to the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the relevant agencies.

At the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, to be held in November 2017, countries will be asked to confirm their interest in continuing to work in this Group or in joining as new members, as the case may be.

4.   Programme of work

The objectives set for the biennium will be addressed and achieved by linking the major areas of work (training, horizontal cooperation and dissemination) to various activities such as virtual and face-to-face training, conducting webinars, connecting specialized South-South technical cooperation, technical assistance missions, consultations and meetings with regional experts on environmental statistics, undertaking advocacy activities to strengthen environmental statistics in the countries of the region, and developing a web page to disseminate all the Working Group's information, among other things. ECLAC, serving as the technical secretariat, already has funding to carry out several of these activities throughout the biennium.

The Working Group member countries will be consulted and asked to agree on the activities, thus allowing the scope of the programme to be defined with greater precision with regional responsibilities and commitments. The coordinating country and the technical secretariat will use these inputs to draw up the specific programme of work, which will then be presented for consideration to the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

WORKING GROUP ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

1.   Objectives

(a) General

Improve and harmonize agricultural statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean; plan for the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in the region, taking into account the current status of statistics; train teams; and design a feasible work programme for improvement under the Global Strategy.

(b) Specific

(viii) Promotion of the Global Strategy in the region.
(ix)   Institution-building.
(x)   Assessment of countries' statistical capacities.
(xi)   Training for institutions.
(xii) Provision of technical assistance.
(xiii) Development of methodologies.

2.   Rationale

The purpose is to give continuity to the specific action plan for Latin America and the Caribbean, to enable implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in the region.

The activities of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics were carried out within the framework of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as part of the project "Developing a methodology for implementing agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean".

The project activities have been evaluated annually, adjusting them to concerns that have arisen in assessment meetings and discussions of the progress made globally in agricultural statistics and the public documents and guides of the Global Strategy and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) These adjustments include an proposal for internships to observe the data collection for the 2017 agricultural census in Brazil by the countries participating in the project, which will examine the methodology, technology, logistics and operational difficulties in the field. This activity must produce an output that will be shared later with the other countries of the region.

The initiative is linked to the strategic plan and, consequently, the Working Group's objectives are to promote regional and bilateral cooperation among national statistical offices and international and regional organizations, by promoting national capacity-building in the area of agricultural statistics.

The recent dissemination of the manual on integrated agricultural statistical survey (AGRIS), one of the planned activities of the Working Group, provides an opportunity to harmonize statistics in the region, not only in response to country-specific demands, but also to requests for high-quality official statistics to construct indicators to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that refer directly to agriculture, specifically Goal 2 ("end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture").

The Working Group, with the support of IDB, achieved a very important result, namely the development of the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, approved by the Steering Committee of the Global Strategy.

The Working Group is currently facing its greatest challenge, which is to ensure the ongoing development of their activities. The countries participating in the project requested IDB to extend it until January 2019. However, the Group faces is a major challenge, as a lot remains to be done and no financial resources are expected to be available for activities in 2019. In that regard, the Working Group draws the attention of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC to the need to develop information and advocacy activities that target international organizations, in order to raise awareness of the importance of financial support for continuing the work to implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Conceptual and methodological aspects of sustainable agriculture indicators are currently being discussed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, specifically level III indicators (those for which an internationally-agreed methodology has not yet been developed). These aspects must be defined in order to be assessed by the Conference member countries and discussed within the scope of the Working Group.

3. Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating country:** Brazil
(b) **Technical secretariat:** FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.
(c) **Member countries:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

4. Programme of work

Activity	Related actions	Expected output	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Carry out training courses	Carry out course 7 on systematizing the gathering of data from key respondents	Course	Dominican Republic	January to June 2018
	Carry out course 8 on the dissemination and use of information from a user perspective	Course	Ecuador	January to June 2018
Prepare business plan	Prepare a brief to specify the terms of reference for the consultant on the method to identify indicators and gather data from a gender perspective	Consultancy contract prepared	Uruguay Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) of Chile	July to December 2017
	Prepare a brief for the consultant on the method to integrate statistics and geographical information	Consultancy contract prepared	Mexico FLACSO of Chile	July to December 2017
	Send a brief, highlighting areas of possible synergy between the IDB Regional Public Goods Initiative project on environmental statistics and the project on agricultural and rural statistics	Consultancy contract prepared	Ecuador	January to June 2018

Activity	Related actions	Expected output	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Maintain the web page built for the IDB Regional Public Goods Initiative project to facilitate communication and collaborative work among the members of the Group and to give greater visibility to its activities and outputs	Update reports	Web page created and operational	Knowledge Transfer Network or other platform	January 2018
Hold meeting with donors to the Global Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean	Establish contact with FAO to organize the meeting	Financial resources for activities to implement the Global Strategy	Brazil FAO FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	July to December 2017
	Hold meeting	Meeting with donors	Brazil FAO FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	July to December 2018

5.   Funding

Resources are available from the IDB Regional Public Goods Initiative project "Developing a methodology for implementing agricultural statistics systems in Latin America and the Caribbean", scheduled to end in January 2018. A request has been made to extend the project until January 2019, but has not yet been accepted.

WORKING GROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS

1.   Objectives

(a) General

Promote the production, development, systematization and dissemination of statistical information and gender-sensitive indicators for use in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, within the framework of the commitments and challenges set out in the Regional Gender Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

(b) Specific

(xiv) Strengthen national statistical systems that incorporate a gender perspective and the technical, methodological and analytical capacities of national statistical offices and machineries for the advancement of women with regard to gender statistics.

(xv) Develop further the work on methodologies and to harmonize and exchange metadata to calculate gender indicators in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

(xvi) Strengthen links and partnerships among the producers and users of gender statistics and indicators, especially among national statistical offices and national machineries for the advancement of women.

(xvii) Raise awareness and promote the use of gender statistics in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies.

(xviii) Foster horizontal cooperation, technical assistance and regional collaboration for the development, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics.

2.   Rationale based on the Strategic Plan 2015-2025 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas

The 2018-2019 biennial programme of activities is linked to the Strategic Plan 2015-2025 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, particularly strategic goals 2 ("to foster the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to generate high-quality statistical information") and 3 ("to foster coordination and cooperation between the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and subregional and international organizations"), and incorporates a gender perspective in the production, dissemination and use of statistics in the public equality policies.

Meanwhile, at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in October 2016, the governments of the region once again underscored the need for statistics and indicators that provide information on gender inequalities for the design, formulation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies. In turn, the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (adopted by consensus at the thirteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean) identifies information systems as one of the pillars for overcoming the structural challenges to the achievement of gender equality in the region (pillar 9). In particular, the objectives of the Working Group are directly linked to measures agreed in connection with this pillar. Measure 9.a, which calls for national statistical systems with a gender perspective to be established and strengthened, is linked to the first specific objective of the Working Group. Measure 9.e, which highlights the need to build or strengthen inter-institutional partnerships between bodies that produce and use information, relates to the third specific

objective of the Working Group. Measure 9.h, which seeks to promote the production of information for follow-up on the commitments made under the Regional Gender Agenda, seeking complementarity with the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, is related to the general objective of the Working Group. Measure 9.i, which recommends intensifying coordination between the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and encourage cooperation between countries and participation in the sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission, is linked to the fifth specific objective of the Working Group. The activities of the programme of work are also related to measure 9.c: "develop and strengthen instruments to measure gender inequalities, such as surveys on time use, violence against women, sexual and reproductive health and use of public spaces, and ensure their funding and periodicity".

3.   **Members of the Working Group**

   (a) **Coordinating country:** Mexico
   (b) **Technical secretariat:** Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC.
   (c) **Member countries:** Argentina, the Bahamas, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.
   (d) **Advisory bodies:** National Women's Institute (INMUJERES) of Mexico and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

4.   **Programme of work**

The programme of work was prepared by ensuring the continuity of activities of the 2016-2017 biennial programme of activities and through consultation with the member countries of the Working Group. The advisory bodies also contributed to the programme of work, often introducing new topics, raising various challenges for the production of gender statistics, and analysing and disseminating information in conjunction with the development of public equality policies, mainly in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Regional Gender Agenda. In preparing this programme of work the goals of the Strategic Plan 2015-2025 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the general and specific objectives of the Working Group and the SDGs were also taken into account, given that the subjects traditionally dealt with by the Working Group are covered by some of the targets of SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), and that other topics, such as those under SDG 1 (end poverty), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals), among others, will be examined within the framework of mainstreaming the gender perspective into information produced for all the SDGs. The last activity corresponds to a fundamental and key objective of the Working Group to strengthen links, dialogue and communication strategies among producers of information and those who use it to design public policies.

Activity	Related actions	Expected output	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Specific objectives (i), (ii), (iii) and (vi)				
Design methodological tools for conducting time-use surveys, for the economic valuation of unpaid work and for calculating the satellite account on unpaid work	Create and put into operation a task force to systematize and compile regional experiences related to time-use surveys and the development of satellite accounts on household's unpaid work	Methodological document on time-use surveys in the region	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico (National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) and INMUJERES)	July to December 2018
		Methodological document on the economic valuation of unpaid work and the development of the satellite account on household's unpaid work	ECLAC UN-Women	July to December 2019
	Disseminate, adopt and use of the time-use classification for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL)	Revised edition (four years after adoption) of the CAUTAL Correspondence table between CAUTAL and the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS)	INEGI of Mexico ECLAC	January to December 2018
	Organize and hold of the International Meeting on Time-Use and Unpaid Work Statistics	International Meeting on Time-Use and Unpaid Work Statistics	INEGI of Mexico INMUJERES of Mexico ECLAC UN-Women	July 2018 to December 2019
Specific objectives (i), (ii), (iii) and (vi)				
Hold technical discussions to strengthen statistics on violence against women and femicide/feminicide	Systematize information on femicide/feminicide indicators and methodological discussions on how to compile them	Update the indicators and repository of laws on women's physical autonomy (violence) of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean	ECLAC	2018 to 2019
		Face-to-face and virtual forums for reflection on the conceptual framework and the development of indicators on violence against women	Costa Rica INEGI of Mexico INMUJERES of Mexico UN-Women ECLAC	2018 to 2019
	Mainstream the gender perspective into surveys on violence against women, gender-based violence and violence in intrafamily relationships	Discuss and draft a preliminary document to develop a classification of types of violence against women	INMUJERES of Mexico	2018 to 2019
	Mainstream the gender perspective into administrative records in the area of complaints, criminal justice and health care			2018 to 2019

Activity	Related actions	Expected output	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Specific objectives (ii), (iv) and (v)				
Mainstream the gender perspective into and build capacity for the production and analysis of the indicators for the global, regional and national follow-up frameworks for the SDGs, mainly on issues related to poverty, decent work, productive and financial resources and means of implementation, such as the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)	Adapt global and regional indicator frameworks to follow up the SDGs at the national level, according to each country's data production characteristics		INEGI of Mexico INMUJERES of Mexico UN-Women ECLAC	2018 to 2019
	Disseminate useful indicators for gender analysis of the global and regional indicators frameworks for the follow-up of the SDGs			2018 to 2019
	Promote the gender perspective in measurements of monetary and non-monetary poverty and in the discussions of the Working Group on Poverty Statistics			2018 to 2019
	Promote the gender perspective in measurements of paid work, in accordance with the new requirements of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in coordination with the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators	Panel at the International Meeting on Gender Statistics, to be held in Aguascalientes (Mexico)		July 2018 to December 2019
	Hold round tables and panel discussions on emerging issues and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development		INEGI of Mexico INMUJERES of Mexico UN-Women ECLAC	July 2018 to December 2019
Specific objectives (i), (iii), (iv) and (v)				
Strengthen capacities for constructing gender statistics and indicators and promoting dissemination and communication strategies among those who produce and use them	Organize the International Meeting on Gender Statistics.	International Meeting on Gender Statistics in Aguascalientes (Mexico)	INEGI of Mexico INMUJERES of Mexico UN-Women ECLAC	July 2018 to December 2019

Activity	Related actions	Expected output	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
	Provide face-to-face and virtual technical assistance and cooperation on statistics and indicators with a gender perspective, including how to analyse and disseminate them	Distance-learning courses	ECLAC UN-Women Mexico (INMUJERES and INEGI) and other countries, depending on the technical cooperation topic	July 2018 to December 2019
		Technical assistance and horizontal cooperation		July 2018 to December 2019
		Up-to-date, timely and relevant information made available through the web page of the Working Group	ECLAC	July 2018 to December 2019
	Prepare a Gender Atlas	Gender Atlas prepared by the countries that had expressed an interest	INE of Chile INEC of Ecuador	2018 to 2019

5.   Funding

The resources needed to carry out all the activities of this programme of work will be obtained by INEGI, INMUJERES, UN-Women and ECLAC.

