



Distr.
LIMITED
LC/L.3390(CEA.6/17)
4 November 2011
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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

Bávaro, Dominican Republic

16-18 November 2011

**DRAFT BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE
OF THE AMERICAS OF ECLAC, 2012-2013 ***

* Report prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the reports by the working groups and information provided by the international organizations concerned.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC has a Strategic Plan 2005-2015,¹ which defines the mission, vision, strategic goals, specific goals and main lines of action on which the Conference should focus its efforts until 2015. The four strategic goals are as follows:

- Goal 1:** To strengthen the strategic and operational management practices and organization of the national statistical offices and national statistical systems in order to ensure the quality of their outputs and the satisfaction of users.
- Goal 2:** To promote the training of staff in producing high-quality statistical information, managing national statistical systems and carrying out research into statistical methodology.
- Goal 3:** To promote the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to generate high-quality statistical information in the region.
- Goal 4:** To promote coordination and cooperation between the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and international agencies.

2. This long-term vision enables the Conference to optimize the contribution of all relevant actors in the regional statistical community to strengthening national statistical systems and producing high-quality statistics. In particular, the plan should serve as a basic framework for guiding action by international and subregional organizations and the different regional and international coordination and cooperation bodies, in accordance with the objectives of the Conference.

3. As stated in United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, one of the objectives of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC is “to draw up a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, to meet the demands of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources”.

4. In accordance with the above resolution, a draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for the period 2012-2013 has been drawn up, which contains a plan for making progress towards achieving each of the four strategic goals of the strategic plan through regional, subregional and international cooperation projects and activities, in the light of the progress already made and taking into account the new realities and challenges in developing official statistics in the region.

5. Given the magnitude and complexity of the challenges outlined and taking into account the recommendations made in the document² adopted at the tenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference on the operating modalities of the working groups, this draft biennial programme for the period 2012-2013 gives priority to a limited number of key lines of action, in order to avoid dispersal of efforts.

¹ ECLAC, Strategic Plan 2005-2015 (LC/L.2715/Rev.1), Santiago, Chile, 14 August 2007.

² LC/L.3285(CE.10/4), 9 February 2010.

6. The priorities for the different working groups have been identified. In addition, the progress made by the working groups and international organizations in their respective areas, as well as the challenges and demands of the countries, have also been borne in mind. Furthermore, in identifying the priorities for the biennium, account was also taken of the commitments, mandates and recommendations that the international statistical community has deemed essential for the period 2012-2013.

7. The table below describes the activities proposed for the period 2012-2013 based on the four strategic goals contained in the Strategic Plan 2005-2015, grouped according to the corresponding specific goal, and identifies the entities responsible in each case. Obviously, many activities simultaneously contribute to achieving more than one goal.

Specific and strategic goals of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015	Activities proposed for the period 2012-2013	Agency responsible
Goal 1: Institution-building		
<p><i>Specific goal 1:</i> Promote awareness and application of best practices in terms of legal frameworks, strategic planning, assessment of national statistical systems and financing.</p>	<p>Disseminate and promote the implementation of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean by means of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops, conferences, seminars and forums that encourage the use and updating of good practices. • Self-evaluation of the current situation in national statistical offices in relation to the code. • Comprehensive evaluation of compliance with the principles of the code with a group of experts. • Recommendations and plans for improvement. 	<p>The Working Group on Institution-building, ECLAC and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT).</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 2:</i> Strengthen the relationship with users through permanent monitoring of their needs and assessment of their levels of satisfaction, and the establishment of accessible and timely mechanisms of dissemination.</p>		
<p><i>Specific goal 3:</i> Promote the development of official statistics as a public good among governments, economic stakeholders, social actors and other decision makers, and their use in the design, follow-up and assessment of public policies.</p>		
<p><i>Specific goal 4:</i> Encourage awareness and sharing of experiences among countries in order to make the best use of information and communications technologies.</p>		

