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**PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL WORK FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, JULY 2003-JUNE 2005**

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CONTENTS

		<i>Page</i>
I.	BACKGROUND	1
II.	GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
III.	THE SUBPROGRAMMES	2
	Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)	2
	Element 1.1: Providing access to technical documentation and support for those responsible for 1993 SNA and for producers of basic statistics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean	2
	Element 1.2: Follow-up of the implementation process and sharing of experience and training in national accounts and basic statistics in relation to 1993 SNA	3
	Element 1.3: Improvement, extension and harmonization of the production of basic statistics, prices and macrostatistical schemes	3
	Element 1.4: Improvement, extension and harmonization of external sector statistics	6
	Element 1.5: Other international technical cooperation projects	7
	Subprogramme 2: Improvement of the production and use of statistics on social variables and well-being.....	8
	Element 2.1: Improvement of the production of statistics on social variables	8
	Element 2.2: Use of information from household surveys and other sources.....	10
	Element 2.3: Participation in working and study groups on issues of regional interest	11
	Element 2.4: Other international technical cooperation projects	12

	<i>Page</i>
Subprogramme 3: Improvement and expansion of the production of statistics in specific areas.....	14
Element 3.1: Environmental statistics.....	14
Element 3.2: Statistics on science, technology and innovation.....	14
Element 3.3: Statistics on gender equity	15
Subprogramme 4: Modernization of statistical systems and data dissemination	17
Element 4.1: Advocacy of the strategic role of statistics and their use for the formulation and follow-up of economic and social development policies.....	17
Element 4.2: Development and strengthening of the management capacity of organizations producing statistics.....	19
Element 4.3: Extension, improvement and harmonization of information systems and the use of the Internet environment for the dissemination of information and data.....	19

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC has the task, *inter alia*, of preparing a draft biennial programme of international statistical work which is submitted to the Conference for consideration and subsequent approval. The two meetings of the Executive Committee held in 2002 were chaired by Brazil (in Rio de Janeiro in March and in Panama City in December). The members had been elected at the first meeting of the Conference (Santiago, Chile, May 2001).

2. At its second meeting in Panama, on 11 and 12 December 2002, the Executive Committee produced guidelines for the programme of work for 2003-2005. A proposal was drafted on the basis of the guidelines, and was considered and subsequently approved at the second meeting of the Conference, which was held at ECLAC headquarters from 18 to 20 June 2003.

3. This document presents the planned activities for dissemination, harmonization, training and technical cooperation, divided into specific subprogrammes and elements. The text is the result of a joint effort by member countries of the Conference, regional and international organizations and the ECLAC secretariat.

4. In accordance with the agreements reached by the Executive Committee, the ECLAC secretariat prepared the programme with the assistance of the national statistical offices of the countries represented on the Committee: Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Panama, Peru and Spain. There were also contributions from other countries and offices that had attended the meetings of the Executive Committee as observers, or had sent written comments.¹

5. One of the objectives of the definitive version of the programme of international statistical work for 2003-2005, which was finalized and approved at the second meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, is to provide the most comprehensive listing possible of international and regional cooperation activities to be carried out over the biennium. For this purpose, an advance copy of the draft produced by the Secretariat had been sent to the member countries of the Conference and to observing agencies, so that they could propose, organize and participate in statistical cooperation activities in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Executive Committee.

II. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

6. The programme of work for the period from July 2003 to June 2005 to a large extent has similar characteristics to the programme for 2001-2003, while it has been adjusted to take account of the changes inherent in the process of regional and global statistical development.

7. The text of the programme refers to many institutional forms that are used by the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Conference of European Statisticians. Generally speaking, these are flexible initiatives that take advantage of the capacities of different countries and organizations. One example of this is the emergence of "city groups" in the framework of the United Nations Statistical Commission, which has revealed opportunities for joint work between governments and international and

¹ The reports of these meetings are available on the web page (www.eclac.cl/deype/ceacepal/index.htm).

regional institutions, and has shown that the different organizational forms appropriate to the level of development of statistics in different areas can coexist without problems.

8. The conceptual and methodological content of the work programme covers the essential issues of the current stage of regional statistical development in the economic and social arena, as well as the topics that emerge in response to the new demands and concerns of governments and civil society, and the institutional and technical challenges facing the national statistical offices in their efforts to modernize their management and the production and dissemination of data.

9. Accordingly, the programme of work is divided into four subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993

Subprogramme 2: Improvement of the production and use of statistics on social variables and well-being

Subprogramme 3: Improvement and extension of the production of statistics in specific areas (environmental statistics; statistics on science, technology and innovation; statistics on gender equity)

Subprogramme 4: Modernization of statistical systems and data dissemination

III. THE SUBPROGRAMMES

Subprogramme 1: Adaptation and production of basic statistics within the framework of a regional strategy for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 1993 (1993 SNA)

Element 1.1: Providing access to technical documentation and support for those responsible for 1993 SNA and for producers of basic statistics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

10. ECLAC proposes to distribute the following manuals, as the Spanish-language versions become available, to those responsible for preparing basic statistics and national accounts, with the collaboration of the International Monetary Fund, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT) and the United Nations Statistics Division:

- (a) Manual on statistics on the international trade in services
- (b) Handbook on Household Accounting
- (c) Handbook on PNPI
- (d) Handbook on environmental accounting

11. ECLAC will continue to disseminate the Spanish-language version of the System of National Accounts 1993 via the Internet. It will also continue distribution of 1993 SNA on CD-ROM, in response to requests from experts.

12. ECLAC will continue to improve and expand the Internet page that provides access for users in the region and throughout the world to the documents relating to its technical meetings. In addition, it will continue to disseminate, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI) of Mexico the Spanish-language version of SNA News and Notes. It will also continue to disseminate the Classifications Newsletter and the newsletter on environment statistics of the United Nations Statistics Division.