WORKING GROUP ON STATISTICS ON CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE

1.   **Objectives**

(a) General

The Working Group's main objective is to promote the generation, systematization and integration of statistics and indicators on childhood and adolescence with a view to improve the planning, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes aimed at fulfilling the commitments on the rights of children and adolescents assumed by all the countries of the region.

(b) Specific

(xix) Develop technical and methodological capacities for the regular compilation of indicators for monitoring progress with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in relation to children and adolescents. These capacities will include the development of sampling techniques for household surveys focusing on children; the development of ethical protocols for surveys on children and adolescents or in which they participate; the use of administrative record assessment tools; and proposals for the collection and analysis of indicators on children in the new census round.

(xx) Explore, identify and develop tools and methodologies tailored to the region for measuring SDG indicators related to children (such as access to safely managed water and sanitation services, early childhood development and multidimensional poverty).

(xxi) Promote the disaggregation of data (by disability, migratory status, geographic location, socioeconomic status, ethnicity or other possibilities) to shed light on the existence of disparities in childhood- and adolescence-related indicators.

(xxii) Promote the effective dissemination of statistics on the situation of children and improve access to them in order to keep societies informed and ensure they are used in defining public policies related to children.

(xxiii)   Identify possible areas of synergy between the statistical institutes that are members of the working group, leading institutions for childhood and adolescence, international organizations and the academic world, and promote greater collaboration among them to strengthen their capacity for measuring the situation of children in all the region's countries.

2. **Rationale based on the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas**

Understanding the situation of children is essential in the context of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, because attaining the global targets set in the Agenda may be difficult without improvements to the living conditions of those who will be the protagonists of tomorrow. It is therefore by no means surprising that of the 231 indicators agreed on by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators that make up the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 50 are deemed of relevance to children and adolescents.

However, despite the high statistical capacity of most of the region's countries, there are still gaps in the information on the situation of children and adolescents, chiefly as regards indigenous groups, children with disabilities and migrant children, as well as in such cross-cutting areas as violence against children, early childhood development and multidimensional poverty. In light of the depth and breadth of

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its global indicator framework, the statistical systems of the region's countries face major challenges in responding to the demand for new, high-quality disaggregated data to measure and record their progress in fulfilling the rights of children. Over the 2016-2017 biennium, the Working Group has made progress in its efforts to collect and analyse the methodologies used to measure key aspects of the new Agenda, such as violence against children, and it has organized activities to strengthen capacities and the sharing of experiences in areas such as measuring childhood disabilities, improving vital statistics and the tools available for conducting childhood-focused household surveys.

The information technology revolution also offers a great opportunity to improve the production of timely and reliable data on the situation of children. This revolution offers the potential to make the most of existing information through adequate dissemination and improved access, in order to inform the region's societies and promote the use of that information in designing public policies for children.

In order to meet the new challenges in monitoring the situation of the rights of children and adolescents, one priority is to promote collaboration and synergies between national statistical offices, international organizations engaged on those issues, lead institutions for childhood and adolescence topics and the academic sector. This collaboration would strengthen the work of national statistical offices through exposure to good practices implemented at the regional and global levels, leading to the dissemination of quality standards and the technical and methodological capacities required to generate disaggregated data on children and adolescents.

3.   Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating countries**: Costa Rica, through the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) and Mexico, through the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

(b) **Technical secretariat:** UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

(c) **Member countries:** Argentina, Belize, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

4.   Programme of work

The Working Group's efforts over the 2018-2019 biennium will continue to focus on promoting the development of shared methodologies and strengthening technical capacities to produce and disseminate quality statistical information on the situation of children and adolescents. The work programme promotes exchanges of experiences and cooperation between organizations on the different topics selected.

During the 2016-2017 biennium, the Working Group found that the cross-cutting nature of children's issues demanded close collaboration with other working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC to promote synergies, avoid duplications of efforts and ensure that disaggregation by age was provided for in the tasks of the other working groups. To that end, the Group has established focal points for sharing information with the other relevant working groups. Collaboration is currently under way with the Working Group on Disability Measurement (Costa Rica), the Working Group on Censuses (Argentina), the Working Group on Poverty Statistics (Colombia), the Working Group on Gender Statistics (Mexico), the Working Group on Administrative Records (INEC, Ecuador) and the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators (vacant).

The work programme for the biennium 2018-2019 is based on consultations with the Working Group's member countries and was completed in the meeting of the working group's focal points, which took place in Mexico City on 26 and 27 October.

That meeting decided to set up a task force for measuring water quality and access to sanitation (SDG 6), to be led by INEC of Ecuador.

The working group expects to achieve the ambitious goals it has set for itself by means of the following activities:

- face-to-face meetings or workshops (at least one per year)

- webinars for planning and monitoring (two per year) and thematic webinars (at least two per year)

- data collection on the status of measurements of key childhood-related indicators

- adaptation and dissemination of standardized methodologies

- promotion and support of peer-to-peer learning and horizontal cooperation.

At the October 2017 meeting, the members of the group agreed to a distribution of tasks to ensure that a specific group of countries would be responsible for each product and follow up on the fulfilment of the proposed goals, with the support of UNICEF as technical secretariat.

Activity	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Specific objective (i) Develop technical and methodological capacities to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals related to childhood			
Promote the regular gathering of disaggregated data on childhood and the standardization of indicator measurement methodologies for following up on the childhood- and adolescence-related Sustainable Development Goals.	Two annual reports analysing the inventory of statistical availability and capacities produced by the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean in connection with indicators for the priority childhood-related SDGs (one in early 2018 and the other in 2019).	Technical secretariat Coordinators: Costa Rica and Mexico National statistical offices (validation)	January 2018 and October 2019
	Report of an annual face-to-face meeting to discuss issues related to gathering harmonized and regionally comparable data for the childhood- and adolescence-related SDG indicators where the biggest shortfalls exist (meetings to be based on the recommendations of the inventory reports).	Technical secretariat Coordinators: Costa Rica and Mexico	October 2018 to October 2019
	Strategy paper aimed at guaranteeing timely and sustainable compiling of SDG indicators linked to childhood and adolescence (specific childhood surveys, inclusion of specific modules in other household surveys, among others.)	Technical secretariat Dominican Republic, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru	August 2018 to April 2019

Activity	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Disseminate methodologies and tools for collecting data on children through household surveys, including sampling techniques to achieve the required disaggregation by age, methodologies for the appropriate disaggregation of indicators and the development of ethical protocols for surveys involving children.	Methodological document on the sampling techniques used in surveys that generate data on the situation of children.	Technical secretariat Costa Rica and Panama	February to June 2018
	Report and recording of a webinar for sharing global and regional sampling methodologies.	Technical secretariat Team responsible for the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	July 2018
	Methodological note on the recommended basic disaggregations for childhood-related indicators, paying particular attention to data on disability, ethnicity, slums and migration status.	Technical secretariat Brazil and El Salvador Assistance of the Working Group on Disability Measurement and the Working Group on Gender Statistics	August to October 2019
	Ethical protocol for surveys that study children and adolescents	Technical secretariat Colombia and Peru External consultant	January to May 2019
Strengthen and promote the use of administrative records as a source for official statistics, paying particular attention to indicators for monitoring the childhood- and adolescence-related SDGs.	Report and recording of two webinars for sharing experiences on the improvement and use of administrative records as a source for official statistics of childhood-related indicators, especially those referring to vital statistics	Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico Coordinated with the Working Group on Administrative Records	April 2018 to April 2019
Promote the use of census information to gather and subsequently analyse data on the situation of children.	Develop a methodological note with recommendations for collecting data on children in the new census round.	Technical secretariat Argentina, Guatemala, Venezuela (Bol. Rep. of) In coordination with the Working Group on Censuses	March to July 2018
	Develop a census analysis plan to highlight indicators related to children and adolescents	Technical secretariat Argentina, Costa Rica and Venezuela (Bol. Rep. of) In coordination with the Working Group on Censuses	May to October 2019
Specific objective (ii) Develop instruments adapted to the region for measuring Sustainable Development Goal indicators			
Disseminate harmonized methodologies for collecting information on the new water and sanitation indicators of SDG 6, within a task force dedicated to the issue led by Ecuador	Assessment of the availability of data and tools to cover the SDG indicators on access to water and sanitation in the region (SDG 6).	INEC (Ecuador) Technical secretariat	March to September 2018
	Paper gathering the tools developed by the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for the Water and Sanitation Sector adapted to the region (including water quality test)	INEC (Ecuador) Technical secretariat	September to October 2018
	Regional discussion and training workshop on data collection methodologies for the new indicators on access to water and sanitation of SDG 6	INEC (Ecuador) Technical secretariat	November 2019

Activity	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
	Report and recording of webinars for sharing analyses, methodologies and experiences from the region.	INEC (Ecuador) Technical secretariat	February to April 2019
Disseminate harmonized methodologies for collecting information on early childhood development, in accordance with SDG indicator 4.2.1 (activity not completed in the previous biennium).	Assessment of early childhood development measurements (in line with SDG target 4.2): data and tools.	Cuba and Mexico Technical secretariat	January to June 2019
	Methodological document and standardized tools adapted to the region for measuring early childhood development.	Technical secretariat	July to October 2019
Disseminate harmonized methodologies for collecting information on multidimensional poverty in childhood.	Assessment of the regional availability of data on childhood multidimensional poverty and on methodologies and tools used to gather those data.	Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico Technical secretariat In coordination with the Working Group on Poverty Statistics	October 2018 to February 2019
	Webinar for sharing analyses, methodologies and experiences from the region.	Two national statistical offices Technical secretariat	May 2019
Specific objective (iii) Effective dissemination of statistics on childhood and adolescence and improved accessibility			
Promote platforms for the dissemination of childhood statistics and existing statistics in the region.	Report and recording of a webinar for exchanges of experiences with displaying and disseminating statistical information on childhood and adolescence.	Costa Rica and Mexico	February 2018 to September 2019
Specific objective (iv) Horizontal cooperation in specific areas related to childhood and adolescence indicators			
Update the inventory of capacities relating to childhood- and adolescence-related statistics in the statistical offices of the working group members.	Document summarizing support opportunities and instructions for members of the group to offer and request technical support	Costa Rica and Mexico Technical secretariat	February to April 2018
Promote and facilitate support missions or exchanges between the statistical offices of the working group members with a view to improving statistical production and the dissemination of childhood- and adolescence-related indicators.	Reports on the inter-office exchanges and support missions facilitated by the working group.	National statistical offices, with logistical and financial support from UNICEF	January 2018 to December 2019

5.   Funding

The UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean will continue to support the Working Group's activities through specialized technical assistance and funding for the projects and the gatherings, meetings and workshops agreed on in the programme of work.

Based on the experience of the biennium 2016-2017, there are plans to organize at least one face-to-face meeting with the Working Group's focal points for reporting on progress with the activities and commitments, as well as to provide logistical support for the organization of at least four videoconferences per year to address issues of concern to the Working Group's members.

