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REPORT OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Santiago, 26–28 September 2023



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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The twelfth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago from 26 to 28 September 2023.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Suriname, United States and Uruguay.

3. Representatives of Aruba and Curaçao, associate members of the Commission, also attended.

4. The Russian Federation, a Member State of the United Nations that is not a member of the Commission, participated as an observer.

5. Attending from the United Nations Secretariat were representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

6. The following agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

7. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and Inter-American Development Bank.

8. Representatives of non-governmental organizations, other civil society entities, the private sector and academia also attended.

¹ See the list of participants in annex 3.

B. AGENDA

9. The following agenda was adopted:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Presentation and discussion of substantive issues.
 - (a) Strengthening environment, climate change and disaster statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - (b) Progress on the implementation of platforms for access to statistical and geographical information
 - (c) Small area estimation models for the disaggregation of official statistics
 - (d) The Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
 3. Outcomes of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2022–2023, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
 4. Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2024–2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
 5. Other matters.
 6. Consideration and adoption of resolutions.
 7. Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the period 2024–2025.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

10. At the opening session, statements were made by José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Marco Lavagna, Director General of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC) of Argentina, the country serving as Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC; and Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (virtual).

11. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC first welcomed the participants, then said that the various economic consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic were still being felt and that the regional macroeconomic outlook was very complex. Latin America and the Caribbean remained in the grips of inflation, which would probably remain above pre-pandemic levels in 2024. Low economic growth would likely be reflected in slower employment growth. The quality of employment could be affected, and workers could face greater vulnerability in terms of social protection. If the region maintained its meagre growth of the past decade, it ran the risk of social unrest, increased social inequality and violence, and democratic decline. The Statistics Division of ECLAC was engaged in various activities to strengthen economic statistics in the region, and the Commission had made several proposals to achieve a transformation towards greater, sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth.

12. The Executive Secretary also said that official statistics were an indispensable public good for the proper functioning of democracy and their dissemination contributed to public access to information. Each country should have an independent national statistical office that could access public and private sector data to produce official statistics. In addition, the macroeconomic effects of climate change needed to be addressed. He called for joint responses and action to address the problems associated with the environmental crisis. To that end, environmental, climate change and disaster statistics in the region needed to be strengthened. Progress in that area in the previous two decades had been insufficient, as evidenced by the increased frequency and severity of disasters. ECLAC would continue its efforts to fulfil the commitment expressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind. Those efforts required indicators that were sufficiently disaggregated according to population characteristics and geography. ECLAC had also contributed to the dissemination of georeferenced information.

13. The Director General of INDEC of Argentina noted the importance of coordination among national statistical offices to identify shared, flexible solutions in the field of statistics. Each country had its own characteristics, challenges and strengths, and the Conference provided a forum in which to learn from the experiences of others. Latin America and the Caribbean should be actively engaged in international forums and organizations to advance its statistics agenda. Progress in the field of environmental statistics was indispensable, and the national statistical offices, which faced enormous challenges in that field, had a fundamental role in the achievement of environmental goals. One of the main challenges was to strengthen those offices at the local level, in view of the need to fortify the national statistical system of each country.

14. The Director General also said that, for statistical offices, the challenge posed by the constantly rising tide of information and data generators was greater still. As governments and society demanded faster and faster responses and near real-time data, statistical offices needed not only to work on methodology but also to address human resources issues, including recruitment and training. Another major challenge involved computer systems and the approach to data management and protection. The increasing difficulty of collecting social statistics and persuading the population to respond to household surveys meant that other sources of data, such as administrative records, must be sought out. Social networks were central to communication with users of statistics, creating a new demand that required a response. Mechanisms were needed to improve statistical literacy for all. It was not enough to produce information; it was also necessary to facilitate the reading, analysis and interpretation of the data produced, as well as their publication and dissemination. Geoportals were critical for making data more easily accessible. The CEPALSTAT database should be further developed in view of its potential to bridge the gap between the statistical community and society at large.

15. The Director of the United Nations Statistics Division appreciated the significant overlap between the regional and global statistical agendas. At the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit, participants had recognized data as critical for both enabling and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and had addressed the importance of solid systems and institutional and governance frameworks for data; data stewardship; and the role of national statistical offices, in particular in improving data integration from source to use.

16. The Director also said that the Division had contributed to a policy brief on measuring progress beyond gross domestic product (GDP)² as a development indicator, prepared ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Future. In the policy brief, the Secretary-General had made recommendations to Member States on making a political commitment to look beyond GDP as a measure of development; creating a dashboard of

² See [online] <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-beyond-gross-domestic-product-en.pdf>.

a limited number of indicators reflecting a broad spectrum of progress, well-being and sustainability; and capacity-building to enable countries to calculate the indicators on their own. The Division had also launched, in partnership with Google, the United Nations Data Commons platform for the SDGs, which integrated authoritative SDG data and information resources from across the United Nations System into a public repository. In 2024, the Statistical Commission would consider a proposal to make its membership more inclusive and representative. He encouraged the member countries to engage with that process and looked forward to the many milestones and meetings in the field of statistics in the year to come.

