

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

Santiago, 3–4 October 2018

## AGREEMENTS

*The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its seventeenth meeting, held in Santiago from 3 to 4 October 2018,*

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

*Bearing in mind also* that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee of the Conference shall have the following duties: carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of activities of regional and international cooperation on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; follow up 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, entitled “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, which sets out the commitment of the United Nations Member States to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,

*Taking into account also* 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,

*Taking into consideration* the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-seventh session, held in Havana from 7 to 11 May 2018,

*Taking into consideration also* General Assembly resolution 71/313 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/7, adopting the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development prepared by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal indicators that was agreed upon at the forty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission, held in New York from 7 to 10 March 2017,

*Taking into consideration further* resolution 10(IX), adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its ninth meeting and the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2018–2019, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas,

*Taking into account* the views expressed and the contributions put forward by the Governments of the member States of the Conference and by the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the international organizations represented at the meeting,

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

1. *Conveys its thanks* for the work carried out by the member countries of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and calls upon them to continue to represent the region in the process of defining and applying the global monitoring framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data;

2. *Acknowledges* the work done by the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean in assessing national statistical capacities for producing the Sustainable Development Goal indicators with a view to reporting to the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development through the secretariat of the Commission, and requests member States to update relevant information using the mechanisms put in place by the secretariat;

3. *Requests* the member States to update the information on national statistical capacities for the production of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and for the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, using the mechanisms put in place by the respective secretariats;

4. *Notes* the progress made by Caribbean countries in the selection of a set of key indicators for subregional monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals that address the main common challenges, particularly those facing small island developing States;

5. *Endorses the Report on the prioritization of indicators for regional statistical follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean*,<sup>1</sup> prepared pursuant to resolution 10(IX), adopted at the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, by which the Conference requested the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean to prepare a framework of indicators for regional monitoring of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that would enable the prioritization of measurement efforts and the effective coordination of horizontal, regional and international cooperation in order to progress towards closing gaps in statistical capacities;

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<sup>1</sup> LC/CE.17/3.

6. *Requests* 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 continue their activities regarding the set of prioritized indicators, including those related to the fine-tuning of methodological aspects, future technical improvements and evaluation of technical assistance and horizontal cooperation needs, with a view to the regional and subregional implementation of the indicators;

7. *Calls for* continued coordination between the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and the working group on indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, through a joint working mechanism of the technical secretariats of the two Conferences;

8. *Requests* the Chair of the Conference, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the first meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, to report on the content of the present agreements at the third meeting of the Forum, which will be held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, in April 2019;

**Review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of activities 2018–2019 of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

9. *Takes note* of the *Report on the implementation of the 2018–2019 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>2</sup>

10. *Urges* the working groups to bear in mind the provisions set forth in the *Operational guidelines for the working groups*,<sup>3</sup> adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its eighth meeting, in particular in relation to the operation and duration of the groups;

11. *Requests* the working groups to prioritize their activities to generate outputs that are useful for strengthening statistical capacities in the region and feasible to complete in the course of the 2018–2019 biennium;

12. *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;

13. *Adopts* the *Proposal for reorganization of the Knowledge Transmission Network and dissemination of outputs of the working groups*,<sup>4</sup> to be implemented by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with the support of the coordinators of the working groups of the Conference;

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<sup>2</sup> LC/CE.17/4.

<sup>3</sup> LC/L.4156.

<sup>4</sup> LC/CE.17/6.

*Working Group on Censuses*

14. *Welcomes* the holding of the workshop on population estimates and projections and updating population estimates and projections for the 2020 census round; the organization of activities and preparation of outputs related to the 2020 round of censuses; the report of the seminar “Experiences, good practices and challenges for the national statistical systems of the countries of Latin America in the 2020 population and housing census round”, held in 2017; the conduct of the regional survey on technological infrastructure; as well as progress in the design of a work methodology and prioritization of topics for the 2020 census round with regard to census content, mapping, use of technology and integration of censuses with other data sources;

15. *Calls upon* the Group to implement its programme of work with regard to pilot testing and the preparation of a report on recommendations for the 2020 round of censuses, as well as the identification of the strengths and weaknesses of countries’ technological infrastructure;

*Working Group on International Classifications*

16. *Welcomes* the establishment of a list of agricultural products that are known by different names in different national statistical offices but which are the same product, with the corresponding scientific names; the progress made in the holding of the online survey on international classifications in Latin America, with regard to the adoption or adaptation of international classifications; as well as the production of the first video on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities;