Activities	Approximate budget
	(US dollars)
Annual meetings of focal points	30 000
Consultancies (support for implementation of Working Group activities)	10 000

The coordinators of the Working Group (INEC of Costa Rica and INEGI of Mexico) have offered to provide staff to support the coordination and monitoring of the Working Group's activities, to maintain regular communications with the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and to distribute the Working Group's outputs to the region's statistical community by means of the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) and the Statistical Conference of the Americas website. INEC of Ecuador will coordinate the task force on water, sanitation and hygiene statistics.

WORKING GROUP ON STATISTICS ON PUBLIC SECURITY AND JUSTICE

1. Objectives

(a) General

Coordinate efforts to generate, develop and standardize statistical information on public security and criminal justice in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on projects, initiatives and international and regional mandates relating to statistical information on those issues for the purpose of generating better data to support evidence-based public policy design and decision-making, targeting problems related to crime and criminal justice in the region's countries.

(b) Specific

(i) Support the development or strengthening of national statistical information systems and the countries' technical capacity for generating statistical data on public security and justice in accordance with the relevant international mandates, standards and good practices, specifically with regard to victimization surveys and the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes.

(ii) Strengthen the generation of statistical information on violence, security and justice to assist with monitoring the indicators related to those topics in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; most particularly, SDG 16.

2. Rationale based on the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas

Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the regions of the world most affected by violence and crime. According to the latest *Global Study on Homicide*[1] conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), although it is home to only 10% of the global population, Latin America and the Caribbean accounts for approximately one third of the 437,000 homicides reported in the world. The situation varies widely at the subregional level: homicide rates in the countries of the Southern Cone are close to 5 per 100,000 inhabitants, while the highest rates —more than 20 per 100,000— are concentrated in Central America.

In parallel to this deterioration in public security in the region, society and governments are making increased demands for high-quality statistical information. The region's countries have made efforts to generate and analyse information in order to design, analyse, monitor and evaluate crime prevention policies of differing scope and pace. As indicated in the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, while some countries have made progress with consolidating victim surveys and the administrative records of their criminal justice institutions, others still do not have official data on the subject. Those countries have made isolated institutional efforts that have not been integrated into national statistical systems, while a lack of financial and human resources and other shortcomings has prevented the development of statistical operations concerning public security and justice matters that would allow data and measurements to be generated continuously and with sufficient levels of disaggregation (the type of measurements and data needed to adopt decisions regarding public security and justice).

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[1] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Global Study on Homicide 2013*, Vienna, 2014.

In addition to the challenges arising from the region's insecurity levels, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals also raise a number of statistical issues. Discussions to date have identified challenges stemming from the 2030 Agenda that are characterized by, among other things, the need for large amounts of highly complex information in order to monitor the 2030 Agenda's Goals and targets and the demand for indicators in various statistical areas, duly disaggregated by age, sex, geographic location, socioeconomic status and other factors. Specifically, efforts to strengthen institutional capacities for generating data on security, victimization and justice can be carried out within this Working Group, with the support of UNODC as the technical secretariat, since, on the one hand, some of the countries in this group are more advanced in certain topics and, on the other, UNODC serves as the depository for most of the indicators for covering those issues, complementarity that could encourage exchanges and technical assistance among the countries that so require. In particular, the adoption of the Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative (VICLAC) will enable countries to provide information on indicators 16.1.13, 16.1.4, 16.3.1 and 16.5.1.

3.   Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating country:** Mexico, through the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI).

(b) **Technical secretariat:** Centre of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Public Security, Victimization and Justice of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

(c) **Member countries:**

- Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
- National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina
- National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile
- National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia
- National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Costa Rica
- National Office of Statistics and Information (ONE) of Cuba
- National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador
- Department of Statistics and Censuses (DIGESTYC) of El Salvador
- National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Guatemala
- National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Panama
- National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru
- National Statistical Office (ONE) of the Dominican Republic
- Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Saint Lucia
- National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico

4. Programme of work

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Specific objective (i)				
Use and generate statistical information on violence, security and justice in national statistical programmes.	Promote the inclusion of statistical information on violence, security and justice in international, regional and national forums.	Inclusion of statistical information on violence, security and justice in national statistical programmes.	All the Working Group's member countries	Ongoing
Adopt the data collection instrument and the methodology used for crime victimization surveys undertaken as part of the Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative (VICLAC).	Examine the data collection instrument and the methodology used for crime victimization surveys undertaken as part of the Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative (VICLAC). Produce general recommendations for the expert network on surveys of victims of crimes committed in the home, workplace or prison.	Use and implementation of the questionnaire and methodology developed as part of VICLAC.	Technical secretariat Countries (volunteers)[a]	2018-2019 biennium
Create and share knowledge through the Victimization Laboratory.	Participate in the expert network on surveys of victims of crimes committed in the home, workplace or prison. Participate in the activities of the Victimization Laboratory. Participate in the regular meetings organized under the aegis of the Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative (VICLAC).	Participation in the network of experts on surveys of victims of crimes committed in the home, workplace or prison. Methodological and outcome documents of each country's statistical projects on the issues of security, victimization and justice. Good practice videos.	All the Working Group's member countries	2018-2019 biennium
Adopt the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes for the production of official statistics.	Organize activities to begin implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes. Collaborate with the Working Group on International Classifications	Working groups for the implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes. Workshops on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes.	All the Working Group's member countries	2018-2019 biennium
Specific objective (ii)				
Promote inter-agency cooperation on data for the violence, security and justice indicators of the 2030 Agenda.	Promote and encourage inter-agency efforts to generate data on violence, security and justice.	Technical meetings on violence, security and justice indicators.	All the Working Group's member countries	2018-2019 biennium

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Generate statistical data to facilitate the production of information on the SDG indicators related to the topics of violence, security and justice.	Identify information needs for generating the variables of the SDG indicators related to the topics of violence, security and justice. Prepare recommendations for standardizing the production or improving the statistical quality of variables for reporting on the SDG indicators related to the topics of violence, security and justice. Maintain communication and coordination with the Working Group on Administrative Records	Report on information needs for producing variables for SDG 16 indicators. Document containing recommendations for standardizing the production or improving the statistical quality of variables for reporting on the SDG indicators related to the topics of violence, security and justice.	Technical secretariat Countries (volunteers)	2018-2019 biennium
Present reports on the working group's activities.	Prepare annual reports.	Annual report.	Chair Technical secretariat	Yearly
Draw up a new programme of work.	Draft the programme of work. Distribute the draft. Receive comments and amend the document. Publish and circulate the work plan.	New programme of work.	All the Working Group's member countries Chair Technical secretariat	2018

[a]   Volunteer countries must have the corresponding institutional support to be able to carry out this type of survey.

5.   Funding

The technical secretariat has provided US$ 50,000.

WORKING GROUP ON INSTITUTION-BUILDING

1.   Objectives

(a) General

The Working Group on Institution-building of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) aims to strengthen the national statistical systems of the region's countries and respond to their statistical production needs by implementing and monitoring compliance with the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.

(b) Specific

(xxiv)   Consolidate the statistics systems of the region to respond to the needs of different statistics users and national priorities.

(xxv) Improve the quality of the statistics produced in the region through the implementation of and compliance with the principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean.

(xxvi)   Foster the knowledge management of the Working Group on Institution-building and the exchange of experiences and good practices in national statistical systems.

2.   Rationale of the programme of work based on the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

The framework of the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC establishes the need for strengthening national statistical systems so that they are capable of, on the one hand, addressing the heterogeneity of countries and, on the other, coordinating national agendas with the new international challenges, including the institutional framework for statistical systems, use of new information sources for the production of official statistics and follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The lines of work of the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas promote three key aspects for strengthening the national statistical systems in the region: firstly, institution-building and the guiding role played by national statistical offices; secondly, training human resources to ensure the quality of statistics; and, lastly, regional and international coordination and cooperation.

Meanwhile, one of the challenges identified by the region's countries is the responsiveness of national statistical systems to the SDG indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Working Group notes that Goal 17, on partnerships for the Goals, establishes a mechanism for strengthening national statistical systems through two indicators of strategic importance for the Group. Indicators 17.18.2 ("number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics") and 17.18.3 ("number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding") pose new challenges for statistical systems institutions in the region with regard to implementing the legal frameworks of these systems, complying with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics of the United Nations and, therefore, complying with the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. These indicators also introduce a new aspect to be considered in the Working Group's activities, namely, the region's statistical policy documents and their financing and implementation processes.

Based on this alignment with the SDGs, the coordinator of the Working Group considers that a part of the biennial programme can be coordinated with some of the actions undertaken by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, specifically, the actions aimed at strengthening the statistical capacities of the region's countries. The General Assembly of the United Nations stresses the role of national statistical offices as the coordinator of the national statistical system and recommends that the systems explore ways to integrate new data sources into their systems to satisfy the new data needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which means that strengthening national statistical offices should be a matter of priority.[2]

Meanwhile the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019 sets out activities that use the different inputs currently available to the Working Group from previous years, without losing sight of the scope of the proposed objectives to strengthen national statistical systems in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Since the Working Group was established eight years ago, the main activities that have been undertaken are: developing and adopting the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2011; conducting three face-to-face workshops to disseminate the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean between 2012 and 2014 (two in Bogota and one in Luxembourg); carrying out eight overall assessments of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean in the countries of the region in 2014 and 2015, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB);[3] and, designing and administering the questionnaire on the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean —a self-assessment exercise undertaken by institutions responsible for implementing the Code— in which 20 countries participated in 2013 and 9 in 2017.[4]

Given the limited financial resources available for the implementation of the Working Group's activities in the 2016-2017 biennium, the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, in its role as coordinator, has designed the 2018-2019 programme of work, focusing on activities that do not require the member countries of the Working Group to mobilize significant financial resources and, in particular, using the results of the 2013 and 2017 questionnaires, the follow-up plans and the overall assessments carried out in the region's countries between 2014 and 2015.

3. Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating country:** Colombia, through the Department of Regulation, Planning, Standardization and Normalization of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE).

(b) **Technical secretariat:** Statistics Division of ECLAC.

(c) **Member countries:** Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Suriname.

4. Programme of work

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[2] See General Assembly resolution 71/313 of 6 July 2017 (A/RES/71/313) [online] http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/313.

[3] The countries that carried out overall assessments between 2014 and 2015 are Ecuador (2014), Colombia (2014), Panama (2014), Uruguay (2014), the Dominican Republic (2014), Paraguay (2014), Peru (2015) and Jamaica (2015).

[4] Countries that have responded to the questionnaire are Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Suriname and Uruguay (in 2013), and Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Uruguay (in 2017).