Element 1.2: Follow-up of the implementation process and sharing of experience and training in national accounts and basic statistics in relation to 1993 SNA

13. ECLAC, which is acting as the focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean in the process of implementing the System of National Accounts 1993 and all of its complementary systems (quarterly accounts, regional accounts and satellite accounts) will continue to evaluate progress in this area. It will continue to produce the annual report on progress in the implementation of 1993 SNA. The report identifies the parts which are complete or awaiting completion, requirements for technical cooperation and training of experts, and efforts made to improve basic statistics.

14. ECLAC will continue to support the development of the basic statistics required for implementation of 1993 SNA. For this purpose, and at the request of the countries, it will collaborate in the relevant national activities.

15. ECLAC will continue to act as a clearing house for requests for advisory services, locating experts who can provide the required collaboration. It will also continue to manage technical cooperation activities among countries of the region by sending national technical experts from a requesting country to a country with greater experience of specific subjects within the areas of basic statistics, national accounts, prices, and processing and dissemination of data.

16. In conjunction with the Central Bank of Uruguay, ECLAC will organize in October 2003, in Montevideo, Uruguay, a regional seminar on specific subjects of interest to the compilers of national accounts.

17. ECLAC will review the current mechanism of dissemination via the web page of the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of the directories of experts in national accounts, foreign trade and consumer prices, in order to offer an interactive system for the use of statistical information.

18. ECLAC will assist in the organization and implementation of training courses and workshops on national accounts and basic statistics in cooperation with national bodies that request such assistance and have the necessary financial resources.

Element 1.3: Improvement, extension and harmonization of the production of basic statistics, prices and macrostatistical schemes

19. Using the annual survey on progress made in implementing 1993 SNA, ECLAC will continue to cooperate with the countries in defining international and regional technical assistance programmes and establishing priorities for improving their basic statistics.

20. ECLAC will disseminate information at the regional level concerning activities carried out by the MERCOSUR countries and Chile on harmonization of consumer price indices.

21. The MERCOSUR countries and Chile, in cooperation with ECLAC and as follow-up to the efforts of the working group that since 1998 has been working on harmonizing consumer price indices, have scheduled the following activities for the period 2003-2004: analysis of the results obtained, drafting of a methodological document, and expansion of the basket of goods and services.

22. In the context of the process of statistical harmonization being carried out by the countries of the Andean Community, ECLAC, as a participant in the working group, will follow up on the process of harmonizing consumer price indices for this group of countries.

23. ECLAC, in its capacity of coordinating institution for the Latin American and Caribbean region in the implementation of the International Comparison Programme, will convene meetings during 2003 for joint definition with the countries of the basket of goods and services to be used in price surveys in the region. This basket will be submitted to the World Bank in December 2003.

24. ECLAC, in conjunction with the World Tourism Organization, and in the framework of the inter-agency cooperation agreement signed by the two organizations for the implementation of joint activities relating to the preparation of tourism satellite accounts and the construction of measuring indicators for tourist activity in Latin America and the Caribbean, will carry out the following activities in 2003:

- (a) Jointly with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and the Institute of Tourist Studies of Spain, the fifth Latin American meeting on tourism satellite accounts, in Cartagena, Colombia, from 1 to 4 July 2003.
- (b) A meeting on tourism satellite accounts with the member countries of the Puebla-Panama Plan, which will be held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 8 to 10 October 2003.

25. In 2003 and 2004, the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies will organize courses and seminars on national accounts, balance of payments and monetary and financial statistics that have been requested by the central banks and statistical offices of the countries of the region. For 2003 the Centre has scheduled the following activities:

NAME OF SEMINAR, COURSE OR WORKSHOP	PLACE	ORGANIZERS	DATE
Course: Monetary and Financial Statistics	Saint Kitts	IMF and CEMLA	3-21 February
Course: Modern Central Banking: An Integral Approach	Mexico City and New York	CEMLA	3 March to 11 April
Meeting of the alternates committee	Santo Domingo	CEMLA	14 March
Regional workshop on macroeconomic projections	Mexico City	CBP-DRI and CEMLA	17-27 March
Course: Payments Systems	Santo Domingo	Central Bank of the Dominican Republic and CEMLA	31 March to 4 April
Seminar: Special Data Dissemination Standards	Mexico City	IMF and CEMLA	7-11 April
Second Meeting of Open Market Operators	New York	Federal Reserve Bank of New York and CEMLA	5-6 May
Seminar: Family Remittances	Dominican Republic	CEMLA	12-14 May
Fortieth Meeting of Governors of Central Banks of the American Continent; and Seventy-fifth meeting of Governors of Central Banks of Latin America and Spain	Seville	CEMLA	15-16 May
Seminar: Promoting Financial Stability	Kingston	BIS and CEMLA	26-30 May

