



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

Santo Domingo, 22-24 October 2008

AGREEMENTS

At its eighth meeting, held in Santo Domingo from 22 to 24 October 2008, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean agreed as follows:

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the advances recorded in the progress report on the 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 and the reports of the working groups and urges all countries and international bodies to strive to achieve the goals contained in the Biennial programme by the date of the fifth meeting of the Conference;
2. *Approves* the final version of the programme of work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics, revised to give priority to activities which may produce results by the date of the fifth meeting of the Conference;
3. *Welcomes* the technical and financial progress made in connection with the gender observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and reiterates the importance of bringing it into effect; urges countries to promote coordination between producers and users of gender statistics for the collection, processing, analysis and use of statistical data and the generation of the indicators for the observatory and to follow through on their commitment to mainstream the gender perspective in national information systems; and thanks the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Population Fund, the Pan American Health Organization, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Ibero-American Secretariat for their coordinated and timely contribution;
4. *Requests*, within the framework of the regional programme for 2008-2011 of the United Nations Population Fund and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, that the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of the Commission, together with Chile, in its capacity as leader of the Working Group on Censuses, and with support from the other bodies concerned, define the necessary activities to cover areas such as health, the methodology for measuring census coverage and other emerging issues, including improvement of data capture for economic activity and gender analysis; requests the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre to design and implement, from 2009 onwards, a regional training course on demographic analysis for development, focusing specifically on census examination, in preparation for the 2010 round of censuses, and urges international bodies and member countries of the Conference to contribute to its funding and implementation;

5. *Takes cognizance of* the proposed regional plan to support the implementation of the Luxembourg Recommendations relating to the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008) and basic economic statistics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and recommends that the meeting proposed by Brazil, in its capacity as coordinator for the Working Group on National Accounts, be held in order to analyse a proposal for coordination and management of the regional plan, taking into account the activities of the Group, its programme of work and its modalities and mechanisms for implementation;
6. *Takes note of* the report on technological and methodological cooperation for the use of electronic devices and data capture software free of charge and calls on countries to continue their efforts and on international bodies to provide operational and financial support for activities leading to the achievement of the objectives of the technological cooperation programme for census-taking;
7. *Recognizes* the work on the project for updating the poverty measurement methodology used in Latin America and the Caribbean, and calls for dialogue and an exchange of ideas with experts in the area and with national statistical offices with a view to developing common strategies for dealing with outstanding challenges; shares also the interest expressed by various member countries in terms of adopting a broader, multidimensional approach for measuring well-being.
8. *Gives preliminary approval* for the report of the initiative group appointed to set up the working group on environmental statistics and for its terms of reference and programme of work and recommends that final approval of these documents be given by the Conference at its fifth meeting;
9. *Recognizes* the activities undertaken as part of the initiative for promoting knowledge and debate in the region on the adaptation of the European Statistics Code of Practice in light of the reality in each country, through the creation of an initiative group comprising Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and through the self-assessment pilot experiment conducted by a group of seven countries in the region using the adapted version of the European questionnaire; also urges the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to support the use of the self-assessment questionnaire in order to provide data for an analysis of the situation of the region at the fifth meeting of the Conference.
10. *Takes note of* the preliminary proposal for the construction of an integrated presentation of international statistical work in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to creating an updated database on the statistical activities and projects of the international bodies active in the region, based on the experience of the Conference of European Statisticians, and requests the initiative group to pursue its work and the international bodies to support the initiative, so that an initial version of the integrated presentation of statistical work in the region will be available for the fifth meeting of the Conference.
11. *Urges* the entities participating in the preparatory activities being conducted worldwide for the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme to deploy their efforts to provide technical support and funding for the initiative, and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to reinforce the technical teams which will take part in the project.
12. *Takes note of* the activities conducted within the framework of the regional statistical reconciliation strategy to overcome the differences between data from national databases and those of international bodies on the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and urges the Governments of member States to give the highest priority to its implementation.

13. *Requests* that the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, with support from the secretariat, consider the possibility of establishing a coordination mechanism between the international agencies and bodies in order to cooperate with member countries in fulfilling the objectives of the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference within the framework of the Strategic Plan 2005-2015;

14. *Also requests* the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Conference to take the necessary steps, with support from the secretariat and from international bodies, in order to obtain the funding needed to implement the programme of the Knowledge Transfer Network;

15. *Welcomes* the proposal that the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean be held in Bogotá in August 2009 and emphasizes that it is important that the Executive Secretary of the Commission should attend, since the meeting will not be held at the headquarters of the Commission;

16. *Agrees* with the proposal to use documents in electronic form, for purposes of economy and care for the environment, for official activities of the Conference; also recommends that the secretariat prepare a proposal of guidelines for the examination and consideration of the working documents for meetings, including measures that will ensure that the Conference is run more productively and efficiently.

17. *Recommends* that three seminars be held during the fifth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas on the following themes: use of administrative records for statistical purposes; development of national statistical systems: recent experiences, learning and assessment; and the 2010 census round, and designates Colombia, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Pan American Health Organization and the Statistical Office of the European Communities as responsible for the first theme; Mexico and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the second theme; and Chile and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of the Commission for the third theme.

18. *Thanks* the Government of the Dominican Republic and, in particular, the Director of the National Statistical Office and the Secretary of State for the Economy, Planning and Development, for the excellent organization of the meeting and the warm hospitality extended to participants.