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DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE ECLAC SYSTEM, 2016-2017



ABREVIATIONS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
ADC	Andean Development Corporation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAF	Latin American Development Bank
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDCC	Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CELADE	Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre – Population Division of ECLAC
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Communities
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
ICT	Information and communication technologies
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IIRSA	Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILPES	Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
OAS	Organization of American States
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OIJ	Ibero-American Youth Organization
OLADE	Latin American Energy Association
OLAMI	Latin American Mining Organization
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PARLATINO	Latin American Parliament
SEGIB	Ibero-American Secretariat
SELA	Latin American and Caribbean Economic System
SICA	Central American Integration System

UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNASUR	Union of South American Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WTO	World Trade Organization

SUBPROGRAMME 11: STATISTICS

Presentation

Although economic, social, demographic and environmental statistics have improved significantly over the last few years in the Latin American and Caribbean region, some aspects of quality—particularly timeliness, frequency and comparability—need further enhancement in order to be brought in line with international best practices. Harmonization in data collection, processing and dissemination represents a further challenge at the regional level. In parallel, efforts are needed to promote the use of statistics by economic agents, social actors and decision-makers and to further strengthen the user-producer dialogue, by improving structures and enhancing the roles played by national statistics systems in public life. These targets form part of the strategic plan adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

In order to achieve these objectives, countries must address different challenges, some of which are regularly discussed at the meetings of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. Countries must strive to fully implement the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008) and give impetus to the adoption of the System of Economic-Environmental Accounting 2012 (SEEA 2012), improving the availability and quality of basic economic and environmental statistics and basic data sources. The post-2015 development agenda—including gender mainstreaming in the production of statistics—poses new challenges for national statistics systems in terms of defining, monitoring and reporting the new sustainable development indicators. The region's statistical systems will also need to tackle other global challenges, including the increasing supply of costless information by many different providers fuelled by the constant development of information and communication technologies, and the need to measure and monitor the well-being of societies in a multidimensional and more comprehensive way.

Socioeconomic and environmental statistics and indicators are vital resources for informing and supporting sustainable development. Therefore, the quality, timeliness and integrity of statistics must meet the most rigorous standards. The production and publication of accurate statistics also help to reinforce democracy by contributing to the process of public participation and enhancing the transparency and accountability of the political system. Reliable and easily accessible information systems are not only a concern for statisticians, but a prerequisite for good governance at the country level. Economic, social and environmental statistics, produced on a regular basis, are crucial for public policies. They provide evidence of the underlying economic and social conditions and help to identify the main problems and constraints for the design of policies, programmes and projects. Moreover, they are the main inputs for appropriate monitoring and evaluation of public actions.

Harnessing best practices in statistical activities is a key element for designing and enhancing the reliability and quality of public statistics and building sound and robust legal and institutional frameworks. The subprogramme will seek to adapt these best practices to the Latin American and Caribbean context, and to assist countries in implementing them.

The purpose of the subprogramme is to support Latin American and Caribbean countries in their efforts to build, strengthen and harmonize statistical information and the decision-making systems underlying the design, monitoring and assessment of sustainable development policies. In particular, the subprogramme aims to provide support to countries in the improvement of national capacities, to enable national statistics systems in the region to generate, analyse and disseminate statistics information in a timely manner, and to keep statisticians in the region abreast of internationally accepted standards and best practices in the field.

The proposed activities seek to pursue the medium-term objectives of the subprogramme and to achieve the expected accomplishments during the biennium. Progress achieved will be measured by the indicators described below.

Logical framework of the subprogramme:

Objective of the Organization: To improve the production, dissemination and use of quality and timely statistics for evidence-based decision-making in the economic, social and environmental fields in the region.	
Expected accomplishments of the secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(1) Progress in the implementation of the 10-year strategic plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.	(a) (i) Percentage of subject areas of the strategic plan for which specific actions were implemented. (ii) Number of products developed by the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, with the support of ECLAC.
(2) Increased technical capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to monitor economic, environmental and social trends and to formulate evidence-based policies.	(b) (i) Increased percentage of compliance by countries of the region with SNA 2008 and its satellite accounts, including in particular SEEA 2012, in accordance with international recommendations and the countries' own requirements, after receiving relevant technical support from ECLAC. (ii) Increased number of policies, measures or actions taken by countries to implement ECLAC recommendations aimed at developing statistics to monitor economic, environmental and social trends. (iii) Increased number of downloads from the <i>Statistical Yearbook</i> and CEPALSTAT, the online repository of economic, environmental and social databases in the region consolidated by ECLAC.

Strategy

The Statistics Division will be responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme. Given the interdisciplinary nature of statistics, the Division will work in close collaboration with all other ECLAC offices and divisions, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and United Nations agencies.