17. *Calls upon* the Group to hold its annual face-to-face meeting and to continue carrying out the activities set forth in its programme of work;

*Working Group on National Accounts*

18. *Takes note* of the draft questionnaire for the survey on the region’s supply of and demand for horizontal cooperation for preparing national accounts and basic statistics;

19. *Calls upon* the Group to continue with its planned activities and outputs, including a report on the results of the e-forums on improving industrial and services statistics and the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008, and assessments of and in-person courses on national accounts in the region;

*Working Group on Household Surveys*

20. *Welcomes* the holding of activities related to the status of income and expenditure surveys in the countries of the region, in particular the workshop on such surveys and recent challenges and innovations, held at the Commission’s headquarters in Santiago, and the administration of a questionnaire on the status of income and expenditure surveys in the countries of the region;

21. *Calls upon* the Group to implement its programme of work, in particular with regard to the administration of a questionnaire on methodological practices and institutional strategies of the region’s countries to measure the impact of a change in the sampling frame on the estimators derived from household surveys;

*Working Group on Agricultural Statistics*

22. *Welcomes* the conduct of courses on the use of satellite images, on multiple frame sampling, on the use of administrative records for statistical purposes and on data source quality and integration;

23. *Notes* the progress made in relation to the method for identifying indicators and compiling data from a gender perspective, the building of a web page in the framework of the project under the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank, and the holding of the training course on systematizing the compilation of data from key respondents;

24. *Calls upon* the Group to continue to implement the activities programmed, including those relating to the method for integrating statistics and geographical information and the workshop on aligning national agricultural surveys with the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology methodology;

*Working Group on Environmental Statistics*

25. *Welcomes* at the holding of the regional seminar-workshop on developing and strengthening environmental statistics and indicators in Latin American countries and the shared path of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the regional workshop for Latin America on energy and environment indicators in Guatemala; meetings with leading regional experts; and the launch of the regional network on environmental statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean;

26. *Calls upon* the Group to continue to implement the remainder of its programme, including the workshops and activities concerning environmental Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

*Working Group on Gender Statistics*

27. *Welcomes* the implementation of activities such as the Nineteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics in Aguascalientes (Mexico), the Sixteenth International Meeting on Time-Use and Unpaid Work Statistics, and the training workshop on the processing and analysis of time-use data for building Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

28. *Notes* the progress made in the production of a correspondence table between the Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics, in the preparation of gender atlases, and in a methodological document on time-use surveys in the region;

29. *Calls upon* the Group to continue to implement the activities planned in its programme of work, including technical assistance and cooperation activities, the drafting of a methodological document on the economic valuation of unpaid work and the development of the satellite account on unpaid work in households, the holding of e-forums on building indicators on violence against women and the preparation of a preliminary document to develop a classification of types of violence against women;

*Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence*

30. *Welcomes* the preparation of a report with an inventory of statistical capacities for producing priority child-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the conduct of webinars during which experiences and methods on statistical information on childhood and adolescence were shared;

31. *Notes* the progress made in carrying out activities related to the methodology for sampling techniques used in surveys that generate data on the situation of children; the study of indicators on childhood and adolescence in censuses; the availability of data and tools to cover the Sustainable Development Goal indicators on access to water and sanitation in the region (Goal 6); and data on multidimensional child poverty, among other issues;

32. *Calls upon* the Group to fully implement its programme, which includes, in addition to aforementioned activities, webinars on sampling methodologies and on experiences in the improvement and use of administrative records as a source for official statistics on childhood-related indicators, as well as assessment and methodological documents;

*Working Group on Poverty Statistics*

33. *Notes* the progress made in drafting a questionnaire aimed at systematizing the measurement of dimensions not usually included in the measurement of multidimensional poverty;

34. *Calls upon* the Group to begin the remaining activities planned for the 2018–2019 biennium, including the preparation of a working paper that examines conceptual and methodological aspects of measuring income on the basis of household surveys and a regional workshop on the measurement of income and of the dimensions still needed to conduct a broader measurement of poverty;

*Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice*

35. *Welcomes* the preparation of a document containing recommendations for the standardization of variables for reporting on Sustainable Development Goals with regard to violence, security and justice, as well as workshops on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes and the preparation of methodological documents and victim surveys;

36. *Calls upon* the Group to continue to implement the remaining activities in its programme of work, which include the incorporation of statistical information on violence, security and justice in national statistical programmes, as well as the use of the Latin America and the Caribbean Crime Victimization Survey Initiative and the production of videos on good practices in the framework of participation in the regular meetings of that Initiative;

