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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

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE STATISTICAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR THE 2030 AGENDA IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Pursuant to the agreements adopted at the seventeenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in October 2018, the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean has been progressing with activities with a view to its objective of coordinating the preparation and implementation of regional indicators and capacity-building for this purpose, within the framework of follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the reporting period, the Group focused particularly on the following activities:

1. Third meeting of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

The meeting was held virtually on 17 November 2020, as a space for countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations System operating in the region and the technical secretariat of the Group to reflect on strategic issues in statistical monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. Representatives from eight countries and three United Nations agencies operating in the region participated.

Issues discussed included: (i) the planning and design of a new information survey on national capacities for the production of the SDG indicators; (ii) alternative working methods for involving national statistical offices in the preparation of national statistical profiles in the Regional Knowledge Management Platform for the Sustainable Development Goals in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway); and (iii) addressing mechanisms to involve the countries of the region in strategic issues discussed at meetings of the Inter-Agency 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.

With respect to the first item, the proposed contents of the new survey were presented in detail, followed by a discussion on capturing disaggregation of the indicators and on the management and governance system for online questionnaires. The countries recognized the timeliness of a new survey on national capacities and committed to work towards conducting such a survey in the first half of 2021. The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) of Ecuador reported on its experience in the conduct and use of a nationwide diagnostic study on capacities with a view to better aligning national exercises with regional studies.

With regard to the involvement of the countries of the region in strategic issues addressed at meetings of the Inter-Agency Expert Group and the High-Level Group, it was agreed that ECLAC would pursue options for online platforms to establish a common repository for uploading materials and maintaining discussions with the countries. The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia gave a joint presentation on the activities that were under way in the Inter-Agency Expert Group and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina presented the activities of the High-Level Group, with a focus on data stewardship.

2. Development of an information system for the continuous update of the inventory of national capacities to produce the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goal global indicator framework

To guarantee the continuous update of the inventory of national capacities to produce the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goal global indicator framework, the Statistics Division of ECLAC is developing an online information system to which information can be uploaded on a continuous basis and which is easy to populate by members of national statistical systems in each country. Also being developed is an online form to identify national statistical capacities in the global indicator framework for the SDGs, incorporating the results of the 2020 comprehensive review of the global indicator framework conducted by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the SDG indicators prioritized for the region. Unlike previous surveys, this new exercise aims to identify national efforts to address all the issues included in the 2030 Agenda, specifying the type of indicators produced (global or proxy), the level of disaggregation (taking into account the minimum disaggregations suggested in the 2030 Agenda and those specific to each indicator¹) and how the indicators are used to monitor the 2030 Agenda at the national level. The platform will also make it possible for updated results to be viewed online. This complies with the Executive Committee's request, in paragraph 3 of the agreements adopted at its seventeenth meeting, that member States update the information on national statistical capacities for the production of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, and also takes into account paragraph 85 of the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, which encourages the Statistical Conference of the Americas to continue analysing national statistical capacities of the region to identify areas of cooperation, in consultation with the respective governments, with a view to advancing in the generation of disaggregated, accessible, timely and reliable data.

¹ In line with the work on disaggregations carried out by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

3. Information for countries of the region on the activities and strategic issues discussed in the Inter-Agency 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

As representatives of the region in the Inter-Agency Expert Group, DANE of Colombia and IBGE of Brazil have prepared reports on the activities carried out globally, which were sent to the countries of the region in a timely manner.

The technical secretariat is working on the implementation of a virtual collaboration space where a range of content can be managed by the member countries of the Statistical Coordination Group and thus keep countries of the region permanently informed of the activities carried out within the scope of the Inter-Agency 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.

4. Renewal of representatives of the region to global bodies involved in Sustainable Development Goal indicators

The third mandate of the member countries 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 will come to an end during the first half of 2021.

The countries currently representing the region are as follows:

- Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators: Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago
- High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

The countries that will represent the region for a new two-year term will be decided at the twentieth meeting of the Executive Committee. As agreed by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, representatives shall be nominated on the basis of a geographical classification similar to the one used to define the composition of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference, as follows:

- South America (two representatives): Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
- North America, Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean (one representative): Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama

- The non-Spanish-speaking Caribbean (two representatives): Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

The Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, being composed of regional representatives 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, shall also renew its membership as of June 2021, in line with the renewal of representatives of the region to global bodies. The Statistical Coordination Group also includes two other countries — Chile and Cuba— which currently participate as observers. The tasks assigned to the Group are specified in the terms of reference.²

² See the *Proposed terms of reference of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC*, adopted by the Executive Committee at its fifteenth meeting in June 2016.