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

Santiago, 5-7 November 2013

**RESOLUTION 8(VII) ADOPTED BY THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
AT ITS SEVENTH MEETING**



*The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*, at its seventh meeting, held in Santiago from 5 to 7 November 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 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,

*Having reviewed* the report on the implementation of the 2012-2013 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Conference,

*Having reviewed also* the draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference for the period 2014-2015 and the reports of its working groups,

*Taking into account* the growing importance of and need for reliable, high-quality and timely statistics for the exercise of transparency, for the accountability of public authorities and for the assessment of the results of public policies, as key elements of democracy-building in the region,

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

*Taking fully into consideration also* the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-fourth session,

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

**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 for the biennium 2012-2013**

1. *Approves* the Report on the implementation of the 2012-2013 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, welcomes the progress made by the working groups created by the Conference and urges these groups to continue to pursue their fruitful efforts with a view to the complete fulfilment of their terms of reference;

**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 for the biennium 2014-2015**

2. *Adopts* the guidelines for the functioning of the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, incorporating the observations agreed at the meeting concerning use of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the dissemination of documents and reports to all countries, the availability of documents in English and Spanish and the use of a standard format for communicating the results of the reports of the working groups, requests the groups to put these guidelines into practice and urges the Executive Committee to provide them with the necessary follow-up and support in their activities in accordance with the guidelines so as to enable them to optimize their functioning and achieve their objectives;
3. *Adopts also* 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 for the biennium 2014-2015 and the plan of work of each of the working groups, urges the working groups to build synergies based on their common interests and requests the secretariat to incorporate the suggestions and observations put forth by the representatives and to present a definitive version to the Executive Committee of the Conference at its thirteenth meeting;
4. *Urges* the States members of the Conference, the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other international organizations to make an active contribution to the work to be carried out under the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities for the biennium 2014-2015;
5. *Requests* the working groups, bearing in mind the discussion and the challenges of the post-2015 agenda, to incorporate these issues into their programmes of work for the period 2014-2015;

**Institution-building**

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the planned activities of the Working Group on Institution-building for the period 2014 – 2015 geared to the implementation of the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and, in particular, the comprehensive assessments to be conducted in five countries of the region, and the development of South-South technical cooperation for implementation of the Code and urges all countries to make a firm commitment to take part in the different activities planned;

7. *Requests* the countries interested in participating in the comprehensive assessments or in receiving South-South cooperation in their implementation of the Code to send a formal communication to that effect to the group coordinator;
8. *Thanks* the Inter-American Development Bank for having provided financial support for these activities;
9. *Takes note with concern* of the practice of some international organizations which publish country data such as composite indices and models that do not take into account the official information produced by the national statistical offices and which hire private research firms whose studies are based on inadequate sample designs and methodologies that fail to respect the fundamental principles of official statistics, such as principles of quality and transparency in the use of methodology, sources and programming;
10. *Urges* the international agencies to use the official information produced by the national statistical offices when conducting their studies and programmes and to comply with the technical requirements contained in the fundamental principles of official statistics by applying appropriate sample designs and ensuring that their methodologies, sources and the programming used to calculate their indicators are transparent;

### **Promoting the training of competent human resources**

11. *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 and expresses satisfaction at the activities carried out by the Network since its establishment, in particular with a view to developing experience in distance training, enhancing the coordination of training activities in the region and building networks of experts and training centres for horizontal cooperation;
12. *Accepts with thanks* the offer by the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia to assume responsibility for coordination of the basic unit of the Knowledge Transfer Network for the period 2014-2015 and urges countries and international organizations to support it in its role as coordinator of the Network;
13. *Reiterates* that all members of the Statistical Conference of the Americas need to strengthen the Knowledge Transfer Network by contributing resources, boosting the stock of specialized information, introducing additional activities for knowledge transfer and expert support and updating the information in the Network's basic tool in order to improve its efficiency;

### **Technical capacity-building**

#### *Millennium Development Goals*

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the advances in statistical reconciliation, statistical capacity-building at the national level and the dissemination of good practices for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in the countries of the region and thanks the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for the support and collaboration it has provided as technical

secretariat of the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and for its willingness to conduct further analytical studies on the regional situation with a view to formulating regional cooperation measures;