Action	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Specific objective (i)				
Assess the current status of statistical legislation and plans of the region's countries, as well as the main challenges posed by SDG indicators 17.18.2 and 17.18.3	Analyse the status of institutions in the region, in particular, the statistical legislation and plans based on the eight overall assessments of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the questionnaires completed by the region's countries in 2013 and 2017	Technical paper assessing the current situation in the countries of the region on whether they have statistical plans and legislation, as well as the key challenges identified in statistical legislation and policies	DANE of Colombia ECLAC	Second half of 2018
	Conduct a face-to-face workshop with representatives from the countries of the region to exchange information on the different experiences, processes and activities related to statistical laws, the main challenges identified in the implementation of legal frameworks and the adoption of the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean	Report on the main conclusions and recommendations of the workshop on statistical legislation	DANE of Colombia ECLAC National statistical offices of the region	Third quarter of 2018
		Proposal on the minimum content for statistical legislation and the basic components for a statistical plan to serve as a benchmark for the region's countries	DANE of Colombia ECLAC National statistical offices of the region	First quarter of 2019
	Provide the region's countries with technical support in order to prepare and implement their national statistical plans, by organizing and conducting a face-to-face workshop	Document containing the main findings and recommendations of the workshop to serve as a regional benchmark for the preparation and implementation of statistical plans	DANE of Colombia ECLAC National statistical offices of the region	Second half of 2019
Specific objective (ii)				
Follow up on the implementation of improvement plans resulting from the overall assessments of the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, conducted in 2014 and 2015	Design and implement a methodology to follow up on the improvement plans resulting from the eight overall assessments of the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, conducted in 2014 and 2015	Document containing the follow-up methodology for the implementation of improvement plans in the framework of the overall assessments of the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean	DANE of Colombia ECLAC National statistical offices of the Working Group's member countries	First half of 2018
	Follow up on the status of the improvement plans of countries that were the subject of an assessment of the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean to document the progress made and the lessons learned in the process	Eight individual follow-up reports for each of the countries assessed in connection with the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean	DANE of Colombia ECLAC National statistical offices of the countries assessed	Second half of 2018

Action	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
	Prepare and submit follow-up reports on improvement activities undertaken by the assessed countries, and the conclusions of and lessons learned from the assessment processes carried out			
Monitor compliance with the principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean on the basis of the questionnaires	Conduct peer reviews of national compliance with the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean on the basis of the results of the two questionnaires conducted in 2013 and 2017	Set of indicators that measure the regional situation with regard to the principles of the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean	DANE of Colombia ECLAC	Second half of 2018
		Six methodological documents prepared by Working Group peers that review the degree of compliance with the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, on the basis of the questionnaires used in 2013 and 2017	DANE of Colombia ECLAC	
		Pool of experts established to carry out regional peer-to-peer overall assessments of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean	DANE of Colombia ECLAC National statistical offices of the countries assessed	First half of 2018
	Design a tool to collect data on the progress made by the region's countries in relation to areas covered by the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be prioritized under the programme of work for the biennium 2020-2021	Data-collection tool designed by consensus	DANE of Colombia ECLAC National statistical offices of the member countries of the Working Group	Second half of 2019
Monitor compliance with the principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean	Conduct at least two overall assessments of the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean in countries of the region, following the call made by ECLAC and DANE for applications and the countries' acceptance of conditions for publishing the assessment	Two overall assessments published for each country and prepared by experts Two documents containing the published improvement plan to be implemented by the statistical institutions assessed	DANE of Colombia ECLAC National statistical offices of the countries assessed Expert evaluators	Second half of 2019
Specific objective (iii)				
Promote the sharing of good practices among countries of the region based on	Raise awareness among the region's countries of the regional bank of good statistical practices and encourage them to	Regular updates informing the region's countries about:	DANE of Colombia ECLAC	Second half of 2018

Action	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean	use, consult and contribute to it in an ongoing manner	- new good practices included in the regional bank of good practices in accordance with the Code of Good Practice of Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, - use and consultation of the regional bank of good practices by different countries of the region - case studies that examine the outcomes of the good practices implemented in depth	National statistical offices of the region	
	Include content in the collaborative workspace designed for the Working Group and disseminate content among the member countries of the Working Group	Consolidated collaborative workspace containing useful information for the development of the Working Group's different activities, as well as major developments, outputs and results	DANE of Colombia Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	Second half of 2018

5. Funding

Funding comes mainly from in-kind contributions given by the coordinating country, the technical secretariat and the Working Group's member countries. Financial support from international and regional bodies will also be sought.

WORKING GROUP ON LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

1. Objectives

(a) General

Establish a technical discussion forum where national experiences can be exchanged with a view to developing and strengthening work statistics systems in the countries of the region through methodological harmonization and the development of new labour market indicators.

(b) Specific

(i) Conduct an updated assessment of statistical harmonization gaps with respect to the standards proposed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to measure statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.

(ii) Share the Working Group's member countries' experiences of and progress made towards aligning their measurement instruments with current international recommendations or adopting such instruments.

(iii) Establish and disseminate the regional position on updating the different international standards related to the measurement of work statistics.

(iv) Move forward with efforts to incorporate informality indicators into the national statistical systems of Latin American and Caribbean countries through methodological harmonization and the sharing of experiences.

(v) Agree on the methodologies and questions that will enable the adoption of the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in relation to work and its different dimensions.

(vi) Promote technical discussions on new issues related to constructing labour market indicators.

2. Rationale

The Working Group on Labour Market Indicators was established in response to the concerns expressed by several countries of the region at the sixth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held in Bávaro (Dominican Republic) in November 2011, regarding the need to create a high-level technical forum where national experiences of measuring work[5] statistics could be discussed and shared and, at the same time, to further harmonization with the new labour market indicators proposed by ILO, particularly those that capture labour underutilization, informal employment and progress towards decent work in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The Working Group began its activities in 2012, with the participation of 13 countries, to which another was added later, so today it has 14 member countries. It has been active during three biennial budget periods and the Working Group expects to continue carrying out activities for a fourth, as there are still challenges to overcome in order to close gaps between the different countries and develop further the work statistics measurement methodology and concept.

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[5] Pursuant to the new concepts adopted at the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in 2013, this term refers to the different forms of work, as a broad concept, and in particular, employment work (i.e. work performed for others in exchange for pay or profit).

Since its inception, the Working Group has been made up of focal points with extensive experience in the statistical production of labour market indicators. Most of them are responsible for the labour force (or household) surveys of their institutions and have committed themselves from the outset to achieving the Group's objectives, taking responsibility for the tasks set out in the programmes of work. Naturally, the focal points have changed in some cases, but a stable core has remained in place, which has made it possible to sustain the long-term objectives of the Working Group.

The National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile and the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia acted as joint coordinators until the first year of the second biennium of operations (2014). Since 2015, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) of Chile has been the sole coordinator, while ILO has acted as the technical secretariat.

Among the Working Group's main achievements were its preparations to participate actively in the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in 2013, at which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean presented the regional position on the review and update of the international standards for statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment proposed by ILO. This would not have been possible without the two face-to-face meetings held in Santiago (2012 and 2013), at which the assessment of existing criteria and practices used in the countries of the region to measure work statistics was presented. The points of consensus or disagreement raised at those meetings were set out in a document in Spanish and English, which was submitted to the ILO expert group and subsequently taken into account when drafting the resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, which was adopted by the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians.

Since 2014, considerable efforts have been devoted to formulating a regional assessment of the measurement of informality statistics through the preparation of technical notes and metadata at the country level, which allow different experiences in this area to be compared. At the third face-to-face meeting of the Working Group, held in Bogota in November 2014, technical discussions took place with representatives of the Ministries of Labour of most of the member countries of the Working Group, which sought to deepen the conceptual and methodological progress made in constructing a system of decent work indicators, in addition to learning about some countries' experiences of monitoring progress in decent work.

By the end of the second biennium of operations, the first technical discussions had begun to evaluate the implications of the new ILO recommendations for measuring the main labour market indicators and some countries had submitted a preliminary assessment of harmonization gaps with respect to the resolutions of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians and their potential impact. At the same time, some countries joined the Working Group for the Revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93), launching discussions on the process of updating ICSE-93 and its impact on measurement instruments.

The Working Group began 2016 on a positive note by launching a project, as part of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), entitled "Regional adaptation of new international guidelines for measuring work statistics through the design of questionnaires and methodological guides", which allowed it to step up activities planned for the 2016-2017 biennium, as a result of their synergies with different components of the project. The first stage focused on an official assessment —carried out through a standardized instrument— of countries' harmonization gaps and their main priorities. Methodologies for conducting cognitive tests to validate and develop questionnaires were then shared, as were experiences of conducting field tests with harmonized instruments. In this regard, both the fifth and sixth face-to-face meetings of the Working Group (held in 2016[6] and 2017, respectively) were important occasions for sharing experiences and building capacities beyond the countries involved in the project.

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6   The work sessions are available [online] at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9asKhXhGj6A&t=4s.

Lastly, the assessment of the current application of ICSE-93 in household and labour force surveys, which identified critical conceptual bottlenecks and challenges, is also noteworthy. This served as input for a document in Spanish and English that synthesized the regional position on updating ICSE-93, which will be submitted to the ILO expert group and the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, to be held in 2018.

3.   Members of the Working Group

  (a)   Coordinating country: Chile
  (b)   Technical secretariat: ILO.
  (c)   Member countries: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Saint Lucia. The National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala has submitted a request to join the Working Group in the biennium 2018-2019.[7]

4.   Programme of work

Action	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Specific objectives (i) and (ii)				
Promote and monitor the process of adopting and adapting labour force surveys (or household surveys) in line with the recommendations of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, through the sharing of experiences among participating countries	Propose and assess questions that allow the inclusion of the new ILO recommendations Develop methodological guides for the measurement of other forms of work (other than employment work) in household surveys, by proposing and exploring alternative questions, criteria, reference periods and flows Measure or quantify the impact of adopting or adapting to the new ILO recommendations in the measurement of the main labour market indicators Conduct in-depth analysis and systematize the methodological, analytical and communication challenges of including complementary indicators in the unemployment rate when analysing and monitoring the labour market	Standard questionnaires, with sets of basic questions that allow labour force surveys in the region to be harmonized with the new ILO recommendations Methodological guides for measuring the different types of work, emphasizing the measurement of volunteer work, own-use production work and unpaid trainee work Work sessions at the face-to-face meetings to share the experiences of countries that have begun updating their surveys Regional synthesis document compiling the experiences of the Working Group member countries in the dissemination, analysis and calculation of labour underutilization indicators (LU1 to LU4)	All the Working Group's member countries	From the first half of 2018 to the second half of 2019

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[7]   See the guidelines agreed by the Working Group on the incorporation of new countries under point 5 (on aspects related to the operations and operating modalities modalities of the Working Group).

Action	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Specific objectives (ii), (iii) and (vi)				
Consolidate the regional position on the needs, projections and challenges related to updating the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93) and the implications for labour force (or household) surveys	Develop the regional position on updating ICSE-93, with a view to presenting and defending it at the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians Discuss and systematize the challenges that adopting the new ICSE will raise for labour force (or household) surveys Share the experiences of the Working Group's member countries that have already made progress in carrying out cognitive or field tests with new questions that will allow the different categories of the future classification system to be constructed	Final document synthesizing the regional position on updating ICSE-93, to be submitted to the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (to be held in 2018) Work sessions at face-to-face meetings to share countries' experiences of using ICSE measurements Review document synthesizing the experiences of the Working Group's member countries that have begun cognitive and field tests for the questions that will allow the new ICSE categories to be constructed Preliminary methodological guides designed to help countries implement this new classification (technical paper containing proposed questions, definition of concepts, answers to questions and identification of key bottlenecks)	All the Working Group's member countries	From the second half of 2018 to the second half of 2019
Specific objectives (ii) and (vi)				
Share and reach consensus on the methodological aspects related to the sample design of labour force surveys, and to the processes of updating (or changing) the sampling frame and the new population projections derived from the 2000 census round	Share the experiences of the Working Group's member countries with regard to the methodological development of splicing series as a result updates or changes to the sampling frame, new population projections or updates to the questionnaire, among other dimensions (either through traditional methods or new splicing techniques) Share the experiences of the Working Group's member countries with regard to informing users about a series break due to the technical non-feasibility of a splice	Regional consultation on the various methodological dimensions related to series splicing and calibration of expansion factors in labour force (or household) surveys. Regional assessment report based on the outcome of the aforementioned regional consultation Document repository on methodological aspects of labour force surveys, which will serve as a guide for countries facing similar challenges Review document synthesizing the experiences of the	All the Working Group's member countries	From the second half of 2018 to the second half of 2019

	Hold in-depth discussions on the calibration methodology for labour force (or household) surveys and its impact on calculating the main indicators	Working Group's member countries that have already updated (or changed) their sampling frames and new projections in recent years Methodological guide compiling the best practices in calibrating expansion factors in labour force (or household) surveys, allowing support networks to be created among experts from each country		
Specific objectives (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi)				
Assess the methodological and operational implications of the measurement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators related to work statistics	Assess the different SDG indicators and targets related to work statistics, in terms of data availability and methodological difficulties in their construction, interpretation and analysis Develop further the regional statistical harmonization process, with respect to informality indicators, in particular SDG indicator 8.3.1, defined as the proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex	Work sessions at the face-to-face meetings to share countries' experiences of measuring labour indicators related to follow-up of the SDGs Summary document of the methodological discussions on the criteria, questions and challenges involved in the measurement of work statistics related to SDG indicators (based on the work sessions the face-to-face meetings) Regional note containing the methodological considerations of each country with regard to the measurement of SDG indicator 8.3.1 (proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex), examining further the analytical aspects and how this indicator is related to other labour market phenomena	All the Working Group's member countries	2018-2019

The expectation is that the proposed activities should generate synergies with other working groups: (i) Promoting and monitoring the adoption and adaptation process for labour force surveys: Working Group on Household Surveys, Working Group on Gender Statistics; (ii) Consolidating a regional position with respect to the needs, projections and challenges in the updating of ICSE: Working Group on International Classifications and Working Group on Household Surveys; (iii) Reaching consensus on and sharing the methodological aspects related to the sample design of labour force surveys: Working Group on Household Surveys and (iv) Assessing the methodological and operational implications of measuring Sustainable Development Goal indicators: Working Group on Gender Statistics and Working Group on National Accounts.

