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

Santiago, 14-16 June 2016

AGREEMENTS

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its fifteenth meeting, held in Santiago from 14 to 16 June 2016,

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 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas shall have the following duties: carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; 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 on 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,

Taking into account resolution 70/1, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which establishes the commitment of the United Nations Member States to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals,

Having reviewed the Updated report on the implementation of the 2014-2015 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities,¹

Having reviewed also the Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2016-2017, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC,²

16-00658

¹ LC/L.4180(CE.15/4).

² LC/L.4181(CE.15/5).

Taking into account agreement 15 of resolution 9(VIII) adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its eighth meeting, by virtue of which the Conference agreed to extend the term of the working groups until the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee and mandated the Executive Committee to adopt the Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities 2016-2017 of the Statistical Conference of the Americas,

Taking into account also the growing importance of and need for reliable, high-quality and timely public statistics for the exercise of transparency, for the accountability of public authorities and for the assessment of public policy advances, as key elements of institution-building in the region,

Taking into consideration the resolutions adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-sixth session, held in Mexico City from 23 to 27 May 2016,

Taking into consideration also the views expressed and the contributions provided by the Governments of the States members of the Conference and by the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and the international organizations represented at this meeting,

Report by the Chair on activities conducted since the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. *Endorses* the Updated report on the implementation of the 2014-2015 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities,³ which incorporates the activities conducted up to May 2016, and takes note of the progress made by the working groups, the task forces and the Knowledge Transfer Network in their respective activities;

2. *Thanks* the international organizations that have provided support for and collaborated in the activities of the working groups either by acting as technical secretariats or by providing financing for the conduct of planned activities;

Follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals

3. *Thanks also* the organizers and participants of the Seminar on the follow-up framework of the Sustainable Development Goals for their valuable contributions to the regional discussion of this matter;

4. *Acknowledges* the work carried out by the member countries of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and urges them to continue to represent the region in the process of defining and applying the global monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, created by virtue of resolution 700(XXXVI), adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, and expresses the commitment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to contribute to the fulfilment of its objectives;

³ LC/L.4180(CE.15/4).

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of the regional space as an apt platform for the statistical monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlights that the Conference is the appropriate intergovernmental body to conduct such monitoring in the region;

7. *Approves* the creation of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, composed of the Latin American and Caribbean countries that are members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as technical secretariat, which will serve as the joint mechanism for establishing a regional plan to gradually cover the information requirements arising from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

8. *Urges* the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean to coordinate its activities with the ad hoc working group for the preparation of a proposal on the indicators for regional follow-up of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, adopted by the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean at its first session;

9. *Encourages* the countries to strengthen their national statistical systems, in line with their national development strategies, in order to meet the information needs arising from the follow-up framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with the Mitad del Mundo Declaration, adopted by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its eighth meeting;

10. *Highlights* the central importance of environmental statistics in the follow-up framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and urges the countries to create and strengthen their environmental statistics programmes and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen its efforts to provide technical support and capacity-building in this area;

11. *Affirms* the importance of having a mechanism, in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, for coordinating the statistical activities of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations and international and regional organizations in order to contribute to the follow-up process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level;

Biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2016-2017, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

12. *Adopts* the Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2016-2017, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,⁴ with the amendments proposed and observations made in the discussions held at the meeting;

13. *Also adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Institution-building, whose activities relate to the evaluation and follow-up of the fulfilment of the principles contained in the Code of Good Practice in Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean and to the formalization of a mechanism to ensure the continuity of these processes;

⁴ LC/L.4181(CE.15/5).

14. *Further adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Censuses, which includes providing training on vital statistics, censuses and population estimates, gathering information on the progress made in the 2020 census round and analysing the scope of and challenges involved in using population censuses to generate indicators for follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development;

15. *Recommends* that the Working Group on Censuses analyse the possibility of creating task forces on the content of censuses, cartography, census technologies and the integration of censuses with other data sources;

16. *Adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on National Accounts, which includes activities related to the collection of information on the status of implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008, the timetables for the publication of the national accounts results, the supply of and demand for horizontal cooperation in preparing national accounts, the compilation of methodologies and best practices used to produce basic statistics and national accounts, the organization of forums on improving industrial and services statistics, the implementation of the System of National Accounts 2008 and the organization of courses;