NAME OF SEMINAR, COURSE OR WORKSHOP	PLACE	ORGANIZERS	DATE
Meeting of Central Bank Security Managers	Mexico City	Bank of Mexico and CEMLA	28 and 30 May
Seminar-Workshop: Foreign Investment Position	Mexico City	CEMLA	2, 3 and 4 June
Payments Systems Week	Perugia	World Bank and CEMLA	2-6 June
Seminar: Money Laundering and Prevention of Financing of Terrorism	Nassau	BIS and CEMLA	9-13 June
Regional Workshop on Internal Debt Sustainability	Mexico City	CPB-DRI	9-16 June
Seminar on the Third Version of the New Capital Accord	Mexico City	FSI, ASBA, Basel Committee and CEMLA	17-19 June
Course: IMF Manual on Public Finance Statistics	Dominican Republic	BCRD and CEMLA	23 June-4 July
Course-Workshop: Payments systems	To be confirmed	CEMLA	7-11 July
Seminar: Improved Management of Capital Flows	Mexico City	BIS and CEMLA	28 July-1 August
Seminar: Early Warning Indicators	Asunción	BIS and CEMLA	to be confirmed
Course: Central Banking Governance	Mexico City	CCBS and CEMLA	4-8 August
Seminar-Workshop: Risk Modelling for a Sovereign Debt Portfolio	Montevideo	World Bank and CEMLA	11-15 August
Seminar-Workshop: Monetary Policy and Open Market Operations	Mexico City	CEMLA	18-29 August
Thirtieth Meeting on Central Bank Systematization	Guatemala	CEMLA	3-5 September
Fifth Meeting on International Reserve Management	Dominican Republic	CEMLA	17-19 September
Thirty-ninth Meeting of Governors of Latin America, Spain and Philippines with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank; and Seventy-sixth Meeting of Governors of Central Banks of Latin America and Spain	Dubai, Arab Emirates	CEMLA	18-19 September
Course: Constructing Models for Monetary Policy (advanced level)	Buenos Aires	CCBS and CEMLA	29 September-3 October
Sixth Meeting of Central Bank Legal Advisors	Lima	CEMLA	1-3 October
Seminar: Internationally Accepted Practices in Accounting and Corporate Governance	Mexico City	FSI and CEMLA	20-24 October
Course: The Financial System and Macro-Prudential Indicators	South America	CCBS and CEMLA	20-31 October
Eighth Meeting of Central Bank Internal Auditors	Mexico City	CEMLA	28-31 October
Course: Fiscal Statistics	Mexico City	CEMLA	1-15 November
Course: Central Banking	Barbados	CCBS, Bank of England and CEMLA	3-14 November
Eighth Meeting of the Network of American Central Bank Researchers	Caracas	CEMLA	12-14 November
Seminar-Workshop: Legal Aspects of Central Banking	Central America	CAMC and CEMLA	1-5 December

26. The European Training Centre for Economic Statisticians of Developing Countries in Madrid (CESD-Madrid) and the National Statistical Office of Spain will continue their activities in Latin America

and the Caribbean, in the context of the ongoing training programme for statisticians in the region. The following activities are planned for 2003:

Courses and seminars in Spain

TITLE OF COURSE	PLACE	DATE
Course on enterprise surveys	Madrid - Spain	3-14 March
Course on household surveys	Madrid - Spain	20-31 October

Courses and seminars in the Latin American region

TITLE OF COURSE	PLACE	DATE
Seminar on screening and application of statistical data	Antigua - Guatemala	10-14 February
Seminar-workshop on modernization of national statistical offices	Rio de Janeiro - Brazil	12-16 May
Seminar on classifications, metadata and statistical records	Santa Cruz de la Sierra - Bolivia	7-11 July
Seminar on information and communication technologies (ICT) in enterprises and households	Cartagena - Colombia	29 September -3 October

27. The member countries of the Andean Community will continue to implement the activities connected with their statistics programme for 2000-2004. Decision 488 adopted by the Commission of the Community provides the legislative authority for this programme. Moreover, in collaboration with EUROSTAT, work will begin on the activities agreed in the context of project CAN 2003-2007.

28. ECLAC will carry out a joint activity with the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona and Pompeu Fabra in order to research historical macroeconomic series of the countries of Latin America.

Element 1.4: Improvement, extension and harmonization of external sector statistics

29. ECLAC, in conjunction with the United Nations Statistics Division, will organize a seminar on international trade classifications in September 2003 at its headquarters in Santiago, Chile. This seminar will focus on the next revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities and on the Central Product Classification, to which changes will be made in the year 2007. The seminar will also offer the countries of the region an opportunity to take an active role in this revision process, to express their concerns and suggestions, and to discuss relevant issues and proposed solutions.

30. When the Spanish-language version is available of the Manual on Statistics on International Trade in Services, which the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts is preparing, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, jointly with the International Trade and Integration Division of ECLAC, will obtain support from the statistical office of a developed country with appropriate experience and from countries in the region that have acquired such experience, to organize a regional programme to improve statistics on international trade in services, which basically will consist of promoting and supporting the application, in all countries of the region, of the relevant recommendations approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission.

31. ECLAC, through the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, will continue to participate in the working group on international trade statistics.

32. On the basis of the recent publication of the new version of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, ECLAC will publish in 2003 a document that will contain the correspondence tables for the 2002 version and other international trade classifications. There is a high level of demand for this document among producers of foreign trade data.

Element 1.5: Other international technical cooperation projects

33. ECLAC will continue to participate in the implementation of project PAN/93/002 "Improving the national accounting system and the compilation of basic statistics" (Panama). This project should be completed in 2003 and the activities scheduled for this year are mainly for training. When this stage has been concluded, ECLAC will collaborate with the authorities of the Office of Statistics of Panama in the definition and management of a new development project for the country's national accounts.

34. ECLAC will continue to encourage horizontal technical cooperation activities among countries of the region and will cooperate with the national statistical offices and other institutions responsible for national accounts, in organizing and implementing regional and international cooperation programmes. When appropriate, it will coordinate these activities with the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Tourism Organization, inter alia, which will require the use of internal resources, as well as the mobilization of independent experts from other organizations.

35. The Statistics Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will continue implementing a technical assistance programme for the countries of the region, oriented to the national statistical offices, the ministries of economic and financial affairs, and the central banks. It offers technical assistance in the following areas: balance of payments statistics; public finance, monetary and financial statistics; national accounts; statistics on consumer and producer prices; and foreign trade statistics. The Statistics Department of IMF also offers training courses in these areas at its headquarters in Washington D.C., and in other cities in the region.

36. The United Nations Statistics Division will continue collaborating with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), in lending support to Caribbean countries in connection with the development of national accounts, including tourism satellite accounts, with reference to the tables on supply and use of goods and services, as well as support in connection with economic classifications.

