



6 April 2017

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

17-00308

---

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

Santiago, 4-6 April 2017

## AGREEMENTS

*The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its sixteenth meeting, held in Santiago from 4 to 6 April 2017,*

*Bearing in mind* Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, in which the Council approved the proposal on the establishment, as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

*Bearing in mind also* that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas shall have the following duties: carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; follow up on the implementation of the agreements reached at the Conference and the tasks entrusted to it by the Conference, particularly the biennial programme of activities; and decide on the documentation required for its meetings,

*Taking into account* resolution 70/1, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which establishes the commitment of the United Nations Member States to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,

*Having reviewed* the report on the implementation of the 2016-2017 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup> and the report on the activities of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean,<sup>2</sup>

*Taking into account* the growing importance of and need for reliable, high-quality and timely public statistics for the exercise of transparency, for the accountability of public authorities and for the assessment of public policy advances, as key elements of institution-building in the region,

---

<sup>1</sup> LC/CE.16/4.

<sup>2</sup> LC/CE.16/3.

*Taking into consideration* the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016,

*Taking into consideration also* the resolution adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session, held in New York from 7 to 10 March 2017,

*Taking into consideration further* the views expressed and the contributions provided by the Governments of the States members of the Conference and by the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the international organizations represented at this meeting,

### **Activities of the Conference regarding follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals**

1. *Thanks* the organizers and participants of the Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators: Progress in the development of the follow-up framework for the 2030 Agenda of the Latin America and the Caribbean countries for their reflections on and contributions to the work of the region on this matter;

2. *Expresses satisfaction* with the progress made in the preparation of an inventory of national capacities for producing the indicators proposed in the Sustainable Development Goals and the online platform to access the information collected;

3. *Agrees* that the online platform and the information contained therein should be made available to national, regional and international statistical institutions so that they can obtain information on national capacities to produce indicators for the follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals and can coordinate horizontal and international cooperation activities;

4. *Takes note* of the creation of the inter-agency Sustainable Development Working Group, in the framework of the United Nations Development Group-Latin America and the Caribbean, as a regional coordination mechanism for Latin America and the Caribbean for the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies operating in this geographical area, with the aim of harmonizing their technical cooperation activities for measuring the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Agrees* that the coordinators of this mechanism may participate, as observers, in the meetings of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to create synergies in the area of technical cooperation with the national, subregional and regional programmes to strengthen statistics carried out by the member countries of the Group, as representatives of all the countries of the region, and by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Group;

6. *Welcomes* the participation of a maximum of two countries as observers at each meeting of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to facilitate the exchange of information on issues of interest;

7. *Agrees* that the technical secretariat of the Statistical Coordination Group shall invite the observers to each face-to-face or virtual meeting and inform them in those instances where, for reasons related to the programme of work, the Group decides to hold meetings attended by its ten members only;

8. *Urges* the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat, to carry out the activities to support the development of a regional statistical monitoring framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the realities, priorities and common challenges of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, while bearing in mind national and subregional differences, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session;

9. *Thanks* Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico, as well as Argentina, the Bahamas, Ecuador, El Salvador and Saint Lucia, for their work as representatives of the region to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring, respectively;

10. *Welcomes* the election of Brazil, Colombia, Grenada, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago as representatives of the region to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators for the next biennium, as of June 2017;

11. *Also welcomes* the election of Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname as representatives of the region to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for post-2015 monitoring for the next biennium, as of June 2017;

**Review of the progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of activities 2016-2017 of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

12. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the 2016-2017 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;<sup>3</sup>

13. *Thanks* the international organizations that have provided support for and collaborated in the activities of the working groups, either by acting as technical secretariats or by providing technical assistance, cooperation and financing for the planned activities;

*Working Group on Institution-building*

14. *Commends* the activities carried out to create a mechanism to ensure continuity in activities undertaken by the Working Group on Institution-building of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, as well as those aimed at strengthening and consolidating national statistical systems and legal frameworks that guarantee compliance by the countries of the region with the principles of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

15. *Requests* the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations and international organizations that carry out cooperation programmes with Latin America and the Caribbean to help to create and formalize a mechanism to ensure continuity in institution-building activities in the region;

16. *Suggests* that the Group should prepare a synthesis report on good practices and lessons learned from the results of the Group's country assessments;

---

<sup>3</sup> LC/CE.16/4.