15. *Urges* countries to redouble their efforts to produce the information needed to generate Millennium Development Goal indicators using international standards and regional and national points of reference so as to help to speed up fulfilment of the Goals by 2015, given that that target date is fast approaching;
16. *Reiterates* the need for the national statistical offices to participate actively in the production of national reports on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in order to ensure that the correct statistical information is used for monitoring advances and urges them to participate more fully in reflections on these issues and in the preparation of a monitoring framework for the United Nations post-2015 development agenda;
17. *Urges* the countries to contact the Working Group on the Monitoring of Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals to put forward their suggestions and proposals for the post-2015 development agenda;

#### *Gender statistics*

18. *Welcomes* the holding of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which came to a successful conclusion in the Dominican Republic on 18 October 2013 and ratifies the agreements established in the Santo Domingo Consensus relating to the improvement of national and regional gender statistics, with a view to contributing to the discussion and the preparation of public policies to enhance the physical and economic autonomy and autonomy in decision-making of women in the region, with special reference to paragraphs 55 and 56 of the abovementioned Consensus relating to time-use surveys and the compilation of satellite accounts on households' unpaid work;
19. *Reaffirms* the targets established in the work plan of the Working Group on Gender Statistics with a view to continuing to improve time-use statistics, the satellite account on households' unpaid work, statistics on violence against women, poverty measurement from the gender perspective and the debate on indicators to be included in the United Nations post-2015 development agenda and urges countries to redouble their efforts to generate gender statistics;
20. *Reaffirms also* the effective commitment of the national statistical institutes and offices at their highest hierarchical level to continue to work to improve the production and dissemination of gender statistics;
21. *Requests* the coordinating country and the technical secretariat of the Working Group on Gender Statistics to improve communication, to step up South-South cooperation exchanges in this area and to strengthen strategies for coordinating and disseminating activities in this field as well as mechanisms for providing training in gender statistics;

*Harmonization of statistics relating to income poverty and public transfers*

22. *Expresses satisfaction* at the systematization and analytical activities carried out in relation to the similarities and differences in income and poverty measurement in the region and thanks the Working Group on Harmonization of Statistics on Income Poverty and Public Transfers for the activities it carried out during the biennium;
23. *Takes note* of the interest demonstrated by countries in redefining the terms of reference of the group, in such a way as to encompass alternative conceptual formulations for poverty- measurement with a view to the post-2015 agenda and requests the Commission, Colombia and Mexico to present a proposal in that regard to the Executive Committee;
24. *Takes note also of* the need to encourage discussion on alternative, non-traditional measures that take into account the well-being of individuals;

*Censuses*

25. *Commends* the countries and territories that have already conducted their population and housing censuses for the 2010 round, encourages them to facilitate access to those census data and to promote their use, analysis and dissemination as is fitting and reiterates that it is important for those countries that have not yet conducted their census to consult and, to the extent possible, incorporate into their forthcoming census exercise the lessons learned and the recommendations emerging from the discussion process and from the consensus reached within the framework of the Conference's activities;
26. *Urges* countries to continue to systematize the experiences deriving from the exercises of the 2010 round of censuses as well as the preparatory methodological tasks for the next census round contained in the plan;
27. *Commends* the United Nations Population Fund and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of the Commission on the conduct of a new version of the intensive regional course on demographic analysis with census applications between August and December 2013, calls on them to arrange other similar courses, subject to the availability of resources, and encourages other specialized agencies in the United Nations system and other international cooperation entities to support these activities;
28. *Welcomes* the holding of the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and encourages the Working Group on Censuses to continue to attend the sessions of that body and to participate in the relevant discussions and tasks;

*National Accounts*

29. *Takes note* of the activities proposed for 2014-2015, aimed at supporting the countries in the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 and promoting closer integration between the production of basic economic statistics and national accounts, and underscores the importance of incorporating the recommendations emanating from the Substantive Seminar on National Accounts into the activities of the Working Group on National Accounts, particularly with regard to improving basic statistics as the main input for national accounts, making the system more useful, and encouraging the implementation of the system of national accounts in the region;

30. *Requests* the working group to promote continuity in the development of new modules for the advanced course on national accounts, with support from countries, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Statistics Division, as well as in the execution of national and regional plans for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008;
31. *Calls* for redoubled efforts to support countries in the development of basic economic statistics, and to coordinate the activities of the Working Group closely with those of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics for the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting;
32. *Reiterates* the need to promote the participation of representatives from more countries, and especially representatives of central banks, in the Working Group, leading to closer collaboration with national statistical offices with a view to improving economic statistics and national accounts;
33. *Requests* the Working Group on National Accounts to prepare a development project on basic statistics and on strengthening integration of the latter with the System of National Accounts in order to mobilize resources of the member States of the international donor agencies and to present this project for discussion and approval at the annual seminar on national accounts, and exhorts the countries to draw up strategic declarations and plans of action for the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 in the framework of the global strategy;