37. With the aim of publicizing the work of the "city groups" and expert groups established by the United Nations Statistical Commission, ECLAC will ensure that at least one country of the region is responsible for the follow-up of each of these groups and for passing on the documentation and the methodological advances to the other countries.

Subprogramme 2: Improvement of the production and use of statistics on social variables and well-being

Element 2.1: Improvement of the production of statistics on social variables²

2.1.1 Household surveys

MECOVI programme

38. The programme to improve surveys on living conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI), an initiative promoted and financed by the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and ECLAC, was established in 1996. The purpose of this programme is to provide technical support for countries in the design, planning and execution of household surveys, with a view to developing appropriate indicators for monitoring living conditions in households. To date, the following countries are participating or have participated in the programme: Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru. Other countries in the region are expected to join over the next two years.

39. Activities planned under the MECOVI programme include regional workshops to discuss and analyse important issues relating to the execution of surveys and the development of indicators for assessing living standards, poverty, employment and income distribution. ECLAC is responsible for coordinating and implementing these activities, and in 2003 will hold two regional workshops. The first will take place in Lima, Peru in July 2003, with the assistance of INEI, and will be devoted to the dissemination of data from the household surveys. The second will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November 2003, and will focus on the production and use of indicators relating to the labour market. The holding of other workshops will depend on the availability of resources to ensure continuity of the MECOVI programme. It is very important to expand its coverage and to ensure that the participating countries manage to institutionalize the progress they have made in improving their household surveys.

40. As in the ten workshops held between 1998 and 2002, ECLAC will organize the work programmes and assist in the preparation of technical documents for presentation at the meetings; this documentation will help to identify the most important issues and will serve as a basis for debate and consensus-building. ECLAC will also prepare reports that summarize the most significant elements of the discussions, technical studies to be presented as background papers at meetings, and reports on the implementation of statistical projects and social studies in the countries. These reports are available, as in previous years, on the MECOVI page of the ECLAC web site, which was created with a view to achieving a broader level of dissemination of the material generated in the workshops.

41. Taking advantage of the experience acquired over the past two years, ECLAC will continue to standardize, harmonize and document the databases developed from the household surveys carried out in the region in order to facilitate methodological studies that contribute to their improvement. This work was initially carried out as the result of an agreement between the Inter-American Development Bank and ECLAC, and for the past two years has been continued as an ECLAC initiative.

² The information sources considered in this section include the population and housing censuses and the household surveys, as they are more closely related to the work of the national statistical offices of the countries in the region. On this occasion, activities using administrative records, which are usually situated in a broader range of institutions, were not taken into account, although their importance as an information source for social statistics is recognized.

42. Since 1999, the IDB has conducted nine three-week regional training courses on the design, implementation and analysis of household surveys, as part of the activities of the MECOVI programme. The objective of these courses, which were held with assistance from INDEC of Argentina and INEGI of Mexico, is to enhance the technical training of national officials responsible for the design and implementation of surveys, and of those working on studies of living standards. As additional resources become available, another course will be held in 2003 and two additional courses will be offered on an annual basis as of 2004, in order to provide the opportunity for skills updating on issues of regional interest to a greater number of national officials.

43. During the biennium 2003-2005 technical assistance will continue to be provided to MECOVI beneficiary countries in areas relating to survey design and execution, statistical analysis, construction of social indicators and the preparation of poverty studies. This activity has been coordinated by IDB and the World Bank, and to date, the following countries have participated: Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru. In the two latter countries, programme implementation has been successfully completed. Ecuador, Honduras and the Dominican Republic are in the process of joining the programme and Costa Rica, Colombia, Haiti, Panama and Venezuela recently applied to join.

44. ECLAC will transmit to all the countries of the region in a timely and comprehensive manner the technical documentation generated on any new matters of relevance to MECOVI, and accounts of national activities. The aim is to promote cooperation among the countries and improve the analytical and operational capabilities of national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Direct technical assistance

45. Over the period 2003-2005, ECLAC will continue to support countries of the region in strengthening their national statistical systems in the areas of production and analysis of social statistics. Technical assistance missions will continue to be the main tool for attaining this goal, and will take place at the request of the national statistical offices and as permitted by the resources available to ECLAC. The technical assistance is generally related to improving statistical methods for preparing sample designs and evaluation of data collection processes in the field. There is also support for the use of data from household surveys and data analysis that facilitates follow-up to public action on social issues. Efforts will be made to encourage the exchange of experiences on central issues such as the development of master sampling frames and survey quality indicators.

Other regional training activities

46. ECLAC, together with several countries, will provide support in the form of teaching staff and educational materials for national training initiatives in statistical methods and analysis, which aim to enhance the analytical capacity of personnel from the national statistical offices in relation to project execution and the preparation of studies using data from the household surveys.

2.1.2 Population and housing censuses

47. The Population Division of ECLAC-Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) will continue to provide support for preparatory activities in the countries that have not yet conducted their census, taking into account the experience accumulated in other countries. It will also organize a technical seminar, scheduled for November 2003, on evaluation of the population censuses carried out to date. CELADE will also continue to support the Caribbean countries that carried out their censuses in the last few years but have not yet completed the processing work.

48. CELADE will also continue to update its census data bank with the censuses of the 2000 round, will expand it with censuses from previous decades and will convert all the databases of censuses from the 1960s and 1970s to REDATAM format in order to facilitate access and use.

Element 2.2: Use of information from household surveys and other sources

2.2.1 Household surveys

Data bank on household surveys

49. During the biennium 2003-2005, ECLAC will proceed with the continuous updating and extension of its household survey data bank, which is a vital input for conducting studies and constructing economic and social indicators in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The support of the national statistical offices is essential to ensure timely access to the documentation and databases of the surveys conducted in recent years.

