

Latin America and the Caribbean: Mainstreaming the gender perspective into statistical production¹

Transforming data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions²

Mainstreaming the gender³ and intersectional approach in the National Statistical Systems (NSS) is essential to generate data that accurately captures the persistence and magnitude of the inequalities present in our societies and, therefore, it is essential to promote the role of official statistics as a relevant and indispensable source of information for the design and implementation of actions, programmes, and policies⁴ to achieve gender equality and women's autonomy.

¹ This equality note is based on the document *Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030: Application of the information systems pillar of the Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030, presented at the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2022)*.

² This is the title of Pillar 9 on Information Systems of the Montevideo Strategy, adopted at the XIII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Montevideo Strategy is a political-technical instrument for the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda, and constitutes a roadmap for achieving the 2030 Agenda from the perspective of gender equality, and women's autonomy and human rights.

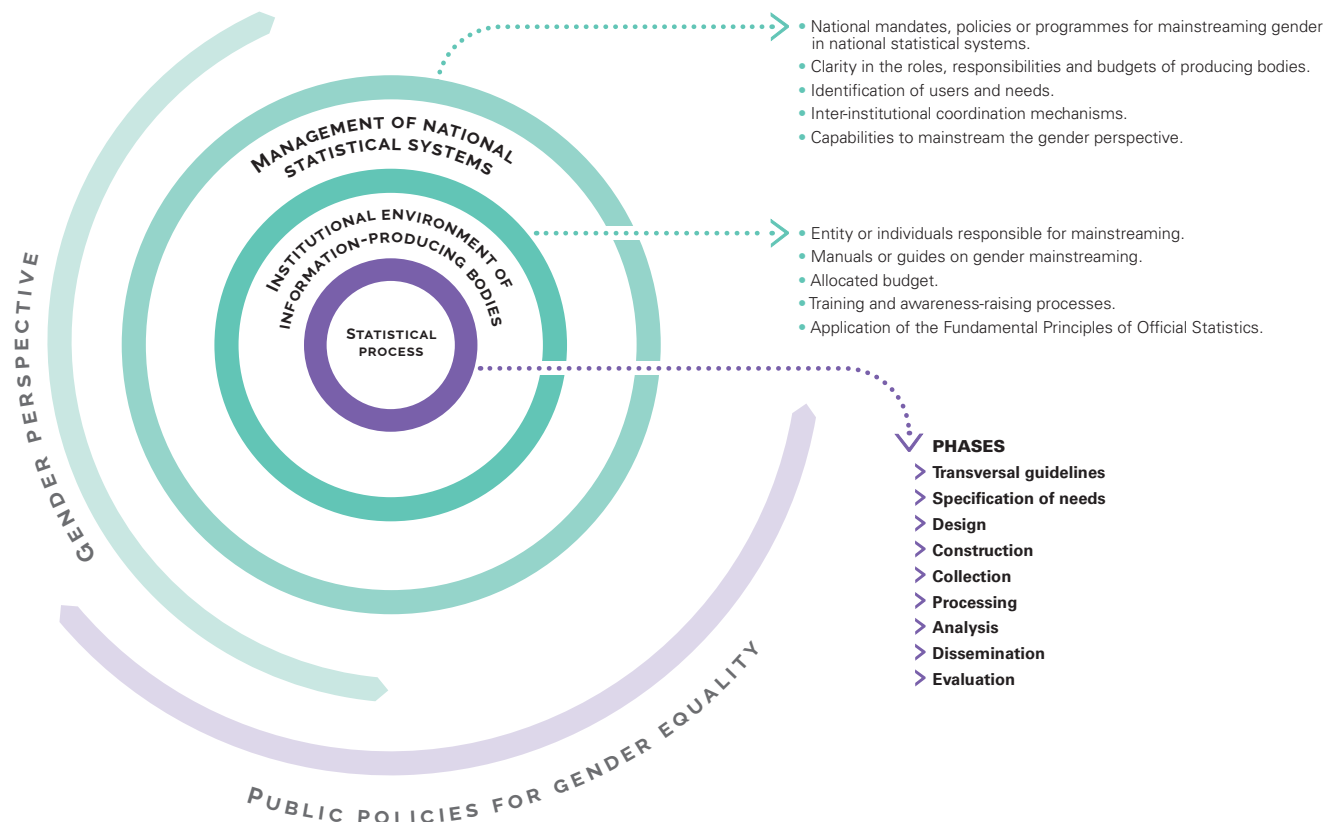
³ The concept of gender mainstreaming was coined at the Beijing World Conference on Women in 1995 and refers to the integration of the gender dimension in all spheres of government policy and action, including statistical production.

