



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

26 April 2013
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

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

Pucón, Chile, 24-26 April 2013

**AGREEMENTS
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AT ITS TWELFTH MEETING**

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its twelfth meeting, held in Pucón, Chile, from 24 to 26 April 2013,

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 shall carry out the following functions: 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 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,

Bearing in mind further resolution 7 (VI) adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its sixth meeting,

Considering the agreements adopted by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its eleventh meeting,

Having reviewed the progress reports of the working groups and other activities contained in the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, 2012-2013,

Having reviewed also the progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations,¹

Taking into consideration the agreements reached by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session,

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

¹ LC/L.3612(CE.12/3)

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, 2012-2013

Recommendations for improving the operations of the working groups

1. *Thanks* the secretariat for the progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations,² adopts the recommendations contained therein and pledges to implement them;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, at its earliest opportunity, rules of procedure for the formation and operation of the working groups and other task forces of the Conference, and present them for consideration and adoption by the Conference at its seventh meeting; these rules of procedure should take into account the contents of the progress report on the working groups and recommendations for improving their operations, as well as the experience of the international statistical community in this area;
3. *Asks* the secretariat to include in the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2014-2015, which will be presented for consideration and adoption by the Conference in November 2013, at its seventh meeting, a proposal for reorganizing the existing working groups, with a view to building on the experience acquired, targeting technical efforts and promoting existing synergies, thereby aligning the objectives and goals with the actual resource potential and capacity to contribute of the member countries and international agencies and enhancing the expected outcomes;
4. *Urges* the coordinating countries of the working groups, in connection with the proposed reorganization, to demonstrate proactive leadership and initiative and to encourage member countries to participate actively in, and contribute to, the tasks assigned to the groups;
5. *Urges also* the member countries of the different working groups to follow up without delay on their commitments and to make available the experts and staff required to meet the goals and produce the outputs to be presented at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Commission;
6. *Requests* the Commission, the other international agencies that act as technical secretariats and those that assist the working groups in their activities to step up their efforts in relation to technical cooperation and financing with a view to achieving the established goals;

² LC/L3612(CE.12/3)

Institution-building

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the preparation of the programme for implementing the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and the arrangements for conducting comprehensive assessments and a workshop on disseminating the Code as part of this programme, and thanks the National Administrative Department of Statistics and the Government of Colombia for the financial support provided through the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation for this purpose;
8. *Recognizes* the significant contribution made by the Statistical Office of the European Communities in the development phase of the Code of Good Practice and urges that institution to continue to provide technical support to member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas during its dissemination and implementation in the region;

Promotion of training of competent human resources

9. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico for the valuable role it played in creating and consolidating the Knowledge Transfer Network and in coordinating the implementation unit of the Council of the Network;
10. *Thanks also* the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia for its offer to take responsibility for coordinating the basic unit of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the period 2014-2015, which is subject to approval by the Conference at its seventh meeting, and requests the Governments of Mexico and Colombia to take the necessary steps to ensure that the transfer of the coordination functions from the former to the latter takes place in a timely fashion and without any disruption to the smooth functioning of the Network;
11. *Reiterates* the need to ensure that all members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas strengthen the Knowledge Transfer Network by contributing resources and by working to boost the stock of specialized information, introduce additional activities for knowledge transfer and expert support, and update the information in the Network's basic tool in order to improve its efficiency;
12. *Thanks* the World Bank for its continued financial support for the implementation of the programme of work of the Knowledge Transfer Network;
13. *Requests* the Commission to draw up, in conjunction with the advisory committee of the Knowledge Transfer Network, a draft programme for strengthening human resources training within the national statistics systems;

Technical capacity-building

Millennium Development Goals

14. *Welcomes* the progress report of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, as well as its projected outcomes in the run-up to the seventh meeting of the Conference in relation to the analysis of discrepancies between the data provided by countries and those used by international bodies in monitoring progress towards the Goals, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6, the improvement in the quality of statistical data on the Goals in the countries and the promotion of inter-agency coordination both within countries and between countries and international agencies;
15. *Thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its support and collaboration as the technical secretariat of the Conference in building national statistical capacities for the production of indicators of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, analysing the discrepancies between national and international data, pursuing statistical reconciliation and disseminating topics relating to the Millennium Summit on the Commission's website; and expresses the need for continued financial support to carry out the activities planned for the current biennium; this collaboration has benefited from the implementation of the Development Account project "Strengthening national statistical and inter-institutional capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals through interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing";
16. *Reiterates* the need for national statistical offices to participate in the production of national and subnational reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in order to ensure that the correct statistical information is used for monitoring advances using international standards and regional and national points of reference;
17. *Requests* the member countries, in view of the proximity of the deadline set for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, to reflect on the agenda for development, in particular on the development agenda beyond 2015, and on the corresponding statistical challenges in the short and medium term for presentation to the Statistical Conference at its seventh meeting;

;