Social Panorama of Latin America and other publications

50. In the second half of each year, ECLAC will disseminate the 2003 and 2004 editions of the *Social Panorama of Latin America*. These publications will include updated information on trends in employment, poverty and income distribution. The data from household surveys contained in the household survey data bank (BADEHOG) are a vital input for the preparation of these documents.

Joint studies with countries

51. ECLAC will continue to implement joint activities with Latin American and Caribbean countries, at their request, involving research into poverty, employment and income distribution. In previous years satisfactory results have been achieved with this type of joint study.

Regional training

52. The Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), which is part of ECLAC, will organize a course in 2004 and another in 2005 on the use of socioeconomic indicators in the evaluation of the impact of projects and programmes to combat poverty. The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares will assist with these courses, which will be held in Antigua, Guatemala. The training staff will consist of officials from ILPES, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division, other ECLAC units, and expert consultants.

2.2.2 Population and housing censuses

53. CELADE will continue to provide assistance to countries for the dissemination and use of the census results, mainly by means of continuous improvement of the REDATAM software, especially with regard to the processing of census microdata via Internet.

54. Based on the results of the new censuses and in coordination with the national institutions, the population estimates and projections for the countries of the region will be revised, and subsequently published in the *Demographic Bulletin* and included in the publication *World Population Prospects* of the United Nations Population Division.

55. Meanwhile, the databases on spatial distribution and urbanization will be updated with data generated by the 2000 census round. CELADE will also continue to implement the project "Investigation of International Migration in Latin America" (IMILA) which studies the population covered by the census in a country other than the country of birth.

56. At the request of countries, CELADE will provide advisory services in training activities on sociodemographic analysis, with a view to enhancing the capacity of national offices for using the data from population censuses in social programming.

57. CELADE will also encourage analysis of the census data, through research in specific areas, including internal migration, international migration, the elderly, indigenous and Afro-American populations, and other priority groups for social policies and programmes (women, children, adolescents and young people). In particular, CELADE will provide support to countries for census-based sociodemographic studies of indigenous peoples and those of African descent, in order to produce ethnic atlases and training workshops in this field.

58. Lastly, technical assistance will continue to be provided for the preparation and maintenance of integrated indicator systems for follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994) and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the International Plan of Action on Ageing and the agreements adopted at other summits.

Element 2.3: Participation in working and study groups on issues of regional interest

2.3.1 Rio Group

59. ECLAC will continue to act as the secretariat for the expert group on poverty statistics (Rio Group), which is chaired by IBGE of Brazil, and was created in 1995 by the United Nations Statistical Commission for the purpose of studying the implications of the United Nations world summits with regard to statistics and to making proposals concerning the use of statistical data in order to follow up on compliance with their objectives and goals. Various Latin American countries have participated in the activities of the Rio Group, including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

60. At the fifth meeting of the Rio Group, held in Rio de Janeiro in November 2002 and which was attended by Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Peru, it was agreed to compile a compendium of best practices for poverty measurement. The preparation of this document will be coordinated by IBGE and ECLAC. It is also planned to hold two meetings of this expert group in the biennium 2003-2005.

2.3.2 Other "city groups"

61. ECLAC will continue to follow up on the work of the international working groups created by the United Nations Statistical Commission which study social issues of regional interest. Accordingly, in addition to attending the meetings of the Rio Group, it will participate in the meetings of the Delhi Group, which is concerned with analysis of methods for quantifying the informal sector, and which some Latin American and Caribbean countries attend. It will also take part in the meetings of the Siena Group, which considers issues relating to social statistics and indicators. As working meetings are held or as reference material becomes available, ECLAC will undertake to disseminate any relevant documentation to the national statistical offices.

Element 2.4: Other international technical cooperation projects

2.4.1 REDESA project

62. At the beginning of 2002, ECLAC began implementation of the project "Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics" (REDESA), with the cooperation of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and with funds from the United Nations Development Account. The project, implementation of which will be extended until the end of 2004, has the aim to strengthen the capabilities of countries in the region for producing social and environmental statistics of high quality and to enhance the level of coordination between the producers of statistics, through the creation of a network of institutions and experts. The network and the associated outputs will continue to be managed by ECLAC as part of its regular activities once the project implementation period comes to an end.

63. The communications platform that allows the exchange of information between members of the network and provides support for the outputs generated in the REDESA project is an Internet site, which is currently at the development stage. A preliminary version of the site may be consulted as of the second half of 2003 and the definitive version will be ready in mid-2004.

64. With the aim of facilitating horizontal communication and cooperation between agencies and professionals working in statistical production and analysis, a directory is being compiled of institutes and experts in Latin America and the Caribbean in the areas of development, production and analysis of social and environmental statistics. As in the case of the web site, the preliminary version of the directory will be available on the Internet in the second half of 2003.

65. The purpose of the REDESA document database is to provide easy access to methodological texts on the production and use of social and environmental statistics and the execution of multipurpose household surveys, as well as offering users the opportunity to publicize their work and the work of their institution in some of these areas. An initial version of this text may be consulted via Internet as of the second half of 2003.

66. The data bank on social statistics and indicators (BADEINSO) is being developed by REDESA as a support tool for countries in the region for the production and development of statistics in the social area. BADEINSO contains data, estimates and projections, grouped by thematic areas, from different national sources and specialized international organizations. The first version of BADEINSO will be available at the end of 2003.

67. The activities of the REDESA project include several regional workshops to be held with the aim of sharing experiences among countries and to make progress in various aspects of the production of social and environmental statistics. As a preliminary measure, in April 2003 two expert workshops were held on social statistics and environmental statistics, at which the objectives and content of the project were presented and there was a discussion of national experiences in developing social and environmental indicator systems.