The strategy will be based on three main lines of action. The first consists in supporting the methodological development of statistics in the region, as well as promoting the development of region-specific indicators. The second is the provision of specialized advisory and technical cooperation services to strengthen the countries' technical and institutional capacities. Meetings and seminars will be organized to facilitate the sharing of experiences and promote South-South cooperation in a more integrated regional context. Support will also be given for the development of networks to strengthen the harmonization and coordination of statistical data and initiatives among countries. The third line of action aims to promote best practices in the dissemination and use of comparable methodologies and techniques.

The main direct beneficiaries of the subprogramme will be the institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean that make up countries' national statistical systems, particularly national statistical offices, central banks and specialized government agencies. Moreover, it is expected that the subprogramme will reach a broader audience in the private sector, academia and civil society.

Two important features of the subprogramme strategy should be stressed. On the one hand, the activities will be carried out in close coordination with the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. The subprogramme activities reflect the thematic priorities identified by the Conference, as it considers national accounts, environmental accounts, economic and environmental statistics, the post-2015 development agenda, broader measures of welfare and social indicators. Under the subprogramme, ECLAC will act as coordinator of regional and global activities, including joint actions with the United Nations Statistics Division, the regional commissions and other statistics entities in the United Nations. Collaboration with other international agencies (such as IDB, ILO, IMF, World Bank and WTO) and international expert groups, such as the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA), is also envisaged. The subprogramme will convey the experience and interests of the subregion in global events, such as the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistics Activities (CCSA).

The subprogramme will also place its pool of statistical and methodological information at the disposal of a wide range of stakeholders: government agencies, business and labour organizations, universities, research centres, regional and subregional integration bodies and other public or private entities that require comparable information on the countries of the region.

Regarding the joint work with other ECLAC divisions, special attention will be paid to the implementation of gender-sensitive indicators in collaboration with the Division for Gender Affairs, support in the use of economic indicators and demographic data in collaboration with the Economic Development Division and CELADE, respectively, the provision of data from household surveys and other social indicators to the Social Development Division, the development of environmental indicators in collaboration with the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements and the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Divisions, and the provision of relevant information to monitor the progress of the region towards achievement of the goals enshrined in the post-2015 development agenda.

Emphasis will be placed on promoting the adoption of the new recommendations relating to the System of National Accounts, the System of Economic-Environmental Accounting and satellite accounts, including unpaid work in households; facilitating countries' participation in the International Comparison Programme; improving basic economic, environmental and social statistics; and developing methodologies and indicators for the measurement of monetary and multidimensional poverty, inequality, social cohesion and other aspects of welfare.

Lastly, member States will benefit from increased visibility of the subprogramme's work through the continuous updating and development of CEPALSTAT, the online economic, environmental and social statistics and indicators database.

External factors

The objectives and expected accomplishments of the subprogramme will be achievable based on the following assumptions:

(a) National statistics systems in the region will be able to cope with the challenges posed by the new technological developments and the increasing provision of statistics by other actors (the challenge of “big data”);

(b) Socioeconomic and institutional stability will prevail in the region, allowing normal functioning and progress of work in the national statistical offices;

(c) The international community will continue to support the work of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the priorities it sets for statistical development in the region, in response to the specific needs and concerns of ECLAC member countries in this field. To that end, the guidelines established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the internationally agreed development goals, will be taken into account;

(d) The international agencies and organizations working in the region will support the efforts of the Statistics Division of ECLAC to increase the efficiency and usefulness of statistics activities.

List of activities

Subject area 11.1: Technical cooperation among member States and within regional and global statistical bodies

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

(i) Ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. This activity includes the coordination and monitoring of technical cooperation agreements for the development of statistics, the preparation of reports on the activities of the ECLAC secretariat and on outputs and advances in statistical development and international cooperation, as well as the preparation of substantive documentation for presentation at the Conference (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Four meetings of the Executive Committee of the Conference, including the preparation of progress reports on advances and outputs of the programme of work defined by the Conference (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

2. Intermediate activities

(i) Provision of support to the working groups created by the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC. This activity includes the organization and servicing of the working groups' meetings, preparation of background documents and other materials, preparation of meeting reports and monitoring of the tasks assigned to each working group (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Preparation, upon request and in collaboration with other agencies, of substantive inputs supporting and channelling the views of Latin American and Caribbean countries in international forums and in global conferences on statistics and indicators, such as the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the sessions of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

Subject area 11.2: Statistical databanks and dissemination of regional statistics and indicators

1. Recurrent publications

(i) *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean 2016* (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean 2017* (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

2. Other substantive activities

Technical materials

(i) Development, maintenance and updating of the CEPALSTAT statistical information system and the databases under direct responsibility of the Statistics Division, and coordination with other divisions of the activities relating to the maintenance of their databases (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

(ii) Compilation and harmonization of household surveys from the countries of the region, as an input for the analysis and production of social indicators of the Statistics Division and other ECLAC divisions (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