Goal 2: Human resources development		KTN and the Conference working groups.
<p><i>Specific goal 1:</i> Promote awareness and identification of institutional needs and the work skills required for producing statistical information and for management.</p> <p><i>Specific goal 2:</i> Encourage awareness of and sharing of experiences relating to human resources management, as part of work towards defining a human resources management model that is relevant to the difference stages of statistical development in the region.</p> <p><i>Specific goal 3:</i> Support cooperation and coordination of countries' human resources training efforts in the region.</p>	<p>The Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN) will promote the achievement of these goals through the following actions and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster the transfer of knowledge between the member countries of the Network. • Identify the training needs of Network members by means of an online questionnaire. • Devise plans and programmes and organize new training activities to strengthen the knowledge and skills required by members of the Network. • Provide Network members with training options on managing the new portal and using the RTC_A DISTANCIA environment. • Develop new technological proposals that will allow national statistical offices to manage their own information within the Network. • Prepare the campaign to publicize the Network page (2012-2013). • Manage the presence of the Network project on social networking sites. • Set up the Network labour exchange. • Develop the RTC_A DISTANCIA training platform and boost the supply of training activities. • Manage funds to meet the Network's needs during 2012-2014. 	
<p><i>Specific goal 4:</i> Develop cooperation on lines of statistical research relevant for the region.</p>		
<p><i>Specific goal 5:</i> Strengthen the region's networks of statistical information experts in various fields.</p>	<p>Maintain an up-to-date list of official statistical experts in various fields.</p>	KTN

Goal 3: Develop statistical and methodological capacities

Specific goal 1: Promote cooperation and the exchange of experiences on worldwide best practices and methodological documents useful for the region in the production of statistical information.

- The Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals plans to carry out the following activities:
 - Manage and coordinate participation in thematic meetings organized by other regional agencies addressing the different dimensions of the Millennium Development Goals, with a view to discussing and analysing the progress made and challenges remaining in relation to the Millennium Development Goal indicators in the respective sectoral areas.
 - Administer and maintain the content on the collaborative website, with a view to maintaining fluid communication between the different members of the group, and organize online meetings and technical debates.
 - Organize a regional workshop on strengthening statistical capacities in relation to the Millennium Development Goal indicators for experts from national statistical offices and other producers of data at the national level.
 - Carry out technical assistance missions focusing on strengthening the capacities of the national technical teams responsible for producing and monitoring Millennium Development Goal indicators, as well as horizontal cooperation missions in response to specific requests from countries in the region.

Implement the project entitled “Strengthening statistical and institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing”.

Conclude the implementation of the project to update the methodology used to measure poverty.

The Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and ECLAC.

The Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, ECLAC and participating countries.