5.   Aspects related to the operations and operating modalities of the Working Group

In accordance with the recommendations made by the Executive Committee of Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC at its sixteenth meeting, and with the experience of other working groups' operations,[8] it is proposed that the member countries of the Working Group should officially declare the following aspects to be critical to achieving the objectives set out in the plan:

- Continue to hold annual face-to-face meetings to follow up on the commitments of the Working Group, taking advantage of existing economies of scale.
- Maintain the internal information channels of the Working Group, through constant contact via email.
- Incorporate other forms of communication (such as videoconferencing and forums).
- Use the Knowledge Transfer Network to upload and share progress made by the Working Group.
- Seek synergies with other working groups, especially those associated with household surveys and measuring the informal economy.
- Reaffirm willingness to participate in seminars, workshops, conferences and other activities that address issues related to the Working Group's objectives.
- Involve the rest of the countries of the region (which are not members of the Working Group) in the consultations carried out through the standard questionnaires in order to prepare assessments and an overview of regional practices.

The following table summarizes the different participation modalities in the Working Group:

Stakeholder	Participation modalities
Working Group member countries	− Complete regional consultations − Contribute to preparation of documents − Share documents and methodologies − Participate actively in face-to-face meetings − Maintain stable focal points
All the countries in the region	− Participate in regional consultations − Participate in face-to-face meetings (depending on available resources)
Coordinating country	− Provide permanent follow up of programmes of work − Assign professionals to group tasks − Maintain constant communication with focal points − Prepare documents, minutes and regional surveys − Systematize products and regional dissemination
Technical secretariat (ILO)	− Support the execution of programmes of work and the coordination with member countries − Provide technical guidelines − Engage in continuous communication with the coordinating country − Cooperate in seeking funding for activities

Source: Prepared by the authors.

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[8]   See *Report on the review of the operating modalities of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/L.3285 (CE.10/4)), 10 February 2011, and *Progress report of the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations* (LC/L.3612 (CE/12/3)), 12 April 2013.

6. **Funding**

The Working Group's member countries are strongly urged to propose alternatives for financing face-to-face meetings, and international organizations are once again invited to help to finance the Group's activities that require support.

In the first half of 2018, the Working Group will receive financial support for its face-to-face meetings as part of the IDB Regional Public Goods Initiative project entitled "Regional adaptation of new international guidelines for measuring work statistics through the design of questionnaires and methodological guides". The Working Group is expected to apply for funds again in 2018 as part of a continuation of the project that will support countries during the official implementation of the harmonized questionnaires.

WORKING GROUP ON DISABILITY MEASUREMENT

1. Objectives

(a) General

Strengthen the capacity of the region's countries to measure and process disability information by improving technical capabilities and knowledge of methodologies, developing a methodological proposal for the 2020 census round, and providing the technical and conceptual support that countries need to begin mainstreaming the issue in the region under uniform international standards.

(b) Specific

(i) Improve the technical capacity the region's countries to collect and disseminate disability data in accordance with the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), based on knowledge of international recommendations such as made by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), among others.

(ii) Formulate a methodological and conceptual proposal for the design and execution of statistical projects to generate disability information in the countries of the region.

(iii) Provide technical assistance to the region's countries to strengthen the case for including the issue of disability in the census round, based on the international recommendations for the 2020 census round, in order to standardize information in the region.

(iv) Build a support network including institutions, national and international organizations (including other working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, for example the Working Group on Censuses and the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence), experts, users and producers of information to provide support to countries that may need it.

2. Rationale

WHO recognizes disability as a public health issue, because persons with disabilities face obstacles in accessing health and rehabilitation services. It is also a human rights issue because persons with disabilities often experience stigmatization and discrimination, and it is a development priority because disability and poverty reinforce and perpetuate one another.[9] To promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted in 2006, a legally binding instrument under which the modern world accepts responsibility for the full integration of persons with disabilities as a matter of human rights and not as a favour to be bestowed.[10]

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[9] See World Health Organization (WHO), *Disabilities. WHO Global disability action plan 2014-2021: Better health for all people with disability. Report by the Secretariat* (EB 134/16), Executive Board, Geneva, 3 January 2014 [online] http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB134/B134_16-en.pdf.

[10] See National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), *Las personas con discapacidad en México, una visión al 2010*, Aguascalientes, 2013 [online] http://internet.contenidos.inegi.org.mx/contenidos/Productos/prod_serv/contenidos /espanol/bvinegi/productos/censos/poblacion/2010/discapacidad/702825051785.pdf.

Article 31 of the Convention requires States Parties to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the Convention; information collected shall be used to help assess the implementation of States Parties' obligations under the Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.[11] Hence, defining and measuring disability are subjects of growing interest. A clear definition of disability improves the identification of persons living with disabilities, while appropriate measurement allows data to be obtained that are valid, reliable and comparable for the development of more effective public policies.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) hosted a meeting of specialists in 2013 to define the strategic priorities of the regional agenda on the situation of persons with disabilities, on which the following recommendations on collecting and processing information are based:

(i)   Ensure full implementation of article 31 of the Convention.

(ii)   Implement a single information and identification system for the population with disabilities that could be used to establish appropriate policies and services.

(iii)   Review the methodologies, information sources, respondents and questions used for census and household surveys that identified persons with disabilities, with the direct participation of organizations of persons with disabilities.

(iv)   Standardize statistics among the different countries of the region.

(v)   Ensure that information on persons with disabilities is disaggregated by sex and age.

(vi)   Link statistics on persons with disabilities with those of other vulnerable groups, such as migrants, indigenous peoples, Afrodescendants and women who are victims of violence, and identify persons with disabilities within these groups.

(vii)   Harmonize the definition of types of disability and the support needs for each.

(viii)   Ensure the production of high quality information within reasonable timeframes.[12]

While ever more importance has been attached to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Latin American and Caribbean information systems —mainly since the 2000 census round—, due to the conceptual, methodological and operational differences in the data collection methods of the countries of the region, it is still difficult to quantify the situation, measure progress and identify long-term trends.[13] Countries' processes for collecting information on the population with disabilities differ, for example, in the basic concept of disability and the questions used to investigate this issue. Moreover, there are not many opportunities to share information and practices, although countries have shown great interest in learning from other experiences.

This problem became clear during the 2010 census round. Of the 32 countries on the American continent that conducted a census, 31 included at least one question on disability. However, only 18 countries use, partially or fully, the same methodological approach to gather information on disability. The

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[11]   See the full text of the Convention [online] http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf.

[12]   See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report of the meeting of experts to define strategic priorities for the regional agenda on the situation of persons with disabilities* (LC/L.3709), Santiago, 3 October 2013.

[13]   See ECLAC, *Regional report on measuring disability: Overview of the disability measurement procedures in Latin America and the Caribbean,* (LC/L.3860(CE.13/3), Santiago, 24 July 2014 [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/36945/1/S1420250_en.pdf

rest use a different methodology and, in some cases, include questions from two different approaches, which makes it difficult to compare countries' results.[14]

Caribbean countries use different types of questions to obtain disability statistics, set different reference periods (permanent, six months or longer) and offer different response options, which, together with other factors, make it difficult or even impossible to compare disability statistics obtained through population censuses.[15]

While all the countries of the region are compiling statistical information on the situation of persons with disabilities, the heterogeneous measurement criteria mean that harmonization processes must be stepped up in order to have comparable regional information.

Thus, on the basis of the mandate to promote "the adoption of international statistical standards and best practices, and to encourage international, regional, horizontal and South-South cooperation"[16] and in accordance with the objectives of the working groups established in the *Review of the operational guidelines for the working groups*,[17] it is proposed that, for the biennium 2018-2019, the Working Group on Disability Measurement should continue with its work.

In order to be able to assess whether the rights of persons with disabilities, as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and national regulatory frameworks, are being respected, it is vital to have high-quality, timely and comparable statistical information. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for ensuring that "no one is left behind" on the path towards sustainable development and sets specific targets to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities and to collect data disaggregated by disability. It is therefore important to join forces to strengthen the disability statistics capacity of national statistical offices.

The Working Group's objectives are aligned with strategic goal 2 of the Strategic Plan 2015-2025 ("to foster the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to generate high-quality statistical information"), and specific goal 2.2 ("to promote the exchange of information, best practices and methodological innovations between the members of the regional statistical community"). They are also consistent with strategic goal 3 ("to foster coordination and cooperation between the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and international organizations"), and specific goal 3.1 ("to promote horizontal cooperation among the member countries of the Conference").

In that connection, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC approved, at its seventh meeting, the establishment of a task force comprising representatives from Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic to coordinate the drafting of a regional report on the statistical information available in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the difficulties encountered in assessing the status of persons with disabilities.

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[14] See M. Mbogoni, "Questions used to identify persons with disabilities: overview of 2010 census round", United Nations Statistics Division, 2016 [online] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2016/bangkok--disability-measurement-and-statis
tics/Session-5/UNSD.pdf.

[15] Ibid.

[16] See [online] http://cea.cepal.org/sites/default/files/lcl4070-plan-estrategico-2015-2025.pdf.

[17] LC/L.4080(CEA.8/5).

The *Regional report on measuring disability. Overview of the disability measurement procedures in Latin America and the Caribbean,* acknowledges that quantifying persons with disability in the region poses many challenges relating to the definition of disability adopted, the aspects of disability being measured and the properties of the information sources available. Therefore, at its thirteenth meeting, held in August 2014, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC reaffirmed the importance of the role of the task force on the measurement of disability and endorsed its restructuring.

Following the restructuring of the task force in the 2014-2015 biennium, a directory of those responsible for producing statistics on disability in the region was compiled and the first contacts with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) were established in order to begin learning about the methodologies used to obtain information about persons with disabilities. At the same time, work began on planning the first Regional Seminar and Training Workshop on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and its Implementation in the Collection and Analysis of Data on Disability.

The task force became a Working Group in the 2016-2017 biennium and, under this new name, it held the first regional seminar and training workshop and organized and carried out another on measuring the population with disabilities for the 2020 census round, both of which were held in Mexico City.

3. Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating country:** Mexico.

(b) **Technical secretariat:** Social Development Division of ECLAC.

(c) **Member countries:** Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru.