68. With regard to statistics on social variables, in the second half of 2003 a new workshop will be held, at which different aspects of the production of social indicators will be considered. In 2004 two workshops will be held: one regional meeting for continuing the discussion on various aspects of the production of social information, in the first half, and a final meeting at the end of the year to evaluate the achievements of the projects.

69. Another component of the REDESA project is the provision of technical assistance by ECLAC for encouraging some aspects of the work of the statistical offices in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. ECLAC will make the necessary arrangements to assign a portion of the relevant funds to the financing of horizontal cooperation activities among statistical offices in the region, as a way of disseminating the best practices they have developed.

2.4.2 Activities in follow-up to the millennium goals

70. At the Millennium Summit, held in December 2000, the governments of the whole world agreed to contribute to attaining the new development targets defined for the next few decades, which are summarized in the Millennium Declaration. This epoch-making agreement requires active participation from the national statistical offices in producing information for the follow-up of the goals and evaluation of the degree of progress achieved in their implementation. ECLAC is carrying out various activities to strengthen the capacity of countries in the region to ensure follow-up on this process.

71. ECLAC will create an internet site dedicated to the millennium goals from a regional perspective, which will publicize the activities carried out by the Commission and other international organizations in this context. The site will include a data bank on the progress made by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and a proposal for complementary follow-up indicators that reflect in a reliable manner the development challenges of the region.

72. In order to give greater priority to the millennium development goals in regional activities and to provide timely follow up on their attainment, ECLAC, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and UNDP signed in 2002 a cooperation framework agreement to carry out joint research and analysis projects related to those objectives. In this context, a joint project will be carried out by IDB, UNDP and ECLAC which includes a methodological development component and another on strengthening national capacities for information production and analysis. Various countries in the region will participate in the latter component through training activities and developing pilot reports on national progress in reaching the targets.

73. At the beginning of 2002, ECLAC, jointly with UNDP, the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) of Brazil and an expert group developed a simulation methodology based on the household surveys, with a view to analyzing the feasibility of complying with the target of reducing extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015. The results of this work were published in a recent document. During the biennium 2003-2005, ECLAC will participate in the second phase of this project, in which it is planned to extend the methodology developed in order to apply it to the follow up of other millennium targets, in particular those relating to education and gender equity.

74. ECLAC and the UNESCO Office in Santiago, in the context of broader inter-agency collaboration, are working on a regional report on the third millennium development target, relating to the completion of a full course of primary schooling for all children in the region. The report will contain a methodological discussion on the most appropriate option for measuring effective attainment of this target.

2.4.3 Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)

75. The PARIS21 partnership was established in 1999, in response to the resolution adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in order to contribute to the design of policies based on statistical data and appropriate follow-up, especially in the developing countries. Through PARIS21,

efforts are made to encourage dialogue between the producers and users of statistics, for which purpose international events are organized, as well as national activities, regional workshops, and thematic working groups. ECLAC will cooperate with the Partnership by implementing a number of activities in Central America, in collaboration with the national authorities, and with co-sponsorship from IDB and the Central American Integration System. The activities planned for the 2003-2005 biennium also include a regional workshop for the Caribbean, which will take place in mid-2003.

Subprogramme 3: Improvement and expansion of the production of statistics in specific areas

Element 3.1: Environmental statistics

76. As indicated in relation to element 2.4, ECLAC, in the context of the project "Network of Institutions and Experts on Social and Environmental Statistics" (REDESA), will carry out various activities in the biennium 2003-2004. The component of this project relating to the creation of the network referred to includes the development of an Internet site, the compilation of a directory of experts, the generation of a document database, the development of an indicators database and the holding of regional workshops, with the aim of sharing experiences among countries and making progress in various aspects of the production of environmental statistics.

77. With regard to the regional workshops planned for the project, one workshop will be held in the second half of 2003, at which there will be discussion of issues relating to the development of environmental indicators and a minimum set of indicators to illustrate the environmental situation in the countries. In 2004 two workshops will be organized: one regional meeting for continuing the discussion on various aspects of the generation of environmental data (first half) and a meeting at the end of the year to evaluate the progress of the projects.

78. ECLAC will also make the necessary arrangements for part of the funds available for the project to be used to finance horizontal technical cooperation activities among statistical organizations in the region.

79. With the assistance of the United Nations Statistics Division, a regional seminar will be organized to publicize the new version of the handbook on environmental accounting, which is scheduled to take place during 2004.

Element 3.2: Statistics on science, technology and innovation

80. The importance of statistics on science, technology and innovation in the region has become increasingly evident in the light of the large-scale technological changes that the world and the region is experiencing. ECLAC will continue to cooperate with member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, in order to support joint initiatives of the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics of Peru, the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information of Mexico, and the Brazilian Geographical and Statistical Institute, as well as with other organizations and networks, both regional (CYTED, RICTY) and international (OECD, UNESCO).

81. The activities that are taking place in this area are concerned with identifying and standardizing basic statistics and indicators for science and technology, and with adapting existing methodologies to the needs of the region. Special attention will be given to the need to move towards a regional consensus on the use of common methodologies in order to facilitate the comparison of statistical information in this area.

82. ECLAC will make progress together with the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the regional and international organizations mentioned in fostering the production and dissemination of statistics on science, technology and innovation related to the processes of technological change in the region and the world. ECLAC will also support the establishment of a Latin American observatory on information and telecommunications technology, in cooperation with the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas and the Ibero American Network on Science and Technology Indicators.

83. The Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC will update and publish in the second half of 2003 a database of indicators on agricultural innovation systems in Latin America, which contains information on research costs, researchers and competitive funds.

84. The construction of indicators on science and technology is a task that should be approached from an interdisciplinary perspective, and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division will therefore cooperate closely with the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC in developing indicators on the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, distinctive features, their specific scientific and technological capacities, and the gaps that exist in relation to the developed countries.

