

Seventh meeting of the Executive Committee of the
Statistical Conference of the Americas of the
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Bogotá, Colombia, 29 and 30 November 2007

AGREEMENTS ADOPTED

At its seventh meeting, held in Bogotá, Colombia, on 29 and 30 November 2007, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the following agreements:

1. Approves the definitive version of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009, incorporating the comments formulated by the participants and set out in the report of the meeting;
2. Approves the training programme 2008-2009 of the Knowledge Transfer Network and urges international organizations and member countries of the Conference to contribute to its funding as a regional public good; furthermore, instructs the working groups to coordinate their training activities with the Network and requests the Commission to give the Network a space on the website of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC;
3. Approves also the programme of work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics and requests the group to prioritize its activities for the period 2007-2009;
4. Approves further the programme of work of the Working Group on Migration and Trends in Remittances in the Countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;
5. Takes note of the activities carried out by Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and the United States in the area of technological cooperation for the conduct of the censuses and encourages countries to pursue their initiatives, coordinating them with the activities of the Working Group on Censuses and broadening the focus to include the transfer of experience and knowledge among countries on the introduction of these new technologies;
6. Takes note also of the set of initiatives undertaken by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Statistics Division to strengthen national capacities for implementing the censuses of the 2010 round and requests CELADE and Chile, in its capacity as leader of the Working Group on Censuses, to prepare a programme incorporating all the measures, to serve as an instrument of coordination, thus avoiding duplication and ensuring that the activities correspond to the priorities of the Working Group on Censuses;

7. Approves the revision of the Programme of work of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, which focuses its activities initially on the second goal of the current programme of work,¹ and in which the third goal is modified to read as follows: “To broaden and improve sources of statistical data and the methodological bases used in the preparation of indicators for monitoring progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals”; agrees further to eliminate from the Programme of work the project for updating of poverty measurement methodology for Latin America and the Caribbean
8. Takes note with satisfaction of the reports of activities of the working groups on National Accounts, Censuses and Information and Communications Technologies; requests that, within a period of 60 days, the Working Group on National Accounts complete the design of its programme of work 2007-2009 and the Working Group on Censuses prioritize its tasks for the period 2007-2009;
9. Takes note of the reports of the projects of the Programme of regional public goods and instructs the Chairperson, with support from the secretariat, to request from the Inter-American Development Bank a status report on the budget performance of the different projects; in addition, requests the coordinating countries of the projects to present within 60 days the programme of activities up to the closure of each project :
10. Takes note also of the joint report prepared by the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the Commission in response to the Conference’s mandate at its fourth meeting for the promotion of knowledge and discussion in the region with a view to adapting the European Statistics Code of Practice to the situation of the countries in the region and approves the proposed programme of work;
11. Welcomes the initiative for an integrated presentation of regional statistical work in order to contribute to coordination and to the timely information of countries on the different statistical activities being carried out in the region, encourage the participation of the latter in such activities, avoid duplication of efforts and foster regional and international cooperation; also approves the establishment of an initiative group, coordinated by the secretariat, which will present a status report and a draft programme of work at the next meeting of the Executive Committee;
12. Requests the Chairperson, with support from the secretariat, to hold consultations with the countries in order to identify the substantive issues for discussion at the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the countries responsible for their preparation; the latter are expected to present a status report at the next meeting of the Executive Committee;
13. Approves the creation of an initiative group composed of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Environment Programme and invites the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas interested in participating in this group to indicate their interest to the Chairperson for the purpose of establishing the terms of reference and mandate of a

¹ LC/L.2818

future working group on environmental statistics for consideration and approval at the next meeting of the Executive Committee;

14. Considers that the project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development “Measuring the Progress of Societies” is not a priority for the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, 2007-2009, which was approved at the present meeting;
15. Thanks the Government of Colombia and, in particular, the Director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics for the excellent organization of the meeting and the warm hospitality extended to participants.