4. Programme of work

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Specific objective (i)				
Hold workshop on the use and application of ICF, conducted by WHO collaborating centres and PAHO national reference centres of the Family of International Classifications (FIC)	Provide technical support for holding the workshop, in conjunction with WHO/PAHO		Focus group Technical secretariat	January to April 2018
	Reach agreement with WHO/PAHO on the content of the workshop	Workshop agenda	Focus group Technical Secretariat WHO/PAHO representatives	January to April 2018
	Carry out workshop		Focus group Technical Secretariat WHO/PAHO representatives	September to December 2018
	Produce workshop report	Report	Focus group Technical Secretariat	January to April 2019
Specific objective (ii)				
Prepare methodological proposal to support the application of the international recommendations on	Hold videoconference with the Working Group on Censuses to agree on the	Report	Working Group on Censuses	January to April 2018

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
gathering information on and measuring disability	content of the technical note on including the questions in the population census		Working Group on Disability Measurement Technical Secretariat	
	Draft the technical note on implementing the recommendations on disability in the 2020 census round	Agreed technical note	Working Group on Censuses Working Group on Disability Measurement Technical Secretariat	January to December 2018
	Develop the proposed methodology to measure disability in different statistical scenarios	Proposal document	Focus group Technical Secretariat	September 2018 to December 2019
Specific objective (iii)				
Hold meeting to share experiences on disability measurement, in tests conducted during 2017 and 2018 (in conjunction with the Working Group on Censuses)	Define content and participants	Agenda	Focus group Technical secretariat	September 2018 to April 2019
	Hold meeting		Focus group Technical secretariat	January to April 2019
	Prepare meeting report	Report	Focus group Technical secretariat	January to April 2019
Specific objective (iv)				
Compile a directory of officials from national statistical offices, disability offices or councils, or ministries responsible for producing data on disability in the region.	Request updated data from the designated official of the national statistical offices or other national bodies and institutions	Updated directory	Focus group Technical secretariat	May 2018 to April 2019
Compile a directory of international bodies that have developed or are involved in developing disability measurement methodologies.	Identify the offices of the international agencies that generate information on disability in the region's countries	Directory	Focus group Technical secretariat	September 2018 to August 2019

5. Funding

Not available.

WORKING GROUP ON POVERTY STATISTICS

1.   Objectives

(a) General

Promote the production, development and greater comparability of instruments and methodologies for measuring monetary and multidimensional poverty used in Latin American and Caribbean countries, by sharing good practices and making recommendations. Work on poverty indicators is expected to contribute to meeting the commitments and challenges set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

(b) Specific

(i)   Strengthen existing links among the countries of the region in order to exchange knowledge on poverty indicators.

(ii) Deepen understanding of the missing dimensions in the multidimensional poverty indicators adopted in the region.

(iii) Promote technical cooperation and regional collaboration to develop, analyse and disseminate the missing dimensions.

(iv) Deepen understanding of revenue allocation techniques in monetary poverty indicators adopted in the region.

2.   Rationale

The Group's programme of work falls under strategic goal 2 of the Strategic Plan, 2015-2025 ("to foster the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to generate high-quality statistical information"), particularly specific goal 1 ("to promote continuous training and learning for staff at statistical offices and other institutions that produce official statistics to build sustainable institutional capacities") and specific goal 2 ("to promote the exchange of information and best practices between the members of the regional statistical community").

The Group's programme of work also promotes the proper measurement of the SDGs, in accordance with the international commitments assumed by the statistical community. Goal 1 is to end poverty, a phenomenon that is understood to mean having insufficient monetary resources to meet needs and as multiple overlapping deprivations in different areas of well-being. To give adequate follow-up to this Goal, the countries of the world face the statistical challenge of generating the most complete measurements of poverty possible.

While many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant progress in measuring monetary and multidimensional poverty, there are areas where further development and better defined standards are needed. On the one hand, the challenge of measuring poverty on the basis of insufficient monetary resources is adopting consistent criteria to quantify the disposable income of households, which is currently undermined by various limitations in household surveys in the region. On the other hand, the members of the Working Group have identified multidimensional poverty measurements and found that some countries continue to use the index

of unmet basic needs (UBN), while a significant number have adopted the methodology of Alkire and Foster[18] and built their own measurements of multidimensional poverty.

However, in order to quantify the different dimensions of poverty, progress must be made in the development and implementation of data-collection instruments that allow for the most robust and reliable analysis of the missing dimensions of poverty possible in the context of multipurpose household surveys. In other words, in order to include indicators of particular issues that are not usually taken into account when measuring poverty, but which several countries have identified as major causes of the phenomenon, such as social cohesion, the contribution to this new group of missing dimensions must be addressed taking into account countries' particularities, and ensuring to some extent international comparability of these measurements.

The Group could work with other working groups, such as the Working Group on Gender Statistics and the Working Group on Household Surveys, to enrich discussions on missing dimensions, such as unpaid work.

The proposed programme of work includes carrying out activities and producing outputs that countries can use as practical inputs to improve their instruments and methodologies for measuring poverty.

3. Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating country:** Colombia
(b) **Technical secretariat:** Statistics Division of ECLAC.
(c) **Member countries:** Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

4. Programme of work

The activities proposed below are based on the objectives of the Strategic Plan, 2015-2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the general and specific objectives of the Working Group.

Activity	Related actions	Expected output	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Develop methodological tools to identify missing dimensions in multidimensional poverty indicators	Create and launch a group that systematizes and compiles national experiences and good practices in the measurement of missing dimensions in the countries of the region Disseminate basic methodological tools to mainstream missing dimensions into national surveys Organize a regional workshop entitled "Towards the measurement of missing dimensions of poverty"	Proposed agenda for the regional workshop "Towards the measurement of missing dimensions of poverty" Report on the regional workshop "Towards the measurement of missing dimensions of poverty"	ECLAC Coordinating country	January to December 2018

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[18] See S. Alkire and J. Foster "Counting and Multidimensional Poverty Measurement", *OPHI Working Paper,* No. 7, Oxford, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, University of Oxford, 2007.

Activity	Related actions	Expected output	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Develop methodology to improve the measurement of income from household surveys	Create and launch a group that systematizes and compiles national experiences and good practices in measuring income and using allocation techniques Hold two subregional workshops to examine the working paper and present regional recommendations to improve measurements	Working paper that examines conceptual and methodological aspects of measuring income; reviews Latin American experiences of measuring income; and disseminates best practices from within and outside the region Proposed agenda for the subregional workshops Reports on the subregional workshops that include the recommendations made	ECLAC Coordinating country	January to December 2019

5. Funding

The resources needed to carry out all the activities listed in this work plan will come from in-kind contributions from the institutions involved. Extrabudgetary resources are also expected to be used to fund the workshops and seminars.

WORKING GROUP ON MEASUREMENT OF INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

1.   Objectives

(a) General objective

Contribute to the development of capacities and methodologies for measuring information and communication technologies (ICTs).

(b) Specific objectives

(i) Work to ensure that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have relevant statistics on the access to, use, availability and impact of ICTs on the economy and society at large, to assist decision-making and the design of policies.

(ii) Assist in the formulation of recommendations and discussion papers for implementing and harmonizing ICT indicators.

(iii) Contribute to the measurement of ICT indicators of relevance to the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

(iv) Promote the closer integration of the non-Spanish-speaking countries of the Caribbean in the Working Group's activities by building closer ties with them.

2.   Rationale

ICTs have transformed the world we live in and how we interact with it. Thanks to the evolution of technology, governments can obtain better quality, timely data. The region has a keen interest in capacity-building in the use of ICTs to improve governance, to promote the implementation of e-government in our countries and to begin discussions for the adoption of data-collection tools that could be of use to the health and agricultural sectors.

The Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) seeks to increase the measurement of ICTs in the countries of the region and to empower official statistical agencies in order to promote good practices and methodologies for measuring ICTs and to encourage other countries in the region to join the group. It also focuses on capacity-building for ICT measurement and the promotion of a digital ecosystem for measuring ICT indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Over the 2016-2017 biennium, the Working Group focused on measuring ICT use as a cross-cutting axis for development and on disseminating statistics and indicators with a gender perspective. It also concentrated on promoting the inclusion of the Caribbean countries in the group's activities and it worked to secure financial support for translating documents and communications into English. One significant contribution during the period was the ICTs in education module. That document provides a conceptual framework for the use of ICTs in education and suggests indicators and data-gathering instruments that could be developed as part of the framework for monitoring and evaluating policies for ICTs in education. In addition, mention should also be made of the regional review of the methodology of the household survey ICT module of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT).

The parts of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on which the current Strategic Plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC is focused include eight ICT indicators. The region's national statistical systems and the institutions that produce ICT statistics must respond to the demand for disaggregated, high-quality information in order to measure and record countries' progress towards meeting these commitments.

The coordinators of the Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies believe that assisting government institutions, statistical services, international cooperation and finance agencies and regional entities is an essential element in statistical work on ICTs at the service of the region's countries, and it trusts it will enjoy the same engagement and support in discharging this new programme of work.

3. Members of the Working Group:

(a) **Coordinating country**: Dominican Republic

(b) **Technical secretariat:** Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC

(c) **Member countries**: the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Suriname and Uruguay.

4. Programme of work

This programme of work aims to revitalize the group's operations and to promote activities that will enrich the statistical institutes of the participating nations, together with those of the region's other countries, as regards methodologies for measuring ICT data. The activities of greatest interest include the implementation of the recommendations of the ICT education module, the study of issues related to measuring ICTs and the implementation of e-government, the integration of the English-speaking Caribbean countries and methodologies to address the ICT-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Hold e-forum on experiences of developing and implementing ICT indicators	Hold virtual meeting on ICTs in education module	Virtual conference held and capacities strengthened Activity report	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Dominican Republic Uruguay	January to June 2018
	Hold virtual meeting on measuring ICTs in households	Virtual conference held and capacities strengthened Activity report	National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico Dominican Republic	July to December 2018

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
	Hold virtual meeting on measuring ICTs and implementation of e-government	Virtual conference held and capacities strengthened Activity report	Presidential Office for Information and Communications Technologies of the Dominican Republic Chile	July to December 2018
	Hold virtual meeting to raise awareness of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) ITC module for firms	Virtual conference held Awareness-raising report.	Panama Dominican Republic	January to June 2019
Hold training workshop on good practices for ICT measurement for English-speaking Caribbean countries and Haiti		Training workshop on good practices for ICT measurement for English-speaking Caribbean countries and Haiti	Dominican Republic UNCTAD Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Suriname	January to June 2019
Carry out work in conjunction with the Working Group on Institution-building		Awareness-raising report	Colombia Dominican Republic	July to December 2019
Hold workshop on coordinating a collaborative agenda for the regular production of ICT statistics and data.		Workshop: Coordination of collaborative agenda for the regular production of ICT statistics and data	ECLAC	July to December 2019
Select a list of ICT indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean with a gender perspective from the document prepared by the Working Group on Gender of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development		List of ICT indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean with a gender perspective, for household surveys and other types of research	Mexico Dominican Republic	January to June 2018
Hold seminar on the integration of digital technologies as tools for sustainable development		Workshop held and capacities strengthened Report on the results of the event	ECLAC Chile Dominican Republic	January to June 2018

5.   Funding

Funded by UNCTAD, with technical support from ECLAC.

**WORKING GROUP ON MEASURING AND RECORDING INDICATORS
RELATED TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

1. Objectives

(a) General

The Working Group's objective will be to integrate data related to disaster risk reduction into official statistics, thus taking advantage of its accuracy, consistency and high quality, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. In this regard, the new Working Group's efforts will complement the results of the work that is being undertaken at the global level by the Statistical Conferences of other regional commissions, such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and by the United Nations Statistics Division to develop SDG indicators for disaster risk reduction.

(b) Specific

(i) Participate in global efforts to measure and record indicators related to disaster risk reduction.

(ii) Contribute to the definition and adaptation of minimum standards and to the development of metadata for the indicators related to disaster risks for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(iii) Participate in global efforts to identify, disseminate and apply methodologies for measuring indicators and processing statistical data with relevant partners and specialists.

2. Rationale

Disaster risk reduction is one of the greatest challenges to the region's sustainable development and, in this context, reducing vulnerability and exposure to risk, as well as building resilience, requires a multidimensional approach, where including disaster risk information in official statistics is vital to strengthening planning systems, increasing public and private investment in infrastructure and protecting homes against disaster risk.