ECLAC and the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

ECLAC

<p><i>Specific goal 2:</i> Support and promote the implementation of the 2010 round of censuses in the countries of the region.</p>	<p>Conduct workshops on the exploitation and analysis of census data, focused on the potential uses of this data, especially for public policy purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a workshop in 2013 on evaluating the quality and coverage of the 2010 round of censuses with the corresponding reference documents. • Conduct two workshops to analyse the data from the 2010 round of censuses and promote different forms of cooperation which allow for the exchange of experiences and for the potential of census data to be exploited. • Prepare a document comparing the findings of the 2010 round of censuses. • Conduct four training workshops on the use of the REDATAM program to make optimum use of population and housing censuses. <p>Conduct workshops and promote different forms of cooperation which allow for the exchange of experiences on the evaluation of the census round, with the emphasis on this exchange.</p> <p>Conduct a workshop on the use of census data to analyse migration, to be held in the first half of March 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.</p> <p>Conduct workshops to prepare population estimates and projections based on the information collected during the 2010 round of censuses; update the population estimates and projections in conjunction with national statistical offices for publication in <i>Demographic Observatory</i>.</p> <p>Conduct two specialized workshops on demographic analysis (one on housing and urban dynamics, and the other on the environment) as part of the Diploma in demographic analysis and the exploitation of census data organized by the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic.</p>	<p>The Working Group on Censuses and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC.</p> <p>The Working Group on Censuses and CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC.</p> <p>The Working Group on Censuses and CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC.</p> <p>The Working Group on Censuses and CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC.</p> <p>CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC and the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic.</p>
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<p>Update the regional systems of indicators based on information from censuses and other recent sources (Regional System of Indicators for the follow-up to the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD); the Regional System of Indicators on Aging (SISE); the programme entitled "Investigation of International Migration in Latin America (IMILA); the Database on Internal Migration in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIALC); the project entitled "Spatial distribution and urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean (DEPUALC); and the System of Sociodemographic Indicators for Indigenous Peoples and Populations (SISPPI)).</p>	<p>CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC.</p>
<p>By virtue of the agreement with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)World Health Organization (WHO), continue supporting the development of a plan of action to improve vital and health statistics, incorporating an ethnic approach in vital statistics and other information sources.</p>	<p>CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC and PAHO/WHO.</p>
<p>Move forward with the development of the REDATAM program for processing data from population and housing censuses, including its use in conjunction with geographical information systems.</p>	<p>CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 3:</i> Promote the establishment and use of administrative records as a relevant source for the creation of official statistics.</p>	<p>Participating countries, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and ECLAC.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 4:</i> Produce a document on alternative and complementary methods incorporating censuses, surveys and administrative records to improve the production of sociodemographic statistics.</p>	<p>ECLAC and EUROSTAT.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 5:</i> Promote and develop gender statistics in all countries in the region.</p>	<p>The Working Group on Gender Statistics and ECLAC.</p>

Two international meetings will be held on time use in 2012 and 2013, as well as two international meetings on gender statistics in 2012 and 2013.	The Working Group on Gender Statistics and ECLAC.
Promote limited-presence and distance-learning courses on gender statistics.	The Working Group on Gender Statistics and ECLAC.
Continue providing technical assistance in the context of the project on the use of gender indicators for the development of public policies.	ECLAC
Follow up on the statistical activities of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, including annually updating its indicators on the CEPALSTAT information technology platform, with a view to ensuring comparability for all countries in the region, by means of technical meetings between producers and users and ongoing maintenance of the Observatory website.	ECLAC
Develop guidelines and methodologies for keeping systematic records of femicides in the countries in the region in the form of administrative records of violence against women resulting in their death at the hands of a current or former intimate partner.	The Working Group on Gender Statistics and ECLAC.
Cooperate with countries to encourage the widespread measurement of the incidence and magnitude of violence against women based on the methodological recommendations and calculation of indicators formulated by the United Nations Statistics Division.	The Working Group on Gender Statistics and ECLAC.
Promote the use of the proposal for a classification of time-use activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL), based on the agreements and recommendations adopted at the meetings of specialists in time-use surveys, and continue making progress in its development, taking into account the international experiences of countries which have already harmonized and refined their activity classifications.	The Working Group on Gender Statistics and ECLAC.

<p><i>Specific goal 6:</i> Support and promote the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA) in all the countries of the region and the revision process up to 2008, in accordance with a regional schedule of stages.</p>	<p>Conduct Latin American seminars on national accounts in 2012 and 2013.</p> <p>Develop a regional horizontal cooperation programme on national accounts and centralize the mapping of regional activities based on subregional mapping.</p> <p>Create a virtual library to hold national, subregional, regional and international documentation. Establish discussion forums and networks of experts on specific technical issues of interest in the region, and prepare a compendium of standards and best practices in economic statistics and national accounts.</p> <p>Draft a report on recent experiences in harmonizing basic statistics at the subregional level.</p> <p>Update and expand the assessment of the statistical needs of countries.</p>	<p>ECLAC and the Working Group on National Accounts.</p> <p>The Working Group on National Accounts.</p> <p>The Working Group on National Accounts and ECLAC.</p> <p>The Working Group on National Accounts.</p> <p>The Working Group on National Accounts.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 7:</i> Ensure that all countries, according to their circumstances, have relevant statistics on their natural resources and environment, in addition to a minimum set of common sustainability indicators for the region as a whole.</p>	<p>Implement the project on the development and strengthening of official environmental statistics in support of public policymaking in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is funded by the Regional Public Goods Program of the IBD.</p> <p>Present the progress made at the global level in relation to statistics on emerging issues such as climate change and the green economy.</p> <p>Continue implementing the project on water accounts and statistics carried out by ECLAC and the German Agency for International Cooperation.</p>	<p>The Working Group on Environmental Statistics and ECLAC.</p> <p>The Working Group on Environmental Statistics.</p> <p>ECLAC</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 8:</i> Ensure that all countries, according to their circumstances, have relevant statistics on science and technology, in addition to a minimum set of common indicators for the region as a whole.</p>	<p>Revise the compendium of practices to produce an up-to-date 2012 version based on the experiences in the region and the countries of the European Union, and expand its scope to include other information and communications technologies indicators, as well as those produced from household and business surveys.</p>	<p>The Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and ECLAC.</p>