*Working Group on Censuses*

17. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the preparation of a document on the status of the 2020 census round to identify national needs and a document analysing the accomplishments and challenges relating to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development;

18. *Notes* that the workshop on Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, for Mexico and Central America and the seminar entitled “2020 census round: possibilities and challenges presented by the Sustainable Development Goals and the Montevideo Consensus in the framework of the 2030 Agenda” were held;

19. *Urges* the Group to continue to implement the planned activities, including the third Latin American and Caribbean Course on Population Estimates and Projections;

*Working Group on National Accounts*

20. *Takes note* of the activities undertaken to identify the Sustainable Development Goal indicators in national accounts and to carry out the survey on the supply of and demand for horizontal cooperation in the region in preparing national accounts and basic statistics;

21. *Also takes note* of the activities undertaken by the task force on quarterly national accounts to give an overview of the production of such accounts in the region;

22. *Urges* the Group to redouble its efforts to carry out the activities foreseen in the programme of work 2016-2017, which, in addition to the aforementioned, include the establishment of the regional timetable for publishing the results of the annual and quarterly national accounts, the creation of a virtual library of national accounts and basic statistics, the compendium of best practices used to produce basic statistics and national accounts, and the organization of courses on national accounts, on industrial and services statistics and on volume and price indicators;

23. *Agrees* that the task force on the measurement of the informal sector should be established under the Working Group on National Accounts and requests the task force to seek synergies with the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators;

*Working Group on Administrative Records*

24. *Notes* the progress made in compiling information on the inventory of the administrative records available in each country;

25. *Urges* the Group to continue with the activities foreseen in the programme of work, including conducting a self-assessment of the administrative records of each country, producing a compendium of best practices, preparing a manual for the improvement and use of administrative records in the region, and designing and implementing an action plan to develop statistics based on administrative records;

26. *Suggests* that the Group should consider legal aspects related to access to administrative records of national public institutions;

*Working Group on Poverty Statistics*

27. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the progress made in the documentation of international experiences of multidimensional poverty measurement and in the preparation of a diagnostic document on the availability and comparability of non-monetary indicators of poverty;

28. *Urges* the Group to continue to move forward with the programme of work, including holding a regional workshop on the measurement of deprivation in household surveys and the preparation of a report with proposed improvements;

*Working Group on Labour Market Indicators*

29. *Commends* the progress made in assessing harmonization gaps in the measurement of labour statistics with respect to the recommendations of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), documenting the methodological discussions on aspects of measuring informal economy indicators and identifying countries' difficulties in the national application of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93);

30. *Urges* the Group to continue with the planned activities, which, in addition to the aforementioned, include exploring methodological alternatives to meet countries' information requirements in order to improve monitoring of labour markets;

*Working Group on Gender Statistics*

31. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the implementation of activities aimed at strengthening national capacities in gender mainstreaming in statistics, the dissemination and translation into English of the time-use classification for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL), the progress made in the development of a conceptual and methodological framework for surveys on violence against women, the activities undertaken at the national level with regard to the module on the status of household assets, the preparation of a Gender Atlas and the proposals for a conceptual framework for gender and human rights statistics of criminal cases;

32. *Notes* that the fourteenth International Meeting of Experts on Time Use and Unpaid Work was held in Mexico City from 30 to 31 May 2016, and that the seventeenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico, from 7 to 9 September 2016;

33. *Urges* the Group to continue to implement the activities planned under the various areas of the biennial programme of work and to consider in detail technical aspects of carrying out time-use surveys;

*Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence*

34. *Commends* the progress made in disseminating harmonized methodologies for gathering information on violence against children, early childhood development and childhood functionality and disability, promoting administrative records as a source of data for indicators linked to childhood and adolescence, and disseminating the tools available for enhancing the accessibility and use of statistics on children and adolescents through open data platforms;

35. *Notes* that the workshop on measuring disability in children in the Americas was held in New York, from 17 to 20 October 2016;

36. *Urges* the Group to continue to carry out the activities planned under the various areas of the biennial programme of work;

*Working Group on Disability Measurement*

37. *Expresses its satisfaction* that the first Regional Seminar and Training Workshop on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and its Implementation in the Collection and Analysis of Data on Disability was held in Mexico City, from 20 to 23 September 2016;