A World Bank study[19] highlights the negative impact of natural disasters on efforts to overcome poverty, the incidence of which has been falling steadily in the region in recent decades. The report concludes that the poor are more vulnerable to climate-related shocks, such as loss of income and damage to their health or homes. According to the report, these shocks could erase decades of hard work and lead to irreversible losses, causing many people to fall back into poverty.

Several studies indicate that the most vulnerable social groups are people who have recently exited poverty but whose income is still not sufficient to allow them to move permanently into the more consolidated middle class. In addition, according to numerous studies, in the medium term, disasters will not only lead to a decline in household income, but a deterioration of other social indicators, meaning that affected households face multidimensional poverty.[20]

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[19] See World Bank, *Shock Waves: Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty*, 2016 [online] https://open knowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/22787.

[20] See V. H. Bacarreza and E. Pérez de Rada (eds.), *Informe nacional sobre desarrollo humano en Bolivia. El nuevo rostro de Bolivia: transformación social y metropolización*, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

It is therefore important that statistical offices are involved in producing timely, rigorous and high-quality information to address disaster risk management and, above all, to support the planning and formulation of policies that promote disaster risk reduction management, in particular among the most vulnerable populations.

At the seventy-first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the *Report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction* was presented, on the development of a set of possible indicators to measure global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, coherent with the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, and the update of the publication entitled *2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction*.[21] In this regard, the representatives of the Member States comprising the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group recommended the following (para. 23):

> "The working group encourages Member States to commence or, as appropriate, further enhance the collection of data on disaster loss disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability, with the engagement of the national statistical offices and in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, and to start reporting disaggregated data. It also calls for actions under target F of the Sendai Framework to strengthen national capacities to do so."

The objectives of the proposed Working Group of the Statistical Conference of the Americas are framed within the Strategic Plan and the priorities highlighted by the participating countries at the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which called for the work to consolidate the 2030 Agenda and to make administrative records a basic tool for producing statistics to be continued and stressed that the development of rigorous methodologies must be promoted to obtain comparable regional statistics on key issues.[22]

In turn, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators identifies the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) as the custodian agency for the SDG indicators related to disaster risk reduction, specifically in relation to 6 Goals, 11 targets and 18 indicators.

3.   Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating countries:** Peru and Paraguay.

(b) **Technical secretariat:** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

(c) **Member countries:** Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

2015, and J. Herrera and A. Cozzubo, "La vulnerabilidad de los hogares a la pobreza en el Perú, 2004-2014", Working Paper, No. 429, Catholic University of Peru (PUCP), 2016.

[21] See United Nations, *Report of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction* (A/71/644), 1 December 2016 [online] hhttp://www.prevention web.net/files/50683_oiewgreportenglish.pdf, and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), *2009 UNISDR Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction* [online] http://www.unisdr.org/files/ 7817_UNISDRTerminologyEnglish.pdf.

[22] See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Report of the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CE.16/5), 11 July 2017, para. 68.

4. Programme of work

This work plan sets out four activities and ten related actions that are detailed in the table. It also establishes a schedule of activities.

Activity	Related actions	Expected output	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Establish links with specialized statistical initiatives for disaster risk reduction (DRR) at the global level	Establish links with specialized DRR statistical initiatives, in particular with the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction	Directory of national DRR specialists	UNISDR Coordinator Working Group member countries	January to March 2018
	Define the role of statistics and national statistical offices in recording events related to disaster risk reduction linked to relevant Sendai Framework and SDG indicators	Theoretical framework	UNISDR Coordinator Working Group member countries	April to June 2018
Coordinate, in the countries, with institutions specializing in the prospective and corrective management of disaster risk reduction	Create an internal coordination committee Compile information for each institution involved	Identification of information in relation to indicators for targets A, B, C, D and E of the Sendai Framework	Coordinating countries Member countries of the Working Group	January to March 2018
Coordinate the exchange and transfer of technology and scientific innovation, and capacity building in disaster risk reduction, between member countries, programmes and international initiatives	Link supported countries with international, regional and bilateral initiatives to strengthen their statistical capacities in disaster risk reduction	Participation in events, sharing of metadata and methodologies, and technical support	Coordinating countries Member countries of the Working Group	January to March 2018
Assess gaps and needs	Produce tools and guides	Publish assessment report, including tools and guides used	Coordinator UNISDR	April to June 2018
	Compile information from each member country of the Working Group		Coordinator Working Group member countries	July to September 2018
	Analyse DRR results in Latin America and the Caribbean		Coordinator UNISDR	October to December 2018
Prepare report on existing official DRR statistics (at the national and regional level)	Identify minimum list of Sendai Framework and SDG indicators that should be measured by statistical offices	Publish report on the indicators that could be measured in the region, including metadata and maps	UNISDR Coordinator Working Group member countries	October to December 2018
	Identify classifications, metadata, terms and definitions that need to be harmonized		UNISDR Coordinator Working Group member countries	October 2018 to March 2019
	Prepare preliminary report with results		Coordinator UNISDR	January to June 2019

Activity	Related actions	Expected output	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Prepare report with recommendations on measuring DRR indicators in official statistics	Prepare recommendations report	Publish recommendations report	UNISDR Coordinator Working Group member countries	April to September 2019
	Disseminate results	International workshop in a member country of the Working Group	UNISDR Coordinator	October to December 2019

(a) The Working Group's main outcomes

The Working Group's main outcome will be a set of recommendations on disaster risk reduction in the Sendai Framework that will:

− Define the role of statistics and national statistical offices in recording events related to disaster risk reduction linked to relevant Sendai Framework and SDG indicators.
− Identify the statistical and geographical data gaps and needs of stakeholders related to preventing, focusing on and measuring the reduction in disaster risk.
− Include a minimum list of disaster risk reduction statistics and indicators to be produced by national statistical offices as part of official statistics, disaggregated by gender, vulnerable age groups, disability, ethnic groups and poverty levels, among other vulnerable groups, and approaches that address multiple threats.
− Provide guides, metadata, methodologies, standards and guidelines produced by the working groups and in the global framework, translated and adapted to Latin America and the Caribbean.
− Identify good practices or examples of disaster indicators from international organizations and national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean.

(b) Main risks and mitigation measures

− Delays in the delivery of results by the Working Group's member countries, by both statistical offices and other national agencies linked to DRR.
− Delay in building consensus among the different member countries of the Working Group involved on the tools used, indicators and other documents that require agreement.
− Overburdening of statistical offices due to the forthcoming 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

The mitigation measures that should be considered are:

− The coordinating country will fund a group of at least two persons, which will focus on following up the tasks related to the member countries of the Working Group.
− The commitment of the heads of statistical offices of the Working Group's member countries to providing timely responses to the questionnaires and reports that may be requested.

(c) Monitoring and evaluation, lessons learned

The results will be measured quantitatively through reports and questionnaires issued by the Working Group's member countries and the reports on each component submitted by the coordinating country to UNISDR.

The outcome document will be published and shared, in order to disseminate lessons learned, under the leadership of the coordinating country and the member countries of the Working Group.

(d) The project's potential and how to expand it

The processes developed for each component must be fully and systematically documented, clearly specifying the characteristics and processing of data so that they can be regularly updated, and the activities carried out by the Working Group will be developed and documented, which will facilitate implementation in other regions of the world.

(e) Sustainability

The experts of the Working Group will be part of the statistical offices' information systems and promote the participation of experts from related agencies in national spatial data infrastructure. To strengthen national governments' capacities to use strategic information in the DRR decision-making process, as mandated by statistical institutes, partnerships will be established with other sectors that have an impact on regional development.

5.   Source of funding

UNISDR and other contributions channelled through UNISDR.

WORKING GROUP ON ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

1.   Objectives

(a) General

Strengthen the production of statistics based on administrative records of the countries of the region in order to measure progress according to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators, with the active partnership of the member countries of the Working Group.

(b) Specific

(i) Develop and standardize methodologies for the use of administrative records: develop mechanisms for standardizing concepts, variables, methodological criteria and processing of administrative records to ensure the comparability of indicators to benchmark the progress made by countries of the region towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

(ii) Optimize the use of administrative records for statistical purposes in national statistical offices: make available a set of instruments that allow countries to improve the sources of administrative records through the mechanisms for interaction, cooperation and commitment between entities that are the sources of administrative records (public and private) and national statistical offices.

(iii) Strengthen regional cooperation to promote the statistical and geospatial use of administrative records: compile best practices and exchange experiences on the statistical use of administrative records and include a geospatial component to take advantage of geo-referenced data.

(iv) Share the outcomes with other working groups: provide methodologies, processes and technical recommendations in partnership with the other working groups in order to calculate the SDG indicators adequately.

2.   Rationale

At the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held in Santiago from 14 to 16 June 2016, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador presented a proposal establishing the Working Group on Administrative Records, which included developing a common methodology to identify information needs, designing an instrument to collect available data and determine their statistical use, adopting a self-assessment tool for evaluating the quality of identified records, designing a plan to develop and strengthen statistics, compiling and disseminating good practices and advising countries through technical assistance workshops on using records.

During the biennium 2016-2017, the Working Group's activities were centred on raising awareness of diagnostic and assessment tools, collecting relevant information to begin analysis of the current use of administrative records in the member countries of the Working Group, and hiring a consultant to systematize the results of the application of diagnostic and assessment tools and to assess and compile regional best practices so as to create the main sections of a manual describing the best uses of administrative records in the region.

The Strategic Plan 2015-2025 underscores the importance of national statistical systems in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. To that end and in order to comply with the Agenda, a data revolution is needed, underpinned by the use of administrative records for

statistical purposes. In some countries, at least half of the SDG indicators can be calculated on the basis of administrative records relating to all the Goals and subjects such as health, education, human rights, gender, business and housing.

Accordingly, the mission of the Working Group on Administrative Records is aligned with the Strategic Plan 2015-2025 in relation to strategic goal 1 in terms of using administrative records for statistical purposes and taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the data revolution (specific goal 1.3) and linking statistical production to geography (specific goal 1.4). It is also consistent with strategic goal 2 regarding the exchange of information and best practices between members of the regional statistical community, and with specific goal 1 of strategic goal 3 regarding horizontal coordination and cooperation among the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

The proposal also draws on the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development and the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data in the following strategic areas, with the relevant main activities proposed by the Working Group:

Strategic areas	Main activities
Coordination and strategic leadership in sustainable development data	Strengthen regional cooperation to promote the use of administrative records
Innovation and modernization of national statistical systems	Adapt legal, methodological and technological frameworks to facilitate the use of administrative records
Strengthening of basic statistical activities and programmes	Promote the use of administrative records for conducting censuses and generating statistics
Multi-stakeholder partnerships in the area of sustainable development data	Establish strategic partnerships with stakeholders (suppliers and users of administrative records)
Mobilization of resources and coordination of efforts to strengthen statistical capacities	Secure the resources for implementing the necessary programmes and actions

During the biennium 2016-2017, progress was made in raising awareness on and adapting the tools for assessing administrative records that national statistical offices can use to generate statistics, as well as in collecting the relevant information for mapping available administrative records and their current status. However, despite the reminders sent by ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which are the lead agencies, not all countries have responded to requests.

Meanwhile, a consulting team (comprising a senior and a junior consultant) was contracted with a view to systematizing information and compiling best practices in the region and INEC of Ecuador has submitted the instruments generated for the assessment of the current state of administrative records. The outcome of the consultation exercise will help in forming the subgroups and compiling good practices and will serve as input for a subsequent handbook on strengthening processes, methodologies and technologies for the use of administrative records.

Administrative records cover a wide range of subjects; although it is possible to identify similar characteristics, problems and structures among national statistical offices in the region, there are differences between records. The Working Group therefore proposes to continue its activities with the following strategy:

(i) Work on the current situation in each of the member countries of the Working Group that resulted from the application of the diagnostic and assessment tools for administrative records in each member country, conducted as part of the 2016-2017 programme of work with regard to capturing, processing, integrating and analysing data from administrative records. However, member countries will be allowed to increase the number of records to be considered and assessed with a view to increase the available thematic coverage for measuring Sustainable Development Goal indicators.