Complete the work to prepare the indicators of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015).	The Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and ECLAC.
Promote the strengthening of the regional database of the Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC) and encourage countries to submit the relevant measurements.	The Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and ECLAC.
Conduct a training workshop on an up-to-date ICT module in business surveys.	The Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies.
Devise a module on ICT access and use in the health sector, for which the technical support of the World Health Organization (WHO) will be sought.	The Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and ECLAC.
Implement the survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on information and communications technologies in national statistical offices in 2012 and 2013.	The Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and ECLAC.
Reformulate the 2012 survey on the process of creating harmonized statistics on information and communications technologies so that it can be conducted in the government institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean which act as the eLAC focal points, in coordination with its secretariat.	The Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies and ECLAC.
Goal 4: Encourage coordination and cooperation between countries and international organizations	
<i>Specific goal 1:</i> Develop a framework for the regional, subregional, multilateral and bilateral cooperation activities aimed at achieving the goals of the Conference as defined in the strategic plan and the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission.	KTN and ECLAC.
Monitor the implementation of the biennial programme.	The Chair and secretariat.
Submit regular reports to the Executive Committee of the Conference on the implementation of the recommendations made in the report on the review of the operating modalities of the working groups.	The Chair and secretariat.

<p><i>Specific goal 2:</i> Support and strengthen bilateral cooperation between the member countries of the Conference in an effective and efficient manner, especially for the countries that are relatively less developed in terms of statistics.</p>	<p>Design a programme to mobilize resources to fund horizontal cooperation.</p>	<p>KTN and the working groups.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 3:</i> Promote the development of a regional programme to harmonize statistical information in key areas.</p>	<p>Complete the implementation of the International Comparison Program (ICP). Complete the project to establish a regional statistical framework for directories of businesses and establishments.</p>	<p>ECLAC Participating countries, ECLAC and IBD.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 4:</i> Ensure that international, technical and financial cooperation on statistical matters is designed to strengthen the institutions of the countries and addresses the priority requirements of the beneficiary countries in the region.</p>	<p>Have the Executive Committee prepare an annual report to facilitate and monitor the progress made towards the goals and objectives of inter-institutional coordination in the region.</p>	<p>The Chair and secretariat of the Conference.</p>
<p><i>Specific goal 5:</i> Urge international agencies to improve the coverage, transparency and reporting on all indicators of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, avoiding imputation unless specific country data are available for reliable imputations following consultations with the countries concerned and through transparent methodologies.</p>	<p>Implement a strategy for reconciliation of the data in national and international databases on the Millennium Development Goals. To that end, carry out the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold at least one regional seminar on the Millennium Development Goals in the biennium, bringing together the directors of the national statistical offices, the national agencies responsible for reporting on the Millennium Development Goals and international organizations. • Make progress in addressing statistical discrepancies at conferences, meetings and workshops to be held during the biennium. The aim is to systematize the information flows between the different national and international agencies concerning the Millennium Development Goal indicators to better understand the origin of the statistics used at the international level and thus move towards statistical reconciliation. <p>Represent regional interests at the annual meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on the Millennium Development Goal indicators.</p>	<p>ECLAC, the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and regional agencies. The Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and ECLAC.</p>