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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

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is a subsidiary body of the Commission, established pursuant to resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which defined as follows the objectives of the Conference: to promote the development and improvement of national statistics and work to ensure that they are comparable internationally, bearing in mind the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations; to promote international, regional and bilateral cooperation among national offices and international and regional agencies; and to draw up a biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities to meet the demands of the countries of the region, subject to the availability of resources.

The 2020–2021 biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is framed within the Strategic Plan 2015–2025, which established as the pillars of action of the Conference the achievement of more robust institutionalities and a stronger governing role for national statistical offices; the development of human resources and statistical production in order to ensure quality; and regional and international coordination and cooperation for the development of official statistics in the region.

The themes to be discussed at the twentieth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC complement those discussed at the previous meeting and refer to various challenges faced by national statistical systems in the region relating to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the subsequent recovery. Specifically, the meeting participants will analyse the statistical challenges arising from development in transition, the production of official statistics based on the measurement of perceptions, innovations in the production of environmental statistics and peer review mechanisms to strengthen statistical institutions in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. They will also review the progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC.

In addition, virtual side events will be held on the Caribbean Geospatial Development Initiative (CARIGEO) and the activities organized within the framework of the "Road to Bern" initiative and the third United Nations World Data Forum, to be held in 2021, among other topics of interest to the member countries of the Conference.

Chair

In accordance with resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Colombia, in its capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, will preside over the Committee's twentieth meeting.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues:
 - (a) Statistical challenges of development in transition
 - (b) Towards the production of official statistics based on the measurement of perceptions
 - (c) Peer review mechanisms to strengthen statistical institutions in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
 - (d) Innovations in the production of environmental statistics
3. Review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC
4. Report by the secretariat on the regional follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the dissemination of regional statistics
5. Other matters
6. Consideration and adoption of agreements

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee will have before it the provisional agenda for adoption or amendment.

2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues:

(a) Statistical challenges of development in transition

Under this agenda item, participants will address the challenges of statistical production facing the countries of the region in the context of development in transition. This concept, presented in the report *Latin American Economic Outlook 2019: Development in Transition*,¹ refers to the challenges faced by the countries which, in spite of improvements in their macroeconomic situation and quality of life of their inhabitants, are still exposed to recognizable structural vulnerabilities in “new” development traps relating to productivity, social vulnerability, institutions and the environment.

¹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and others, *Latin American Economic Outlook 2019: Development in Transition*, Paris, OECD Publishing, 2019.

(b) Towards the production of official statistics based on the measurement of perceptions

The aim of this agenda item is to delve into subjective data measurement. The session will draw on the webinar series “Measuring people’s perceptions, evaluations and experiences: key issues and best practice from Latin America and the world”. The participants in these webinars, organized by ECLAC, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Commission in September and October 2020,² discussed the conceptual, methodological and practical aspects of measuring people’s quality of life based on their perceptions and feelings.

(c) Peer review mechanisms to strengthen statistical institutions in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

Between 2014 and 2017, the Working Group on Institution-building of the Conference carried out a peer review of compliance with the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean in eight countries of the region and conducted a complementary follow-up between 2018 and 2019. Against the backdrop of increasing challenges, which have been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, the aim is to encourage a high-level dialogue on the importance of developing such mechanisms to strengthen statistical production and the institutional framework of national statistical systems, and to adopt them as an ongoing process of the Conference. Guests will be invited from other regional commissions and international agencies and will share their experiences in the implementation of similar models.

(d) Innovations in the production of environmental statistics

Under this agenda item, participants will address the main advances and innovations in the production of environmental statistics and indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the current climate emergency and the worsening of disasters. The objective is to foster the development and strengthening of these statistics in the countries of the region, in order to facilitate the monitoring of actions related to the environmental pillar of sustainable development.

3. Review of progress in the implementation of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

Under this agenda item, participants will review the overall progress of the working groups of the Conference, in line with the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2020–2021, adopted at the tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. The joint initiatives on data stewardship and subjective measurement of perceptions will also be discussed, in preparation for the possible formulation of working groups on these themes at the next meeting of the Conference.

Working documents:

- 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 (LC/CE.20/3)
- Report on the activities of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CE.20/4)

² See[online] <https://www.cepal.org/es/notas/medicion-percepciones-evaluaciones-experiencias-personas-cuestiones-clave-mejores-practicas>.

Reference documents:

- Strategic Plan, 2015–2025 (LC/L.4070(CEA.8/4))
- 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 (LC/CE.19/3)
- 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 (LC/CEA.10/7)

4. Report by the secretariat on the regional follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the dissemination of regional statistics

The secretariat will report on the main outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, held online from 15–18 March 2021, with a special emphasis on the dissemination of the Regional Knowledge Platform on the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SDG Gateway). There will also be a presentation of the technological and functional advances of CEPALSTAT, the ECLAC portal for the dissemination of comparable regional statistics, through the development of open sources and data with the integration of the spatial component. It is hoped that cooperation and the exchange of good practices on these themes will be fostered within the framework of the Conference.

5. Other matters

Under this agenda item, the 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 be renewed, given that the current mandate is scheduled to end in June 2021. In addition, participants will review progress in the production of urban statistics, in particular, urban mobility surveys (origin and destination surveys).

6. Consideration and adoption of agreements

Under this agenda item, the Executive Committee will consider and adopt the agreements it deems appropriate.