Gender statistics

18. *Expresses satisfaction* with the Working Group's substantial progress towards meeting its proposed objectives for the biennium 2012-2013;
19. *Reaffirms* the priorities with respect to the production of gender statistics relating to violence against women, time use and the valuation of unpaid work and the preparation of proposed gender-sensitive indicators in the framework of the development agenda beyond 2015;
20. *Commends* the work initiated by Colombia, El Salvador and Guatemala on the economic valuation of unpaid work and the calculation of a satellite account, involving the three corresponding competent authorities, namely, the mechanism for the advancement of women, the national statistical office and the central bank;
21. *Welcomes* the announcement of the United Nations Statistics Division regarding the forthcoming publication of guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women and the work of the Working Group on Gender Statistics in that connection as it is of the utmost importance for national statistical offices to discuss and have clear criteria for data collection on the subject;
22. *Welcomes also* the plan of work 2013-2015 of the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015), adopted at the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo from 3 to 5 April 2013, and highlights the particular emphasis of that plan on generating statistics and information on the gender gap and the differentiated impacts of information and communications technologies;

Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers

23. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers, which announces a meeting to compile the poverty measurement methodologies used in the member countries of the group, to be held in Montevideo in May 2013;
24. *Requests* the Working Group to complete the updated map of the status of national experiences relating to the measurement of income poverty for presentation to the Conference at its seventh meeting;
25. *Reiterates*, in line with previous agreements of the Executive Committee, the importance of developing complementary measures based on a multidimensional approach to poverty measurement;

Censuses

26. *Commends* the countries and territories that have already conducted their population and housing census for the 2010 round and encourages them to facilitate access to that census data and promote their use, analysis and dissemination as is fitting; and reiterates that it is important for countries that have not yet conducted their census to consult and, to the extent possible, incorporate into their upcoming census exercise the recommendations emerging from the discussion process and the consensuses reached in the framework of the activities of the Conference;
27. *Urges* the countries, with support from the international funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to tackle well in advance the systematization of the lessons learned from the census exercise of the 2010 round, as well as the preparatory methodological tasks of the next census round;
28. *Expresses satisfaction* at the substantial progress made towards fulfilling the goals of the Working Group on Censuses for the 2012-2013 biennium and recommends that the Group participate, in close coordination with the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre – Population Division of the Commission, in the activities on census data analysis to be conducted at the workshop scheduled for October 2013;
29. *Commends* the United Nations Population Fund and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre - Population Division of the Commission on their initiative in holding a new version of the intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications between August and December 2013, and calls on them to arrange other similar courses, subject to availability of resources, and encourages other specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other international cooperation entities to support these activities;
30. *Commends also* the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre – Population Division of the Commission on the organization of the forthcoming first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and encourages the Working Group on Censuses to attend and to take part in the discussions and proceedings of the session;

National accounts

31. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on National Accounts and welcomes the advances in the preparation of the advanced course on national accounts, undertaken with support from the countries of the Andean Community;
32. *Requests* the Working Group on National Accounts to pursue the preparation of new modules of the advanced course on national accounts with support from countries and international agencies and to present the outputs to the Conference at its seventh meeting;

33. *Underscores* the importance of continued coordination between the Working Group and the Commission with respect to the annual seminar on national accounts;

International classifications

34. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress in the implementation of the plan of activities of the Working Group on International Classifications and the projected outputs to be presented at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference and urges the members of the Conference to give these activities their full support;
35. *Underscores* the Working Group's efforts to obtain funding in order to implement the project on the adoption and adaptation of socioeconomic classifiers in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;
36. *Welcomes* the initiative taken to develop a virtual training course on classifiers of economic activities by the group of countries involved in the project on a regional statistical framework for directories of businesses and establishments; and recommends this course to its members;

Statistics on information and communications technologies

37. *Expresses satisfaction* at the substantial progress towards the goals of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies for the biennium 2012-2013, in particular its completion of the indicators for eLAC2015; the training activities for an up-to-date module on information and communications technologies in business surveys; the updating, to 2012, of the compendium of practices, with a view to incorporating questions relating to these technologies in household and business surveys; and the launch of activities for the preparation of a module on access to and use of these technologies in the health sector;
38. *Expresses satisfaction also* at the adoption of resolution 672(XXXIV) of the Commission, establishing the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, which is expected to contribute to progress on science, technology and innovation policies and activities in the countries of the region, and affirms its unreserved willingness to support the achievement of the objectives of this Conference through the activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, especially those of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies;
39. *Welcomes* the agreement by the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean to receive support from the Working Group in coordinating and preparing the final monitoring plan for eLAC2015.

