



UNITED NATIONS



27 August 2020

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

20-00579

---

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

25–27 August 2020

## AGREEMENTS

*The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), at its nineteenth meeting, held online from 25 to 27 August 2020,*

1. *Commends* the various actions of national statistical offices and other agencies producing official statistics to provide continuity in statistical production in the framework of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and recognizes the role of official statistics in public policymaking in the context of an emergency and economic reactivation;
2. *Encourages* national statistical offices and other agencies producing official statistics to identify innovations and good practices implemented during this period that can be adopted on a permanent basis to strengthen the efficiency of statistical operations and the quality of official statistics, and underscores the importance of continuing to make progress in the work of disaggregating data by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
3. *Highlights* the work carried out by the secretariat to provide the necessary technical support for the continuity of statistical operations and to collaborate in the dissemination of good practices identified by national statistical offices and agencies producing official statistics;
4. *Requests* the secretariat of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to continue to identify good practices and provide the required technical assistance for the continuity of statistical operations, both through the regular programme of work and through specific projects developed for this purpose, drawing on ongoing global and subregional initiatives to minimize duplication of effort;
5. *Draws attention to* the fact that, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many economies in Latin America and the Caribbean have contracted or are expected to contract, thus reducing the resources available to the governments in the region and to statistical offices, against a backdrop of increased resource requirements to address the emerging data collection problems caused by the pandemic and requests to increase the frequency and volume of statistical production;

6. *Expresses concern* about the impact of the pandemic, which has led to the postponement of, among other things, the 2020 census round in several countries in Latin America and especially in the Caribbean, and to the growing uncertainties regarding the development of census projects, and underscores the importance for member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, through the good offices of each government, to provide the financial and human resources needed to guarantee the proper conduct of censuses, which are a source of essential information for public policymaking, as well as an indispensable input for the proper implementation of a large number of statistical operations;

7. *Calls on* the public and private entities that compile administrative records and other data sources to facilitate national statistical offices' access to this information, considering its usefulness for statistical purposes and recognizing that these sources allow for greater and more timely data disaggregation, particularly in the context of the pandemic;

8. *Conveys its thanks* for the presentation on progress made at the global and national levels relating to the consolidation of national statistical offices as data stewards and requests the secretariat to evaluate the actions of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to foster this approach in the region;

9. *Also conveys its thanks* for the presentation of global, regional and national experiences in the measurement of progress towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); calls upon the member States to develop metrics to calculate the achievement of the targets; recommends that these metrics be considered within national development plans; and requests the secretariat to pursue the implementation of this type of harmonized measurement for the region in line with other current developments;

10. *Welcomes* the implementation of the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, the SDG Gateway, developed in conjunction with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in the region under the leadership of the steering committee co-chaired by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the technical coordination of the Commission; and urges the continuation of the tasks that ensure that this platform is constantly maintained and updated;

11. *Takes note* of the outcomes of the comprehensive review of the global SDG indicator framework and urges the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean to pursue the implementation of the indicators prioritized for regional follow-up of the SDGs—considering that these outcomes do not contravene the agreed prioritization—in the synthetic measurement for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—progress, gaps and projections at the national level—, and in the undertaking of activities that encourage coordination and synergies among the various regional initiatives that seek to close gaps in data and statistics production for the 2030 Agenda;

12. *Also takes note* of the *First report on the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*;<sup>1</sup>

13. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the progress achieved by the working groups in producing the agreed outputs and urges them to continue their activities, ensuring the necessary adjustments in the light of the restrictions imposed on the operations of national statistical offices because of the COVID-19 pandemic;

14. *Expresses its thanks* for the support and collaboration of the international organizations that have contributed to the activities of the working groups, either by acting as technical secretariats or by providing cooperation, technical assistance and financing for the implementation of the planned activities;

---

<sup>1</sup> LC/CE.19/3.

15. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the actions of the Knowledge Transfer Network to exchange experiences and recommendations relating to the challenges and solutions adopted by the countries of the region in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and encourages the continued consolidation of dissemination and exchange activities, in particular those related to issues highlighted by the countries at this meeting of the Executive Committee, such as the role of national statistical offices as data stewards and how to ensure the continuity of statistical operations in emergency situations, among other matters;

16. *Expresses its commitment* to address the discussions on the production of urban statistics and on the link between statistical production and the challenges of development in transition as part of the forthcoming activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

17. *Thanks* the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, the National Institute of Statistics of Chile, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Division of Gender Affairs of ECLAC for organizing the seven side events held in the framework of the meeting, and takes note of the presentations, discussions and topics explored which serve as input to the work of the Statistical Conference;

18. *Urges* the member countries of the Statistical Conference to participate actively in the celebration of World Statistics Day on 20 October, and in the United Nations World Data Forum that will be held virtually from 19 to 21 October 2020;

19. *Requests* that, at the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC to be held virtually from 26 to 28 October 2020, the Chair report on the main activities undertaken by the Statistical Conference of the Americas.