85. In 2004, ECLAC will present to the governments of the region an institutional document on production development policies. The document will focus on policies to encourage a greater incorporation of technological progress in production activities, and will include a series of science and technology indicators for the countries in the region, which can be used to quantify the generation, dissemination and incorporation of scientific and technological knowledge.

Element 3.3: Statistics on gender equity

86. Continuing with the work of the previous biennium, this proposal is concerned with the need to promote the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the production of statistics at the national and regional level. The aim of this element is to contribute to the processes of collection, processing, analysis and use of gender statistics for the formulation of equity policies, and to strengthen the links between producers and users of these statistics in the region.

87. In order to achieve these objectives, the Women and Development Unit of ECLAC has been working on coordination between users and producers in different areas. With regard to the production of statistics, the focus has been on technical assistance to national statistical offices, and on strengthening the capacity of the national women's offices for formulating the relevant requests. At the regional level, the focus has been on coordinating the agendas of the Statistical Conference and the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to strengthen the institutional mechanisms and integrate the supply and demand for statistics. At the level of the specialized agencies, the focus is on the adoption of a conceptual framework and common methodologies, and on cooperation in order to avoid duplications and contribute to meeting the demand from various government spheres.

3.3.1 Processes of collection and analysis

Time-use surveys

88. Time-use surveys can be used to identify the time devoted to different types of activities, as well as to have a clearer picture of all forms of work carried out both outside and within the home, whether

remunerated or non-remunerated. This tool is generally extensive and complex, as it requires a detailed record over short time intervals, on the basis of which aggregations are made which show the time distribution for individuals. ECLAC will organize a working group to analyse, propose and develop a prototype survey to be applied in the countries of the region on a comparable basis and taking account of different sociocultural and economic circumstances. This work will benefit from the experience of countries which have already conducted surveys of this type.

89. The option will also be considered of including a module in the household surveys, which, with a small number of questions, would be sufficient to construct key indicators on the use of time.

90. On the basis of the information obtained in this type of survey, ECLAC will continue work on drafting a methodological proposal for measuring the production value of domestic services in order to reflect their benefit to household members in the national accounts.

Violence

91. ECLAC will implement activities to contribute to implementing the recommendations of the first meeting on gender indicators that was held in Bolivia in November 2001, in the context of the programme of work of the Statistical Conference, at which a set of indicators for violence against women was presented.

92. ECLAC will encourage the use and enhancement of administrative records used by the services providing care for victims of violence as a useful and reliable information source to monitor the development of indicators in relation to the number of victims of physical, sexual and psychological violence.

93. In this same area, efforts will be made to standardize the criteria for recording information, taking into account the need to have an information system that avoids dispersion, omission and duplication of data. The registration form will provide common variables for all the care services in order to ensure collection of the relevant information for the calculation of indicators and will make it possible to standardize concepts and definitions. The integrated data system will make it possible to characterize the situation and trends both in relation to the care services provided and to the persons receiving the services.

Poverty

94. Through the Women and Development Unit, ECLAC will continue working on a methodology for measuring and describing poverty in terms of a phenomenon that has a differentiated effect on men and women, the valuation of non-remunerated domestic work and recognition of the fact that a lack of economic independence and vulnerability to poverty affect household members at all income levels.

95. Similarly, ECLAC will provide greater statistical visibility for the various problems faced by women within households (control of the resources entering the household, consumption patterns, and allocation of resources to meet the needs of different members of the household).

Household surveys

96. The Women and Development Unit of ECLAC will formulate a proposal for including questions in some modules of the household surveys in order to collect the relevant information for analysis of the

situation of women in the region and gender inequalities. The variables considered are related to sociodemographic characteristics: housing, health, education and work.

3.3.2 Activities for training and strengthening of analytical capacities in the countries

97. In the context of the activities for training and strengthening of analytical capacities, ECLAC will hold, during the biennium 2003-2005, an international workshop for analysis of instruments for measuring poverty from the gender perspective and an international meeting on the use of gender indicators in the formulation of public policies. These meetings are oriented both to producers and users, and will be open to all interested countries.

3.3.3 Project "Making gender indicators available for policy-making"

98. In the framework of the project "Making gender indicators available for policy-making", implemented by the Women and Development Unit and the Statistics and Economic Projections Division of ECLAC, various activities will be continued that are designed to encourage integration of the gender perspective in national statistical production and to disseminate a wide range of indicators that can be used to identify the main problems affecting gender equity in the region.

99. The Women and Development Unit of ECLAC has developed a web page that displays a large number of statistics and indicators disaggregated by sex. This site, which is constantly updated, offers users access to most of the gender indicators that are processed and disseminated by ECLAC and other United Nations organizations.

100. During 2001, the Women and Development Unit carried out a special processing of the household surveys of the region in order to produce new indicators and disaggregations, in particular with disaggregation by sex and calculations for rural areas. On this basis, work will continue over the period 2003-2005 on processing the household surveys in order to complement the indicators usually produced by other ECLAC divisions, as well as to update those disseminated via the web page.

Subprogramme 4: Modernization of statistical systems and data dissemination

101. This subprogramme includes activities that are very varied, in both institutional and technical terms. All these activities however have the common basis of the need of national and regional agencies, which produce and disseminate statistics, to modernize and adapt themselves to the development of the institutional framework that guides the production and dissemination of statistics, as well as changes in the demand for information on the part of users.

102. Continuing with a tradition that began with the Meeting of Directors of Statistics of the Americas in 1987, this subprogramme also includes activities oriented to incorporating technological innovations in the processing and dissemination of data and meta-information.