⁴ The Buenos Aires Commitment, adopted at the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, agrees on specific lines of action to achieve substantive equality. In addition, in paragraphs 32 and 33, it is agreed to include the gender, intersectional and intercultural approach in national statistical systems and in the production and use of statistical information.

This process requires actions in the management of the NSS, in the institutional environments of the information-producing agencies and in all phases of statistical production.

Diagram 1:

Towards a management model for mainstreaming the gender perspective in national statistical systems



Source: ECLAC (2022). *Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030*.

This **management model** for gender mainstreaming involves making comprehensive methodological adaptations throughout all stages of a statistical operation, including the identification of needs in topics related to gender issues, the setting of objectives related to the measurement and understanding of inequalities, and the implementation of training processes, operational protocols, instruments, concepts, classifications, and quality standards adequate to achieve disaggregations with methodological and conceptual relevance.

An important enabler for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistical production is to have a **normative framework** in place that:

- ✓ Establishes sufficient institutional, administrative, and budgetary arrangements
- ✓ Encourages the complementary use of various sources of information (censuses, surveys and administrative records) and promotes the generation of knowledge on emerging issues
- ✓ Eases the cooperation and coordination between institutions that produce and use statistics with a gender perspective
- ✓ Promotes the sustainability of processes over time and the continuity of information production even in situations of crisis and cutbacks.

The absence of such a framework, or the lack of a law that makes it explicit, does not imply no longer collecting information and generating analyses with a gender perspective.

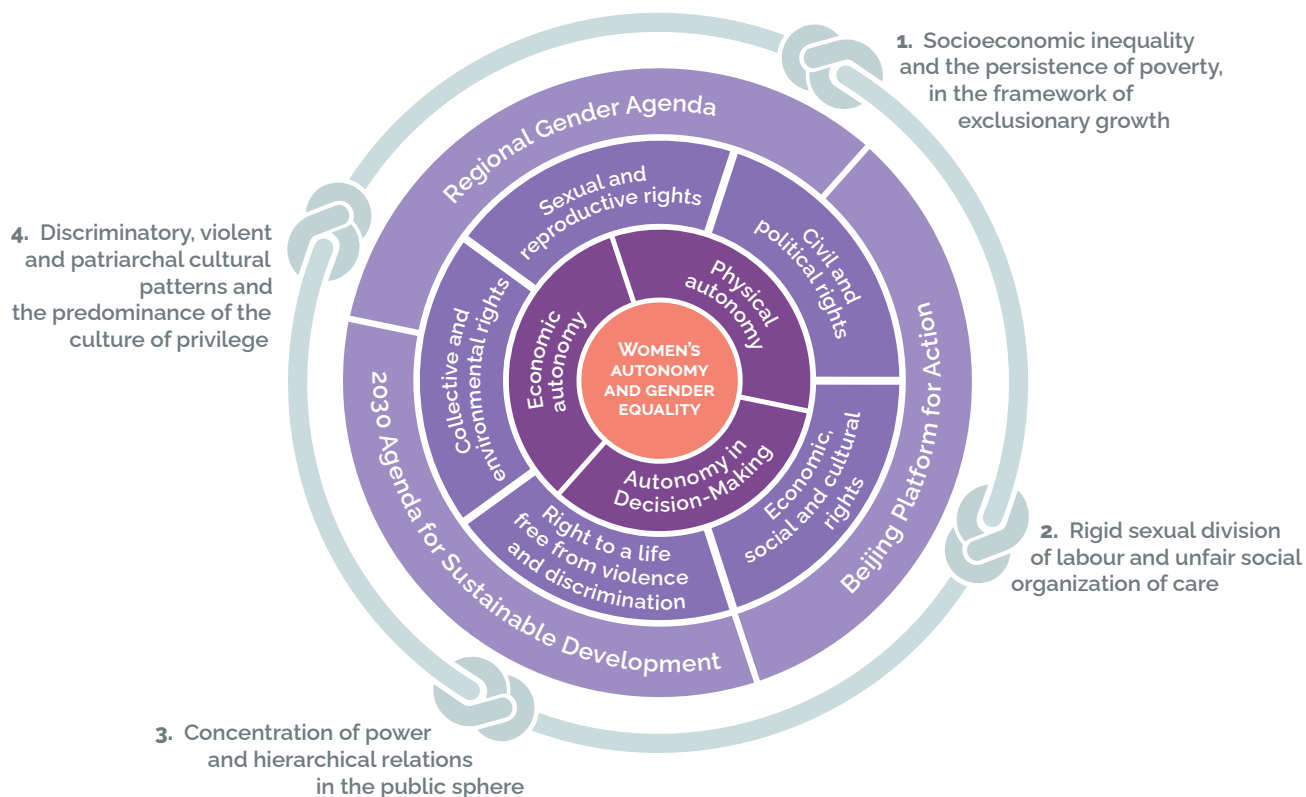
Partnerships and alliances between user institutions and information producers are essential and make it possible, among other things, to identify new information requirements, as well as a better analysis of gender inequalities. This can facilitate and improve agreements and coordination among enactors of the national statistical system.