*Statistics on information and communications technologies*

34. *Takes note* of the challenges associated with the generation of statistics on information and communications technologies which will result, on the one hand, from the 10-year review process of the World Summit on the Information Society and the High-level Event to be held in 2014, which will take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit and establish the agenda beyond 2015 and, on the other, from the final monitoring plan for the Plan of Action on the Information and Knowledge Society for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2015);
35. *Agrees* to collaborate, through the programme of activities of the Working Group on Information and Communications Technologies for the period 2014-2015 by boosting the technical capacity of national statistical systems to respond to the needs for statistical data production and compilation on the basis of indicators of compliance with the Summit targets and to support also the final monitoring plan for eLAC2015, in order to review the region's advances towards the targets and to assess the gaps in access to and use of information and communications technologies;
36. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the adoption of resolution 672(XXXIV) 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 the progress of science, technology and innovation policies and activities in the countries of the region, and urges the working group to attend the meetings of that Conference and take part in its discussions and activities;
37. *Reaffirms* the agreements adopted at the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the need to generate statistics relating to information and communications technologies and gender in order to establish a methodology for measuring household indicators and administrative records that reflect the gender digital divide in keeping with regional and international agreements;

*Environmental statistics*

38. *Notes with satisfaction* the results achieved at the workshop to launch the project “Development and strengthening of official environmental statistics by creating a regional framework in Latin America and the Caribbean”, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, and requests the Executive Committee of this project to take the measures needed to ensure its implementation;
39. *Notes* that, in the context of discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015 and the challenges that it poses for national statistical systems, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 is an international standard that provides tools for measuring the progress of countries towards achieving sustainable development;
40. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean concerning the development of a proposed regional strategy on implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012, takes note of the regional consultation that is under way, for which countries have been invited to submit their comments, and recommends that the Commission present the final results of this process to the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in 2014;
41. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to take measures to strengthen its human, technical and coordination capacities in the field of economic environmental accounts in order to be able to proceed with the regional strategy for strengthening environmental statistics, and to respond to the growing number of requests by the countries for assistance in this matter;

*International classifications*

42. *Takes note of* the activities scheduled for the period 2014-2015, which will continue to be geared to analyzing, discussing, agreeing and implementing classification proposals that reflect appropriately the requirements of the countries of the region, and urges all the interested countries to participate actively in the activities listed in the work plan;
43. *Underscores* the importance of the work of the Working Group on International Classifications in formulating the project entitled “Latin American Cluster for the Promotion of Standard Information and Classification Systems”, and expresses support for the request for financing for its execution from the Inter-American Development Bank under the Regional Public Goods initiative and for the effort to secure financial resources from other international organizations that may be prepared to support the activities of the programme of work of the Working Group;

*Agricultural statistics*

44. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico for the significant role it has fulfilled in translating and digitizing the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistical system;
45. *Urges* the national statistical institutes to coordinate with their respective ministries of agriculture and to fill out thoroughly the standard reference questionnaire for evaluating the agricultural statistical system, with a view to obtaining a diagnostic assessment of the status of statistics in the countries;

46. *Urges also* the countries of the region to collaborate in implementing the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially through South-South cooperation strategies;
47. *Reiterates* the invitation extended to the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean to join the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics, since at present no country from that subregion is represented in the Group;

*Labour-market indicators*

48. *Takes note of* the proposed activities for the period 2014-2015 for advancing in harmonization of the measurement of labour informality and assessing the impact on the countries of the region of the new guidelines issued at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians relating to the measurement of types of work, the labour force, and employment and underemployment of the labour force;
49. *Exhorts* the member countries of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators to continue with their commitment and the momentum towards the stated objectives and appeals to the countries that are not members to participate also in the consultations of the group and to respond to the questionnaires on practices used in compiling labour statistics in order to help to obtain a more comprehensive regional assessment;

*Household surveys*

50. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Working Group on Household Surveys to conclude in the period 2014-2015 its assessment of integrated household survey systems in the countries of the region and to focus future work on sampling methods and estimates from panel and cross-sectional surveys, and invites countries to participate actively in the activities under its work plan;