Element 4.1: Advocacy of the strategic role of statistics and their use for the formulation and follow-up of economic and social development policies

103. Changes in the economy, the higher degree of complexity of economic and social interrelations and the development of society give rise to new demands for information. There is a clear perception of the growing importance of extensive and timely availability of information in society today. The participants in the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, however, consider that this growing

demand has not always resulted in the allocation of greater priority to the organizations responsible for preparing and disseminating this statistical information. There is also a need to promote and reinforce the support for statistics in the integration schemes of Latin America and the Caribbean.

4.1.1 Increasing the awareness of users and advocacy of the role of statistics

104. ECLAC, in its capacity as Secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and in the context of its institutional commitments for inter-agency collaboration within the United Nations system with regard to the promotion and dissemination of statistics, will cooperate in activities oriented to bringing together, at both the national and international levels, the elements needed to promote the importance of statistics in relation to the users or providers of information and the financial assistance organizations.

105. The activities planned include the review and evaluation of national initiatives adopted in Latin America and the Caribbean, and of international programmes for promoting the role of statistics, including those implemented by the PARIS21 partnership. The objectives include advocacy of the use of statistics for the design and follow-up of national and regional policies and the establishment of links between producers and users of statistics in various sectors of the economy and civil society.

4.1.2 The role of statistics in regional integration

106. ECLAC, with the support of the European Commission, will cooperate with regional integration schemes in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to encourage the role of statistical offices in regional integration programmes and institutions. In connection with these activities, efforts will be made to advocate the strategic role of economic and social statistics and their harmonization in the context of the economic integration and convergence strategies. In particular, ECLAC will continue working with regional integration agencies, including the General Secretariat of the Andean Community and the Central American Monetary Council, and the PARIS21 partnership in order to advocate the role of statistics and of the relevant organizations in the programmes for establishing the foundations for regional institutions and for harmonization and coordination of economic policies.

107. ECLAC and the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA) will make the necessary financial arrangements to support the development of micro-financial databases and their harmonization, and for the follow-up and coordination of macroeconomic policies in the regional integration schemes. In the context of providing statistical support for the coordination of macroeconomic policies and regional integration, the Statistics and Economic Projections Division will continue to encourage and carry out activities for the construction of statistical models to simulate economic interactions between member countries of integration agreements.

108. When the necessary extra-budgetary funds are available, it is planned to begin these activities for the development of statistical models in 2003 for the countries of the Andean Community, in collaboration with the Andean organizations, in particular the Latin American Reserve Fund. In the second phase, in 2004, these activities will be extended to MERCOSUR, Central America and the Caribbean.

Element 4.2: Development and strengthening of the management capacity of organizations producing statistics

109. The programme of action has two specific orientations: the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the institutes and national statistical organizations, and the provision of assistance for training and education for statisticians. ECLAC, in its capacity as Secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, will receive assistance from ILPES, which has extensive experience in training and education of public officials in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to cooperate with national and international organizations in identifying and organizing courses and seminars oriented to strengthening the management and technical capacity of the national statistical offices.

4.2.1 Support for the process of reform and modernization of the organizations producing statistics

110. This proposed line of activities, which has been supported by various countries in the region (Colombia, Chile, Peru, and others) and member countries of the Conference from outside the region (Canada and Spain), has the goal of strengthening the capacity of the technical and executive staff of the statistical offices in the three dimensions of decision-making activity: at the organizational, programming and operational levels. These activities will be organized to support the ongoing processes of institutional reform, with the aim of enhancing the autonomy, independence and coordination of the national statistical offices. The activities will include the current discussions on development and organizational reforms for the decentralization of statistical activities.

4.2.2 Support for research and technical training of specialists in statistics

111. Continuing with the work carried out in the previous biennium, ECLAC will continue to cooperate with the statistical departments of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the specialized regional organizations (CEMLA, the Inter-American Statistical Institute and others) and the national statistical offices in the preparation of methodological and educational material and the organization of technical training activities.

Element 4.3: Extension, improvement and harmonization of information systems and the use of the Internet environment for the dissemination of information and data

112. Economic changes and technological progress in information and communication systems have been changing the nature of supply and demand for statistical information, and the method of dissemination. This context, as well as the progress made by a large number of organizations providing statistics on the use of new technologies, defines the content of the activities for this element. With the aim of continuing to promote the modernization of information systems and the incorporation of new technique and protocols for dissemination, exchange and electronic recovery of data and meta-information, ECLAC, in cooperation with the national and international organizations concerned, will carry out the following activities:

4.3.1 Development of new advanced indicators for follow-up and analysis of current economic and social trends

113. Taking advantage of the work carried out in the previous biennium, ECLAC, in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, national statistical offices and the central banks in the region, will support the incorporation of new indicators for follow-up of economic trends, and in particular the surveys of business opinion and the expectations of economic actors.

4.3.2 Updating and dissemination of regional databases

114. ECLAC will continue to make efforts to extend the coverage of its regional economic and social databases, in order to make them available to users through the Internet. At the beginning of the year, the Statistical Yearbook of ECLAC will be published, which as of 2003 will also be distributed in an electronic version, both on CD-ROM and via the Internet. Cooperation will also continue with the countries of the region, the United Nations Statistics Division, and international and regional organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund and CEMLA, in order to design and encourage the use of guidelines and recommendations for dissemination by electronic media of statistical data and meta-information.

4.3.3 Strengthening of the geographical and territorial dimension in the dissemination of regional economic and social statistics

115. ECLAC will encourage the development and dissemination via Internet of geo-referenced economic, demographic, environmental and social information systems. These information systems, oriented to specialized users, will help with incorporation of the territorial and spatial dimension in the structuring and presentation of information for establishing regional data bases.

116. ECLAC will also expedite the financial arrangements for producing an economic and social atlas of Latin America and the Caribbean, oriented to a wide range of interested parties, in which a selection of quantitative and qualitative data available from ECLAC will be presented in multi-media form via a geo-referenced interface.