Among the user entities included are the public agencies that require information for the implementation or evaluation of a public policy, civil society organizations, the academic sector, and citizens in general. Their participation is particularly essential in the stage of needs identification, and it can also provide elements to guide the processes of collection, design, construction, processing, analysis and dissemination of information.

It is also key to consider a **conceptual framework** that takes up agreements from the global and regional agenda and reports on women's rights and autonomy, and gender equality. The *Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030*, recognizes that in order to achieve gender equality by 2030 it is necessary to address four structural challenges:

Diagram 2:

Dimensions for a conceptual framework in statistical production with a gender perspective.



Source: CEPAL (2021). Towards a care society: The contributions of the Regional Gender Agenda to sustainable development.

The countries of the region have taken a firm path towards the development of key statistics to make gender inequalities visible. However, there are information needs still unmet and challenges in terms of quality, frequency, and thematic and population coverage of statistical production with a gender perspective.

Measurement of time use

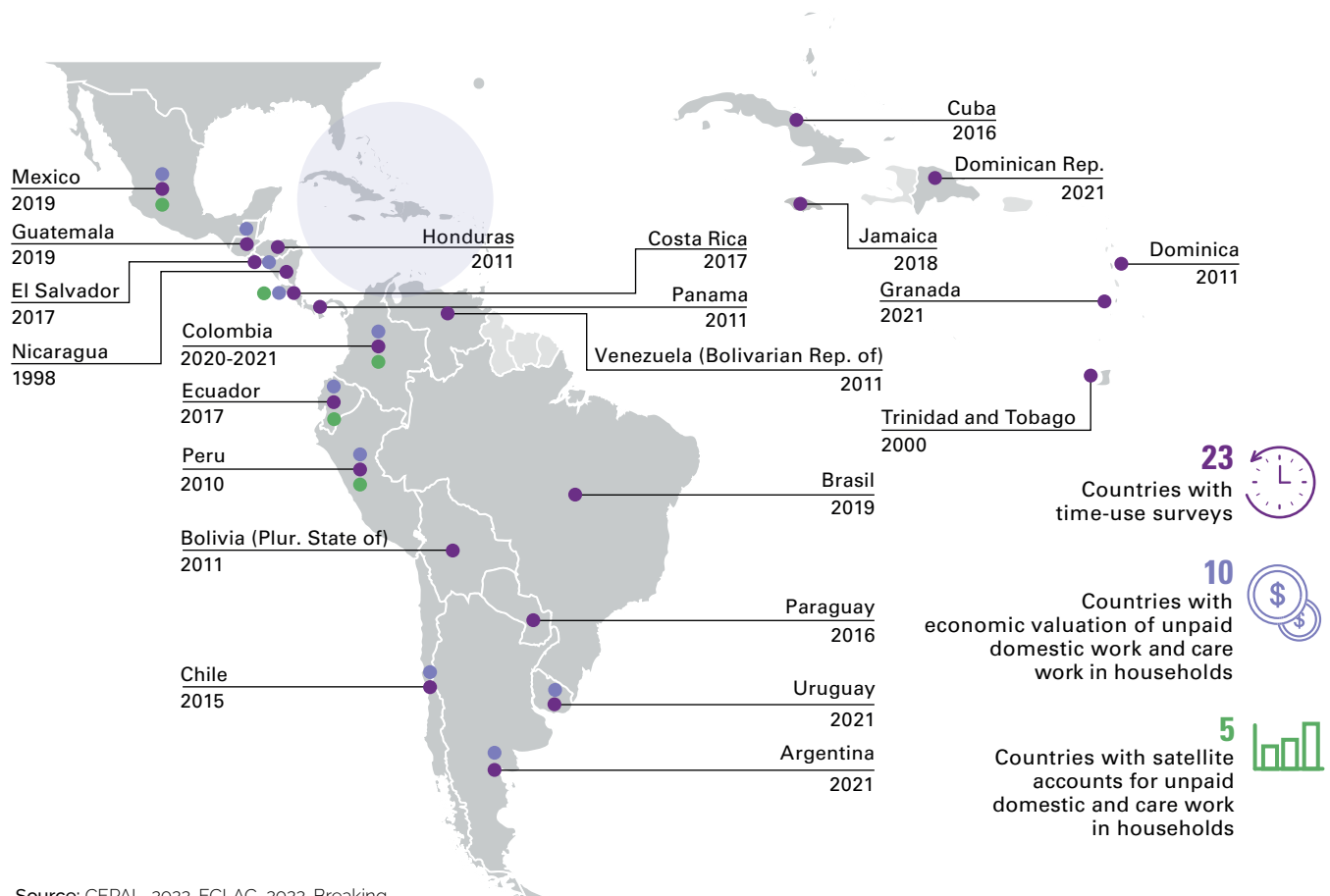
Latin America and the Caribbean has made significant progress in the measurement of time use. The periodic measurement of time use is crucial for recognizing and analyzing gender inequalities and obtaining relevant information for overcoming the sexual division of labour, implementing public policies, and moving towards a care society. It makes it possible to account for the unpaid work performed disproportionately by women, to value care as a necessity, a job, and a right, and to estimate the multiplier effects of promoting the care economy on the well-being of society.

By 2022, 23 Latin American and Caribbean countries have carried out at least one time measurement focused on domestic and care work, while 10 have placed an economic value on unpaid household work and 5 have calculated the satellite account of unpaid household work.⁵

In addition, the region has the Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL) (ECLAC/INEGI, 2016), and the Methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2022a), as milestones to "favour the comparability of measurements, facilitate the reporting of global, regional and national indicators; and contribute to the promotion and monitoring of public policies that revalue, reduce and redistribute care work."⁶

Map 1:

Latin America and the Caribbean: Progress in the measurements of time use and unpaid work



Source: CEPAL, 2022. ECLAC, 2022. Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030.

⁵ CEPAL, 2022, pp. 56.

⁶ Ibid, pp. 57.

Some information-producing bodies have set up units responsible for promoting the inclusion of the gender perspective in statistics. Institutional hierarchy and the existence of clear mandates and a specific budget are key to enabling these units to conduct their work. Some agencies have located these units at the highest management levels to ensure their participation in statistical production. These institutional mechanisms may take the form of groups, advisors, sections, or departments within the information-producing office, or, sometimes, working groups or committees that may be inter-institutional.