*Statistics on childhood and adolescence*

51. *Takes note of* the proposed plan of activities of the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence for the biennium 2014-2015, which reflects the challenges faced by the countries of the region in relation to developing and improving the statistics on childhood and adolescence needed to evaluate and implement policies and to drawing up programmes to meet the commitments made on the rights of the child in all countries of the region;
52. *Urges* the members of the working group to promote joint activities and the use of the results obtained by the other working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas that have analysed indicators and statistics on childhood and adolescence, in order to establish synergies between the work plans of the groups and, avoid duplication of efforts, an initiative that should be supported by the Executive Committee, which will promote the sharing of the different work plans and results achieved among the different working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

*Statistics on public security and justice*

53. *Endorses* the creation of the Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice, which shall comprise Mexico as the coordinating country and Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama and Peru as members and the Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the technical secretariat, and commissions it to coordinate efforts to generate, develop and standardize statistical information on crime and criminal justice in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on international and regional projects, initiatives and mandates concerning relevant statistical information in order to generate better data to support evidence-based public-policy design and decision-making targeting problems in this field;

*Geospatial information*

54. *Takes note of* the countries' keen interest in the development and management of geospatial information, requests Brazil and Mexico to prepare a proposal for incorporating this issue into the Conference's programme of work and invites interested countries and agencies to cooperate with these countries on this task;

**Promotion of coordination and cooperation between member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and international agencies**

*International Comparison Programme*

55. *Thanks* the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean which successfully participated in the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme, welcomes the increase in the number of countries from the region participating in the 2005 round and stresses the importance of the results obtained for drawing up and monitoring public policies, as well as carrying out a comparative analysis at the international level;
56. *Reiterates* its gratitude to the World Bank and the regional and subregional organizations for the financial and technical support without which it would not have been possible to implement this major global project involving some 190 countries and coordinated at the regional level by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community, the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank;

*Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments*

57. *Congratulates* the countries participating in the project of the Regional Statistical Framework for Directories of Businesses and Establishments on having brought it to a successful conclusion and urges the other countries to take account of and use the results of the project in line with their needs and circumstances;

58. *Welcomes* the Compendium of technical recommendations and best practices for preparing directories of enterprises and establishments drawn up as part of the project and agrees to disseminate the Compendium and promote its use in the region;
59. *Thanks* the Inter-American Development Bank for the financial support that made the project possible and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its unwavering support in implementing all stages of the project;

#### *Disability measurement*

60. *Reiterates* the recommendations of Article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) concerning the collection and dissemination of data and statistics on the status of persons with disabilities as well as the recommendations of the Expert meeting to define strategic priorities for the regional agenda regarding the status of persons with disabilities (Santiago, 14 and 15 May 2013) on the implementation of a single system of information and identification for the population with disabilities that serves to determine appropriate policy actions and services;
61. *Congratulates* the countries in the region which have conducted specific surveys on disability and those which have made progress in including questions for persons with disabilities in their censuses and calls on them to draw on the lessons learned from this experience when drafting questions for the next round of censuses;
62. *Approves* the establishment of a task force comprising representatives from Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic to coordinate the drafting of a regional report on the statistical information available in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the difficulties encountered in assessing the status of persons with disabilities, for submission at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, in 2014;
63. *Calls* on the task force to liaise with the member countries of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization to look into avenues for collaboration and into the possibility of holding two subregional training workshops at national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the next round of censuses;

#### *Statistical challenges for quantifying South-South cooperation*

64. *Agrees* to set up a task force, made up of Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru and supported by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, charged with developing and proposing a methodological design and a road map for the measurement of South-South cooperation;

*Subregional coordination*

65. *Takes cognizance of* the suspension of statistical activities in the framework of the Andean Community, owing to the reengineering process now under way and the lack of clarity among the member countries of the Andean Statistical Committee, namely, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Plurinational State of Bolivia, concerning the future of this regional mechanism and expresses concern that the subregional statistical committee with the longest track record in the field of statistics should be at a standstill and cease to conduct the activities of statistical harmonization between its member countries, or the education and training plans and programmes, horizontal cooperation projects and discussion forums, workshops and seminars scheduled for the coming years;
66. *Thanks* the following subregional statistical committees for their interesting and informative presentations on their goals and on the status of their activities: the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians of the Caribbean Community, the Central American Statistical Commission of the Central American Integration System, the Andean Statistical Committee of the Andean Community and the Specialized Statistical Meeting of the Southern Common Market.