*Working Group on Institution-building*

37. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the regional workshop on legal frameworks for the production of official statistics and its report containing key findings and recommendations, as well as the launch of the regional bank of good statistical practices for Latin America and the Caribbean;

38. *Notes* the progress made in the preparation of a proposal on the minimum content for statistical legislation in Latin America and the Caribbean and of a technical paper assessing the current status of the countries of the region in relation to statistical plans and legislation;

39. *Calls upon* the Group to continue to fully implement its programme of work, including the preparation of documents, reports and methodological tools for measuring and evaluating compliance with the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

40. *Also calls upon* the Group and its secretariat to consider updating the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, incorporating the use of data from non-traditional sources for the production of statistics;

*Working Group on Labour Market Indicators*

41. *Welcomes* the holding of working sessions and meetings to share countries' experiences in measurement of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93) and the document synthesizing the regional position on updating ICSE-93;

42. *Notes* the progress in the preparation of methodological tools such as questionnaires and guides for the harmonization of surveys and for measuring different types of work; as well as the synthesis document compiling the experiences of the Working Group member countries in the dissemination, analysis and calculation of labour underutilization indicators (LU1 to LU4); and the summary of the methodological discussions on the criteria, questions and challenges involved in the measurement of labour statistics related to Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

43. *Calls upon* the Group to carry out these activities and others outstanding in its programme of work, including the preparation of methodological documents and assessments on such themes as the implementation of the new International Classification of Status in Employment, the updating of sampling frames, and the evaluation of Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to labour statistics;

*Working Group on Disability Measurement*

44. *Welcomes* the videoconferences held with the Working Group on Censuses to agree upon the content of the technical note on the inclusion of questions in the population census and to share experiences on disability measurement in tests conducted during 2017 and 2018;

45. *Notes* the progress on the preparation of a technical note on implementing the recommendations on disability in the 2020 census round, jointly with the Working Group on Censuses;

46. *Calls upon* the Group to implement the rest of its programme of work, which includes holding a workshop on the use and application of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, preparing a proposed methodology for measuring disability in different statistical instruments, and compiling two directories, one of officials responsible for disability offices and another of international bodies that have developed or are involved in developing disability measurement methodologies;

*Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies*

47. *Welcomes* the holding of the virtual meeting on measuring information and communications technologies (ICTs) and implementing e-government, and the preparation of a report containing the meeting's main conclusions;

48. *Notes* the progress made on the preparation of a report on the outcomes of the work carried out in conjunction with the Working Group on Institution-building and on the holding of three virtual meetings on measuring ICT use in education, households and firms;

49. *Calls upon* the Group to continue implementing these activities and others outstanding in its programme of work, which include producing a list of ICT indicators with a gender perspective and convening training workshops and seminars;

*Working Group on Measuring and Recording Indicators Related to Disaster Risk Reduction*

50. *Welcomes* the convening of the first meeting of the Working Group in the framework of the Sixth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, in Cartagena, Colombia;

51. *Calls upon* the Group to continue its work on creating a directory of national disaster risk reduction specialists, producing a theoretical framework on the role of statistics and national statistical offices in recording data related to disaster risk reduction, identifying data gaps and needs, and preparing recommendations on measuring disaster risk reduction indicators in official statistics;

*Working Group on Administrative Records*

52. *Notes* the progress made in the preparation of a directory of administrative records that are useful for statistical purposes, and of the related Sustainable Development Goal indicators for each topic, as well as a toolkit for the use of administrative records;

53. *Calls upon* the Group to complete the aforementioned activities and carry out the remaining activities planned for the 2018–2019 biennium, which include the compilation and exchange of experiences and good practices among countries in the Group and with other working groups, and the preparation of the manual for the use of administrative records in the region;

**Subregional and international cooperation**

54. *Notes* the subregional cooperation activities of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians of the Caribbean Community, as well as the international cooperation activities carried out in the region by Statistics Canada, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

55. *Calls upon* the international community to channel resources towards strengthening national statistical systems on the basis of cooperation, technical assistance and financial support, affording particular attention to demands arising from the prioritization of indicators for regional follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to contribute in a coordinated manner to closing gaps in national statistical capacities;

**Other matters**

56. *Endorses* the *Criteria for the formation of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC as from 2020*<sup>5</sup> and decides that these will take effect at the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, when the term of the current Executive Committee will end;

57. *Notes* the information regarding audits of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by member countries of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions (OLACEFS).

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<sup>5</sup> LC/CE.17/5.