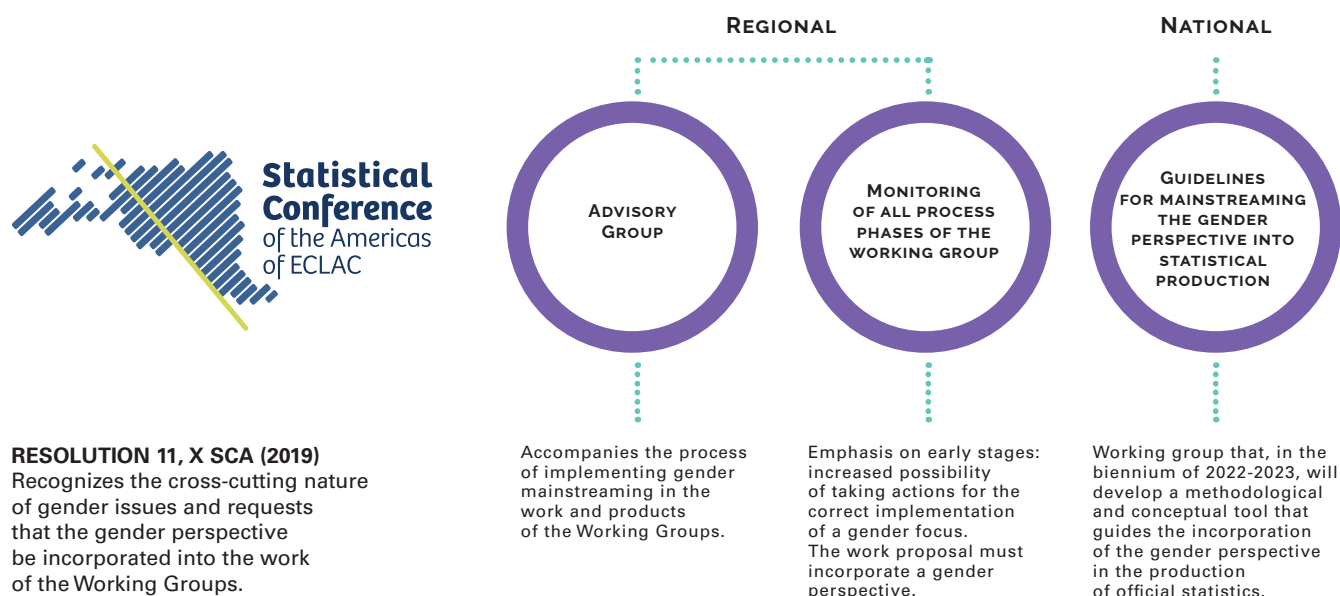
In addition, some countries in the region have prepared guides, manuals, guidelines, or technical and methodological documents to guide the production of gender statistics and the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in NSS. Two recent cases are those of Colombia and Costa Rica.

In order to make public the statistical outputs with a gender perspective, the countries of the region have various dissemination formats, including specialized websites, observatories, and gender atlases with different scope levels.⁷

Diagram 3:

Mainstreaming the gender perspective at the Statistical Conference of the Americas

Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (2007-2019)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

⁷ For a summary of the visualization tools, see Table IV.1 of the document Breaking the statistical silence to achieve gender equality by 2030 (ECLAC, 2022).



Guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective into statistical production

Latin America and the Caribbean have a Regional Gender Agenda adopted within the framework of the meetings of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. This Agenda has led to progress in the inclusion of the gender perspective in national statistical systems, as established by the Montevideo Strategy in its Pillar 9, "Information systems: transforming data into information, information into knowledge and knowledge into political decisions."

The approval of a Working Group on Gender Statistics, within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in 2007, has enabled valuable exchanges, transfer of experiences, and generation of knowledge in the field of gender statistics.

Even so, the region continues to face challenges and areas of opportunity to expand the coverage of gender statistics, intersectional disaggregations, and comprehensive and coordinated management of national statistical systems, among others.

Recognizing the need to document normative, technical, and methodological guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistics, and the existence of valuable lessons learned in the region's statistical community, the Statistical Conference of the Americas established a Working Group for the current biennium to prepare *Guidelines for Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective into Statistical Production*. The document is being prepared and will be presented at the XII Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in the second half of 2023.