Environmental statistics

40. *Commends* the Working Group on Environmental Statistics on the regional project it has undertaken on the development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean, with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank and requests the Executive Committee of the project to ensure that the workshop to launch the project is held by the end of June 2013;
41. *Welcomes* the adoption of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics by the United Nations Statistical Commission and urges national statistical offices and Government environmental agencies to adopt these methodological recommendations for the development of their national environmental statistics programmes;

Agricultural statistics

42. *Takes note* of the activities of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics and of the preparation of the draft regional plan of action for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and requests the authorities of the national statistical offices to endorse the goals of the Global Strategy by participating in the activities of the Group;
43. *Underscores* the importance of cooperation between the national institutes of statistics and ministries of agriculture for the success of the implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;
44. *Urges* the national institutes of statistics and ministries of agriculture in the region to fill out the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistical system in order to obtain an appraisal of the status of statistics in the countries;
45. *Requests* the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the Inter-American Statistical Institute, the International Labour Organization and multilateral organizations to support the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics by helping to finance its activities and by providing technical and institutional assistance;
46. *Thanks* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the support and collaboration provided in building national statistical capacities to improve agricultural and rural statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Labour market indicators

47. *Expresses satisfaction* with the substantial progress achieved towards fulfilling the goals of the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators for the biennium 2012-2013, in particular through the preparation and processing of questionnaires addressed to countries on the measurement of employment, unemployment and underemployment, the preparation of a document setting out the regional position concerning the International Labour Organization's proposal on updating definitions, which will be presented in October 2013 at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, and the participation in substantive regional and global seminars and meetings of the above-mentioned Organization;
48. *Urges* the member countries of the Conference and international organizations to provide the necessary support for completing all pending activities , particularly the holding of a face-to-face meeting in 2013 in order to agree on a means of measuring informal employment and decent work and to take steps to harmonize those indicators and incorporate them into national statistics systems;
49. *Recommends* that the Working Group on Labour Market Indicators establish the necessary coordination mechanisms with the Working Group on Household Surveys in order to identify areas of synergy and cooperation;

Household surveys

50. *Takes note* of the progress of the activities of the Working Group on Household Surveys, in particular the meeting on integrated household survey systems and other issues relating to the implementation of housing surveys, organized jointly by the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador, with support from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and held in Buenos Aires on 15 and 16 October 2012;
51. *Requests* the Working Group on Household Surveys to complete a status report on the development of integrated household survey systems in the region, for presentation at the seventh meeting of the Conference;

Statistics on childhood and adolescence

52. *Notes with satisfaction* the evaluation of the indicators on children and adolescents of both sexes produced by the various participating countries, with a view to reaching a consensus on which indicators should be adopted to monitor the fulfilment of commitments concerning the rights of the child, and for which an online platform will be set up on the DevInfo website;

53. *Requests* the United Nations Children's Fund, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the Working Group, to resume its support functions in order to meet the objectives of the programme of activities 2012-2013;

Information on governance, public security victims of crime and administration of justice

54. *Takes note* of the report presented by the initiative committee appointed to set up a working group on public security and justice statistics, urges it to act upon the recommendations formulated following the deliberations of the twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee and requests it to submit the proposal on the establishment of the working group and its draft programme of work, with any relevant adjustments, for consideration and approval by the Conference at its seventh meeting;
55. *Notes* that a meeting of the prospective members of the working group on public security and justice statistics will be held in August 2013;
56. *Urges* countries to endorse the road map for improving crime statistics at the national and international levels, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session;

Promotion of coordination and cooperation between States members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and international agencies

57. *Reiterates* that, in preparing their reports, international agencies should use the official statistics generated by countries;

International Comparison Programme

58. *Takes note* of the progress achieved with regard to the compilation, validation and transfer to the World Bank's International Comparison Programme Global Office of the preliminary data relating to Latin America and the Caribbean and the deadlines set for publication of those data at the regional and global levels;
59. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the broad coverage in terms of the number of countries in the region participating in the Programme compared with the 2005 round and reiterates the importance of providing further technical support to member countries (especially those of the Caribbean) in order to finalize the compilation, validation and transfer of national account data and special survey results;

60. *Thanks* the World Bank and regional and subregional organizations for their financial and technical support and international and regional agencies for their financial support, without which this important global project involving approximately 170 countries and coordinated at the regional level by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the Caribbean Community, would not have been feasible;

Subregional coordination

61. *Expresses its thanks* to the subregional agencies, the Central American Statistical Commission, the Andean Community and the Southern Common Market for the informative and interesting presentations outlining their objectives and activities;

Organization of the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

62. *Agrees* to hold the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference in Santiago from 6 to 8 November 2013;

63. *Decides* to propose the following provisional agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues
3. Report on the implementation of 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, 2012-2013
4. Presentation of the draft 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, 2014-2015
5. Adoption of agreements
6. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2014-2015

64. *Agrees* to hold seminars on the following substantive issues at the seventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas:

- (a) Production of basic economic statistics within the framework of the System of National Accounts (2008 SNA) in Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinated by Peru;
- (b) The development agenda beyond 2015 and challenges for national statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinated by Brazil;
- (c) Advances and challenges in mainstreaming the gender perspective into the production of statistics in national statistical systems, coordinated by Mexico;
- (d) Institution-building in relation to national statistical offices and systems in order to enhance the quality and credibility of official statistics, coordinated by Colombia.

65. *Thanks* and congratulates the Government of Chile and the National Institute of Statistics and its staff, in particular the National Director, for the excellent organization of the meeting and the hospitality extended to participants.