17. *Recommends* that the Working Group on National Accounts form a task force to promote the development and improvement of quarterly national accounts and their international comparability;

18. *Adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Administrative Records, whose activities include preparing a plan to develop and strengthen statistical capacities based on administrative records, compiling good practices on the use of administrative records and fostering horizontal cooperation to implement these practices;

19. *Requests* the new coordinator of the Working Group on Household Surveys and the secretariat to present a draft programme of work for the 2016-2017 biennium for the Working Group on Household Surveys, focusing on the documentation, standardization and efficiency of processes for the production of household surveys with a view to preparing the indicators needed to follow up on the Sustainable Development Goals;

20. *Adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Poverty Statistics, which will prepare an overview of how certain poverty indicators are currently measured in the countries of the region and will formulate recommendations to promote the harmonization and quality of measurements;

21. *Also adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators, which will focus on preparing an overview of harmonization gaps in the measurement of labour statistics with respect to the recommendations of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, examining the methodological and operational aspects of measuring informal economy indicators, drafting a regional position paper on the relevance of the International Classification of Status in Employment of 1993, and exploring alternative methodologies for monitoring the labour market;

22. *Approves* the creation of a task force on the measurement of the informal sector and requests that the coordinating country provide more information in order to decide whether the task force should be established under the Working Group on Labour-Market Indicators or the Working Group on National Accounts;

23. *Adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Gender Statistics, whose activities include preparing a methodological guide to the economic valuation of unpaid work, establishing the satellite account on unpaid work, providing support for the production of a gender atlas of Mexico and extending this initiative to the rest of the region, formulating proposals to strengthen statistics on violence against women and femicide, developing methodologies to mainstream gender in poverty measurements, promoting a gender perspective in the generation and analysis of Sustainable Development Goal indicators, preparing a set of indicators with a gender perspective for information and communications technologies (ICTs), and building the gender-mainstreaming capacities of national statistical offices;

24. *Also adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Statistics on Childhood and Adolescence, which will address the implementation of methodologies to measure violence against children, early childhood development and childhood functionality and disability, document the collection of data on childhood and adolescence in the region, promote the use of administrative records to generate statistics on childhood, disseminate statistics on childhood effectively through open data platforms, and foster horizontal cooperation among national statistical offices;

25. *Further adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Disability Measurement, which will examine the implementation of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health in the collection and analysis of disability data in the countries of the region;

26. *Adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Environmental Statistics, whose activities include preparing an action plan and strategy to develop and strengthen environmental statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, a set of methodological and technical tools, and an environmental statistics capacity-building plan, as well as analysing the scope of the project linked to the activities of the working group under the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank;

27. *Also adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Agricultural Statistics, whose activities include supporting the implementation of the project of the working group under the Regional Public Goods Initiative by following up on the proposed consultancies and conducting training courses in various areas;

28. *Further adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Statistics on Public Security and Justice, which will provide an overview of the crime and criminal justice statistics of the countries of the region, develop and establish a crime victimization laboratory and formulate recommendations to help to produce indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 16;

29. *Adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on Measurement of Information and Communications Technologies, whose activities encompass supporting the review of the ICT module for the education sector, applying regional criteria to review the list of ICT indicators of the Task Group on Gender of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, providing training on ICT measurements in English-speaking Caribbean countries and Haiti, carrying out the ICT measurement survey in the national statistical offices of the region and providing assistance for the organization of workshops in support of the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2018);

30. *Also adopts* the programme of work 2016-2017 of the Working Group on International Classifications, whose activities will support the adoption or adaptation of international classifications in the region by translating a set of international classifications, compiling the names of agricultural

products and producing audiovisual material on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities;

31. *Reaffirms* the importance of fostering the participation of the countries in the initiatives of the Knowledge Transfer Network and strengthening this platform for exchanging knowledge and disseminating regional information, and supports the reactivation of its Advisory Committee;

Subregional and international cooperation

32. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the productive subregional cooperation activities carried out by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and 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;

33. *Commends* the international agencies on the activities undertaken to help strengthen national statistical systems and urges the international community to intensify that support through cooperation, technical assistance and financial assistance;

Other matters

34. *Thanks* Anders Wallgren and Britt Wallgren of Statistics Sweden and Örebro University in Sweden for their valuable presentation on the use of administrative records for statistical purposes.