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

Virtual meeting, 7–8 April 2021

AGREEMENTS

The Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), at its twentieth meeting, held online on 7 and 8 April 2021,

1. *Thanks* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Union for their presentations on the concept of development in transition and recognizes its relevance in identifying priorities for statistical development in the countries of the region and in fostering the contribution of statistics to public policymaking;
2. *Agrees* on the importance of producing information based on the measurement of perceptions to complement the information routinely collected on the physical living conditions of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean, in the context of the generation of official national statistics;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to conduct, in conjunction with the countries of the region that so wish, a regional consultation to ascertain the thematic areas of interest for the measurement of perceptions in the region, and to prepare the terms of reference for the possible creation of a working group on the measurement of perceptions at the next meeting of the Conference;
4. *Emphasizes* the importance of mechanisms for evaluating compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, including peer review processes, to strengthen the quality of statistical production and the institutional framework of national statistical systems;
5. *Encourages* countries to share national experiences in the use of peer reviews in national statistical systems, which is useful for quality assurance in administrative records and other information sources, through Knowledge Transmission Network webinars;
6. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, in collaboration with the Chair and the countries of the region that so wish, a proposal on a peer review mechanism for the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be submitted for consideration by the Statistical Conference of the Americas at its eleventh meeting;

7. *Urges* countries to foster the production of national statistics to strengthen the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its three dimensions (social, economic and environmental), recognizing the need to consolidate methodologies and ensure the regular production of data for environmental indicators, by integrating specialized units in institutional programmes and budgets, developing national strategies and plans for statistical development, and establishing inter-agency coordination committees, which are essential given the cross-cutting nature of sustainable development;

8. *Also urges* users and producers of environmental statistics to join the regional network on environmental statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to enhancing the exchange of experiences and lessons learned in this area;

9. *Takes note* of the *Second 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*;¹

10. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the progress achieved by the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in producing the agreed outputs and urges them to continue their work in order to complete the agreed activities and outputs by the next meeting of the Conference;

11. *Appreciates* the efforts made by the working groups to mainstream the gender perspective into their work, in pursuit of better integration of gender issues and the gender perspective in the production, analysis and use of statistical information, and encourages them to intensify these efforts in line with the guidelines and recommendations to be shared by the secretariat;

12. *Takes note* of the requests of six working groups, which will be considered and responded to by the Executive Committee in May 2021, for the documents being prepared to be submitted for adoption by the Conference at its eleventh meeting;²

13. *Requests* the working groups to disseminate the outputs of their work to the regional statistical community through Knowledge Transmission Network webinars;

14. *Expresses its thanks* to the national statistical offices and other agencies producing official statistics for having maintained regional collaboration and the production of the agreed outputs of the working groups, despite the restrictions imposed on their work as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

15. *Also 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;

¹ LC/CE.20/3.

² Guide to the implementation of a quality assurance framework for the production of official statistics; A harmonized methodological framework for measuring disaster-related indicators pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; Methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean; Protocol for the collection and dissemination of data from studies involving children and adolescents; Manual on the design of security and criminal justice statistical systems; and Methodological document on conceptual aspects and statistical use of economic administrative records.

16. *Requests* the secretariat to conduct, in coordination with the Chair and members of the Executive Committee, a regional consultation for the preparation of proposals for the formation of the working groups for the biennium 2022–2023, for discussion at the eleventh meeting of the Conference;

17. *Takes note* of the *Report on the activities of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean*³ and requests the Group to continue updating the diagnosis of national statistical capacities for the production of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into consideration the results of the 2020 comprehensive review of the global indicator framework as well as the indicators prioritized for the region;

18. *Invites* national statistical offices and other agencies producing official statistics to coordinate actions with the secretariat to include information on national monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway);

19. *Welcomes* the progress made in updating the technologies of CEPALSTAT Databases and Statistical Publications, and urges the secretariat to promote the development in the region of online systems for the dissemination of statistical information that use open source code and data and integrate geospatial information;

20. *Thanks* Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, for their work as representatives of the region, to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, respectively;

21. *Welcomes* the election of Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago as representatives of the region to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators for the coming biennium, as of June 2021;

22. *Also welcomes* the election of Argentina, Belize, Mexico and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as representatives of the region to the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the coming biennium, as of June 2021, bearing in mind that one representative is still to be appointed;

23. *Encourages* national statistical offices in the region to actively participate in the production and dissemination of social, economic and environmental statistics at city level by defining standards and promoting quality assurance processes for urban statistics produced by other institutions, and by adopting robust methodologies and using complementary data sources to produce disaggregated statistics at city level;

24. *Thanks* the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, the National Administrative Department of Statistics of Colombia, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, the Centre for International Strategic Thinking (CEPEI) and the Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for organizing the 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.

³ LC/CE.20/4.