38. *Urges* the Group to continue its efforts to create a regional network of experts on the approach of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and to establish regional standards for applying this approach in the gathering, analysis and dissemination of data on disability;

*Working Group on Environmental Statistics*

39. *Commends* the preparation of a strategy and plan of action for the development and improvement of environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and the progress made in the preparation of a set of methodological and technical tools to support that;

40. *Urges* the Group to continue to carry out the planned activities to prepare a regional plan for capacity-building on environmental statistics;

41. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as the technical secretariat of the Group, for ensuring continuous access to and updating the Group's outputs, in particular the toolkit and the regional plan for capacity-building on environmental statistics;

*Working Group on Agricultural Statistics*

42. *Expresses its satisfaction* that the workshops and other activities of the Regional Public Goods Initiative project of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), entitled "Implementing agricultural statistics systems in Latin America and the Caribbean", including various training courses and the creation of a website to disseminate the results, were carried out in a timely manner;

43. *Urges* the Group to continue to carry out training courses and the other activities planned as part of the biennial programme of work;

*Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice*

44. *Commends* the activities undertaken to promote the use and generation of crime and criminal justice statistical information in national statistical programmes, to encourage the countries of the region to adopt the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes, to disseminate the methodology for crime victimization surveys undertaken as part of the Latin American and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative and to establish and launch the crime victimization laboratory;

45. *Urges* the Group to continue these and other activities foreseen in its programme of work, including preparing recommendations on the production of indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 16 and designing training courses on georeferencing public security statistics;

*Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies*

46. *Commends* the Group's progress in the tasks of revising the information and communications technologies (ICT) module for the education sector, selecting a list of ICT indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean with a gender perspective and updating the methodology of the ICT module of household surveys with a regional approach;

47. *Urges* the Group to continue to carry out the planned activities, including those related to the ICT survey of relevant institutions connected with the digital agenda and to create synergies with other bodies that gather information on such technologies in order to avoid duplication of effort;

*Working Group on International Classifications*

48. *Expresses its satisfaction* that the survey on international classifications in Latin America, with regard to the adoption or adaptation of international classifications to be applied in the countries of the region was conducted, that preliminary Spanish translations of the Central Product Classification and of various concept documents prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division were produced and that a list of agricultural products that are known by different names in different countries was compiled;

49. *Urges* the Group to continue to develop audiovisual material in Spanish to support training activities on the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities and the International Standard Classification of Occupations, together with other planned activities;

*Knowledge Transfer Network*

50. *Commends* the activities undertaken by the Knowledge Transfer Network and its "Conectados RTC" initiative to promote the regular exchange of technical know-how among national statistical offices;

51. *Urges* the Knowledge Transfer Network to continue to develop its online platform to promote links among national statistical offices and to facilitate the dissemination of the activities of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, in coordination with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as technical secretariat of the Conference;

**Information regarding subregional and international cooperation activities**

52. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the subregional cooperation activities carried out by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians of the Caribbean Community, the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System, the Andean Statistical Committee of the Andean Community and the Specialized Statistical Meeting of the Southern Common Market;

53. *Commends* the international agencies on the activities undertaken to help strengthen national statistical systems and urges the international community to intensify that support through cooperation, technical assistance and financial assistance;

**Other matters**

54. *Welcomes* the joint meeting of the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the member countries of the Regional Committee of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, held in the framework of the sixteenth meeting of the Executive Committee, and highlights the importance of integrating statistical and geospatial information;

55. *Thanks* the technical secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas for the information on the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the timetable for regional cooperation in the implementation of the International Comparison Programme, and the steps to update the measurements of monetary poverty taken by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the region;

56. *Requests* the member countries to prepare proposals for working group activities for the biennium 2018-2019 for consideration by the Executive Committee prior to the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

57. *Takes note* of the proposals put forward by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the International Youth Organization for Ibero-America for these topics to be addressed by a working group, depending on countries' interest; of the need stated by the technical secretariat to have statistics on cities for the follow-up of Sustainable Development Goal 11; and of the proposal made by Chile to reactivate the Working Group on Household Surveys;

58. *Agrees* with the statement by Colombia on the importance of committing to high-quality statistics and using administrative records for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

59. *Also agrees* to hold the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Aguascalientes (Mexico) during the week of 13-17 November 2017.