3. Intermediate activities

(i) Preparation, in conjunction with the Social Development Division, of statistical information for the annual editions of the *Social Panorama of Latin America* (2016 and 2017 editions) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) Preparation, in conjunction with the Economic Development Division, of statistical information for *Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean* (2016 and 2017 editions) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iii) Preparation, in conjunction with the Economic Development Division, of statistical information for the *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean* (2016 and 2017 editions) (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(iv) Statistical support for the execution of ECLAC studies and projects in the field of economic, social and sustainable development, and for inter-agency work, particularly in the context of monitoring the post-2015 development agenda (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

Subject area 11.3: System of National Accounts and economic statistics

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

(i) Two meetings of experts to evaluate the inclusion of new international recommendations in the implementation of SNA 2008 and its adjustment to the characteristics of the economies in the region (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2, high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) One meeting of experts to promote and analyse the incorporation of the new international recommendations on economic statistics, including basic statistics, national accounts, foreign trade in goods and services, price indexes (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1, moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

The implementation of activities (i) and (ii) will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

2. Recurrent publications

Two issues of Cuadernos estadísticos de la CEPAL (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

3. Non-recurrent publications

(i) A study on the progress made in the region in implementing the new international recommendations on the upgrades of SNA 2008 or external sector statistics (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

(ii) Two studies on implementation in the region of international recommendations on economic statistics, including basic statistics, national accounts and satellite accounts (including unpaid work in households), foreign trade in goods and services, and price indexes (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation services to Latin American and Caribbean countries for the harmonization of basic economic statistics and the implementation of the latest revised international nomenclature, as well as SNA 2008 and its satellite accounts, in particular SEEA 2012 (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

5. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, universities, nongovernmental organizations and regional and subregional bodies in support of training activities on topics relating to economic statistics, including basic statistics, national accounts and satellite accounts, foreign trade in goods and services, and price indexes (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

6. Technical cooperation projects

During the biennium, it is expected that projects will be under way on the regional programme to support countries of the region in implementing SNA 2008 and to improve basic economic statistics through the application of the Luxembourg Recommendations on Global Implementation and Outreach for the System of National Accounts in coordination with the activities of ISWGNA (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1, moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services, training activities and the technical cooperation projects, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 11.4: Statistics and quantitative analysis of social trends

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert groups

(i) One meeting of experts to make recommendations on promoting technical and methodological improvements to social information systems and household surveys (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1, high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

(ii) One meeting of experts to make recommendations for improvements to the harmonization and homogenization of social statistics and indicators (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1, high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Non-recurrent publications

Three methodological and analytical studies on poverty, income inequality and other aspects of social welfare in the region (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

3. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation services to member States and regional bodies in areas relating to household surveys, social indicators and statistics and the measurement and analysis of poverty and other aspects of welfare, with special attention to the follow-up of the post-2015 development agenda (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

4. Training courses, seminars and training workshops

Cooperation with government entities, universities, nongovernmental organizations and regional and subregional bodies in support of training activities on topics relating to poverty, income distribution, employment, social cohesion and vulnerability (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Technical cooperation projects

During the biennium, it is expected that projects will be under way in the area of social statistics (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

6. Intermediate activities

Production of one or more chapters on poverty, social vulnerability and income distribution in the region, for the *Social Panorama of Latin America* (2016 and 2017 editions), in conjunction with the Social Development Division (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services, training activities and technical cooperation projects, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 11.5: Environmental statistics

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

Two meetings of experts to analyse progress in the field of environmental statistics and SEEA 2012 (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1, moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Non-recurrent publications

Two studies on the situation of environmental statistics in the region and on the experience with environmental accounts (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

3. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation services to member States and regional bodies to support the development of environmental statistics and the implementation of SEEA 2012 (high correlation with expected accomplishment 1).

4. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, universities, nongovernmental organizations and regional and subregional bodies in support of training activities on topics relating to the development of environmental statistics and accounts (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Technical cooperation projects

During the biennium, it is expected that projects will be under way in the area of environmental statistics, in particular on strengthening capacities for building macroeconomic and sustainable development indicators (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services, training activities and technical cooperation projects, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

Subject area 11.6: Support for the post-2015 development agenda

1. Substantive servicing of meetings

Ad hoc expert group meetings

One meeting of experts to make recommendations for improvements to the harmonization and homogenization of statistics and indicators for follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda (moderate correlation with expected accomplishment 1, high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

2. Non-recurrent publications

One study on methodological or empirical issues related to follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda and other internationally agreed development goals (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

3. Advisory services

Provision, upon request, of technical cooperation services to member States and regional bodies to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda monitoring framework and its indicators (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

4. Training courses, seminars and workshops

Cooperation with government entities, universities, nongovernmental organizations and regional and subregional bodies in support of training activities on topics relating to the post-2015 development agenda monitoring framework and its indicators (high correlation with expected accomplishments 1 and 2).

5. Technical cooperation projects

During the biennium, it is expected that projects will be under way in the area of the post-2015 development agenda monitoring framework (high correlation with expected accomplishment 2).

The implementation of operational activities, including advisory services, training activities and technical cooperation projects, will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.