(ii) The 2016-2017 programme of work provided for a meeting where subject-specific working subgroups were set up, based on the assessments of the current situation and prioritization of administrative records by each member country, with countries free to participate in more than one subgroup. From here, a general roadmap for the Working Group's activities was proposed, which would serve as the basis for the specific roadmaps to be proposed and implemented by the subgroups, each of which would have a coordinator; either a national statistical office with expertise in the area, or one which has expressed a particular interest in improving the relevant records.

Subgroup tasks include:

- Identify the SDGs and corresponding indicators offering the best conditions for measurement from administrative records, based on the subject and reality of each subgroup;
- Coordinate with their national statistical offices access to administrative records data that have been identified to calculate the prioritized SDG indicators;
- Assess the quality of these records through the application of data quality assessment tools, and,
- Link the SDG indicators with the administrative records that offer greatest potential for calculation, and share these with other working groups through the corresponding coordination channels.

(iii) Part of the work involves joint activities by the Group, including compiling best practices (to be published through a collaborative web application); proposing, reforming and/or adapting tools to assess the quality of administrative records at the data level, and ensuring that every NSO uses them; identifying and proposing projects linked to the SDGs and administrative records for the corresponding working subgroups, supported by the coordinating country and the secretariat of the Working Group, in order to establish strategic partnerships with national and international bodies responsible for managing technical assistance and financial resources to fund the Working Group's activities.

(iv) Based on the diagnostics and assessments of administrative records of the previous biennium, an expert external consultant will create a manual on using administrative records actively working on:

- Compiling best practices in the region on the use of administrative records for statistical purposes;
- Standardization of criteria to be applied in consideration of the best practices that have been mapped; and,
- A specific roadmap to be applied by each subgroup based on their proposed schedules and activities depending on their needs.

(v) Lastly, each subgroup will work to implement the manual's recommendations on calculating SDG indicators using administrative records, in partnership with the other working groups involved in each priority area. They will also evaluate the progress made in the countries, so that each member country of the Working Group is clearly aware of existing capacities and gaps, and promote the widespread use of the regional collaborative web application.

(vi) The active participation of each member of the Working Group is imperative and their membership in the 2018-2019 biennium will be contingent on the completion of the activities planned for 2017. Nonetheless, the coordinating country and General Secretariat will identify potential member countries and international cooperating agencies wishing to become part of the Group, and will evaluate requests for their inclusion.

3. Members of the Working Group

(a) **Coordinating country**: Ecuador (National Statistics and Census Institute (INEC)).

(b) **Technical secretariat**: Statistics Division of ECLAC.

(c) **Member countries**: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

4. Programme of work

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Specific objective (i) Develop and standardize methodologies for the use of administrative records				
Coordinate and evaluate the topics assigned to each working subgroup	Formalize the status of member countries and the coordinating country in each working subgroup Identify records potentially useful for statistical purposes Propose the indicators and SDGs offering the best conditions for measurement from administrative records, for each topic	List of administrative records useful for statistical purposes, and of the related SDG indicators for each topic	Coordinator for each subgroup (manage the creation of lists of administrative records)	January to March 2018
Conduct consultation exercise to produce and implement a manual on using administrative records in the region	Propose process-related topics to be covered Propose methodological topics to be covered Propose technological topics to be covered Review and approve the details of the topics to be covered Produce the regional manual Review and observations by member countries Develop proposals for practical applications based on the regional manual for measuring the SDGs Disseminate the manual to technical staff of each national statistical office member of the Working Group during the mid-term meeting	Manual Report on induction process	Consultant	March to November 2018
Specific objective (ii) Optimize the use of administrative records for statistical purposes in national statistical offices				
Generate tools and mechanisms for collaboration among countries for processing and	Improve the use of tools that facilitate a collaborative process among the countries of the region	Toolbox for the use of administrative records	Subgroup coordinator	January to November 2018

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
taking advantage of administrative records	Generate processes to raise awareness among public and private institutions about the possible uses of administrative records Propose, disseminate, improve and implement evaluation tools for records at the data level Manage access to administrative records data for each topic		(generate inputs for the toolbox) Coordinator INEC (coordinate the work of the subgroups)	
Improve and implement diagnostics and evaluation tools adopted in the 2016-2017 biennium	Reform the diagnostics and evaluation tools for administrative records Implement reformed tools to measure progress against first diagnostics and evaluation process	Reformed tools Diagnosed administrative records Evaluated national statistical offices	Coordinator INEC (coordinate the proposals for diagnostics tools improvement) Subgroup coordinators (submit proposals for improvements and manage the new diagnostics process)	March to November 2019
Specific objective (iii) Strengthen regional cooperation to promote the statistical and geospatial use of administrative records				
Strengthen regional cooperation through working subgroup partnerships	Launch processes to compile good practices Define a process for continuous improvement of the regional manual Establish a strategy enabling countries to collaborate actively on processing and using administrative records for statistical and geospatial purposes (e.g. via online discussion forums) Establish a directory of experts on topics relating to processing and using administrative records Hold a workshop to review regional strategies for processing and using administrative records for statistical and geospatial purposes	Report on strategies for strengthening regional cooperation	Subgroup coordinator (compile proposals) Coordinator INEC (coordinate proposals) Technical secretariat ECLAC (define strategies based on subgroup proposals)	April to November 2018

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities	Implementation period
Specific objective (iv) Share outcomes with other working groups				
Identify and disseminate among other working groups the best practices in using and processing administrative records for measuring the SDGs	Identify other working groups that require inputs from administrative records to achieve their objectives Disseminate among other working groups and other potential international cooperating agencies the progress made in processing and using administrative records Approve plan of action for 2019-2020 Execute plan of action for 2019-2020	Report of working groups involved in the initiative to strengthen and take advantage of administrative records	Subgroup coordinator (manage the identification of best practices and dissemination among other working groups) Coordinator INEC (manage the engagement with other groups)	April 2018 to December 2019
Conduct assessment of the Working Group	Conduct assessment of subgroups Conduct assessment of compendium of good practices (tools and use) Hold evaluation and closing meeting of the Working Group Approve plan of action for 2019-2020	Report on the meeting evaluating the Working Group's achievements	Coordinator INEC (consolidate assessments carried out by subgroups) Technical secretariat ECLAC (manage the evaluation and closing meeting of the Working Group)	July to November 2019

5. Funding

Activity	Estimated budget
	(US dollars)
Hiring a consultancy firm to draft the manual on using administrative records	60 000
Holding midterm meeting/workshop of the Working Group	60 000
Local contributions (in-kind and working hours)	In accordance with each country's commitment
Evaluation and closing meeting of the Working Group	36 000

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER NETWORK

1. Objectives

(a) General objective

Contribute to strengthening the statistical capacities of national statistical offices and institutes in the region by means of a network for knowledge management among existing national training centres, programmes and strategies.

(b) Specific objectives

(i) Establish a system for collaborative work.
(ii) Facilitate the exchange and distribution of training resources and activities among countries.
(iii) Promote knowledge transfer activities among the members of the network.
(iv) Promote knowledge management to strengthen the human resources of the national statistical offices and the national institutes of statistics.
(v) Help strengthen countries' capacity to generate, analyse and disseminate official statistics.

2. Rationale

In keeping with the parameters set by the meetings of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) held since 2007, the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) has defined its objectives, mission, scope and functions. KTN has established its Advisory Committee and its General Secretariat, which serves a two-year period.

Advocacy activities have been launched, inviting national statistical offices to submit activities, documents and experts and to use KTN internally. New funds have been requested and the specialized information repository has been expanded.

Currently, KTN has been holding monthly knowledge-transfer meetings in accordance with proposals made independently by the countries. All the countries have been invited to these monthly meetings by means of mass mailings to the contact points established for KTN and through the web page funded by the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia. The minutes of the videoconferences and topics addressed remain publicly accessible on that website. Currently, the organization, development and records of those knowledge transfer meetings are being carried out by DANE staff on a part-time basis (as no professional can be assigned exclusively to the task for budgetary reasons), a professional who provides technical connectivity support for the monthly meetings and the support of a technical expert depending on the topic that is to be addressed.

Recently, in view of the countries' difficulties in attending the monthly meetings, DANE has included videoconferences given by experts on specific topics in accordance with the development of its statistical production and dissemination courses.

3.   **Members of the network**

(a) **Coordinating country:** Colombia, through the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE).

(b) **Technical secretariat:** ECLAC Statistics Division. The Advisory Committee and the Chair also need to be selected, as no appointments have been made since 2011.

(c) **Member countries**: Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa **Rica**, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Uruguay.

4.   **Programme of work**

The following proposed programme is structured around the general and specific objectives defined for KTN at the meetings of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, and the goal is to generate and transmit knowledge in accordance with the strengths and work of thematic experts.

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
Redefine the leadership and funding of KTN	Select the leadership of KTN at the meetings of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and identify its funding sources	Document of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC appointing the Advisory Committee, Chair and technical secretariat, and identifying funding sources	DANE (Colombia) All national statistical offices ECLAC	January to June 2018
				January to June 2018
	Develop a proposal to secure funding through the Inter-American Development Bank or alternative sources of funding with multilateral agencies	Financing proposal document to secure multilateral funding for KTN		January to June 2018
Create a knowledge management network	Identify topics of interest to be included in the knowledge management network modules about the production and dissemination of statistics among the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	Consolidated document containing proposals submitted by national statistical offices	DANE (Colombia) Individual national statistical offices Council ECLAC	January to June 2018
	Design the proposed modules for structuring the knowledge management network	Consolidated module proposal document defined by national statistical offices	DANE (Colombia) Individual national statistical offices ECLAC	July to December 2018
	Raise awareness of the knowledge management strategy among national statistical offices	Records of awareness-raising work with the KTN member countries	DANE (Colombia) Individual national statistical offices	January to June 2019
	Structure a joint proposal for transforming the knowledge transfer network into a knowledge management network	Document containing the joint proposal	DANE (Colombia) Individual national statistical offices ECLAC	January to June 2019

Activity	Related actions	Expected outputs	Lead entities or countries	Implementation period
	Develop the modules for the knowledge management network platform	Functional records of one developed module	DANE (Colombia)	July to December 2019
	Create groups/forums for promoting knowledge management among national statistical offices	Functional records of working groups and forums for promoting knowledge that will be established and structured with the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and national statistical offices on the DANE website: http://somos.dane.gov.co/	DANE (Colombia) Individual national statistical offices ECLAC	July 2018 to June 2019
	Align the bimonthly *Conectados RTC* meeting with the designed and developed knowledge management network, as well as with the course topics, thematic experts and other working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	Document containing the list of biannual topics proposed by national statistical offices and working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC	DANE (Colombia) Individual national statistical offices Working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC ECLAC	June 2018 to June 2019
		Records of the meetings on the web page	DANE (Colombia) National statistical office responsible for the *Conectados RTC* topic	July 2018 to June 2019
Strengthen the KTN directory of experts	Update and compile the directory of thematic experts, including both individuals belonging to national statistical offices and external experts, during the first half of the year	Updated directory of experts from national statistical offices, by topic Updated directory of external experts, by topic	DANE (Colombia) Individual national statistical offices	January 2018 to June 2019

5.   Funding

In 2007, at its seventh meeting, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC urged international organizations and member countries of the Conference to contribute to funding the Knowledge Transfer Network. Since DANE assumed responsibility for coordinating KTN (2015), Colombia has borne the maintenance, development and coordination costs, but additional resources are needed to continue this work. In addition, it is imperative that ECLAC formalize the Network's leadership and funding.

The proposal outlined above depends on the availability of resources. Funding for the web page is required, as are a full-time employee to manage KTN during the period of its operation, a designer, a layout professional and a content developer for three months to work on transforming and developing the specific modules, and a part-time developer for the technical administration of the KTN web page and to keep it updated.