Presentation and discussion of substantive issues (agenda item 2)

(a) Strengthening environment, climate change and disaster statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean

17. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC provided an overview of environmental, climate change and disaster statistics in the region. She provided background information and described challenges in ensuring the availability of reliable and quality information with which to better combat the environmental and climate crisis. Progress had been made in the region, and useful frameworks and methodologies to meet national, regional and global information demands were already in place. In that connection, the use of integrated information was key. She also presented the activities that ECLAC was carrying out and the products that it had made available to strengthen technical capacities.

18. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico said that proper coordination and inter-institutional collaboration could generate information on the environment, climate change and disasters. The National System of Statistical and Geographical Information of Mexico featured a subsystem of geographical, environmental, and land-use and urban planning information. He provided a status update and described trends in the production of key environmental indicators and mentioned existing legal frameworks in that regard. Significant progress had been made in the previous decade in the production of environmental statistics aimed at meeting requirements established by public policies and international initiatives. Lastly, he described the international initiatives in which INEGI participated, as well as next steps for strengthening environmental statistics.

19. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) of Peru discussed the causes and effects of climate change. He gave an overview of his country's climate situation and the challenges it faced in measuring and quantifying climate change. He presented the contents of a technical report on environmental statistics and a yearbook of environmental statistics, both produced by INEI, and described the strides made by the country's inter-institutional committee on environmental and economic statistics and accounts. He mentioned the recommendations of the United Nations Statistics Division for the implementation of the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators. Lastly, he described Peru's participation in the International Monetary Fund capacity-building programme.

20. The representative of the National Office of Statistics and Information (ONEI) of Cuba described the state of disaster statistics at the regional and national levels. She discussed the role of ONEI in disaster data management, and referred to the legal framework and inter-institutional arrangements in place. She described the flow of information in the data generation process. She mentioned that the various economic and social agencies of the country's central government had formed working groups, and underscored the need for data to be validated after collection and processing. Major challenges ranged from the use of geospatial information in the production of statistics to the development of a methodology for estimating damages and losses in the first 72 hours following a disaster.

21. In the discussion that followed, the representative of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia underscored the commitment of DANE to the development of economic environmental accounts and, crucially, to ecosystem accounts. Addressing those challenges should pave the way towards better quality in official statistics. The representative of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic said that ECLAC and the United Nations Statistics Division had supported the country in implementing the use of a form to gather information on the impact and damage caused by disasters. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) stressed the importance of data collection and the production of quality statistics. He said that countries needed access to financing to address climate change. There was a need to improve inter-agency coordination and deepen political commitments. Lastly, the representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) referred to the connection between climate change, disasters and food security, and underscored the importance of disaster response in mitigating the impact of disasters on the most vulnerable populations, whose nutrition could be affected.

(b) Progress on the implementation of platforms for access to statistical and geographical information

22. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC discussed the manner in which the organization's data assets had been structured to disseminate statistical and geospatial information, and in which its various databases interoperated, through application programming interfaces, to create and provide access to online products. For example, the CEPALSTAT and CEPALGEO platforms allowed users to generate a multi-level geographical analysis according to their preferences. The ECLAC data strategy needed to be consolidated internally and promoted regionally.

23. The representative of INDEC of Argentina said that, in May 2023, INDEC had launched a statistics geoportals, which was developed in collaboration with the Statistics Division of ECLAC and allowed the publication of geocoded statistical data with multiple levels of spatial disaggregation. The geoportals featured data from the 2022 population, household and housing census, and INDEC was coordinating with other national agencies to define and include indicators relevant to specific sectors. In order to further expand the platform, new work teams were being deployed and levels of authority, responsibilities and coordination among various personnel teams were being defined.

24. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Paraguay discussed progress in the implementation of the national geostatistical portal. The online portal would enable the spatial disaggregation of data from the 2022 population and housing census and offer statistical resources and services to users, on the basis of geographical information. Created using open-source software, the platform would allow the integration, interoperability and exchange of information among various stakeholders. It was ultimately expected that the entire national statistical system would be able to use the portal as a strategic tool for the democratization of statistical information in Paraguay.

25. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of the Plurinational State of Bolivia said that his country had made progress in the integration of statistical and geospatial information; key elements of that progress were the creation of a specialized cartographic and geospatial infrastructure unit within the Institute, and the use of the census exercise as a catalyst for updating maps and making disaggregated georeferenced information available. The country's economic potential system brought together different sources of geographical information used for spatial planning that were produced and compiled by the various national agencies.

26. In the discussion that followed, several countries expressed interest in the topic and acknowledged its relevance. Statements were made by representatives from the national statistical offices of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Panama and Peru, as well

as from CARICOM and UN-Women. They described progress and challenges in the integration and dissemination of statistical and geospatial information and stressed the importance of coordination within and among countries, in the framework of the Conference, to reduce costs and make improvements. They also agreed on the benefit of statistical and geospatial data with greater spatial disaggregation, both for public policies and for the internal monitoring of statistical operations carried out by national statistical offices. It was equally important to protect the confidentiality of the information and ensure that the States acted responsibly as new stakeholders from other spheres emerged. Databases should be interoperable and dissemination processes should incorporate a gender perspective. Also, a working group on geoportals and interoperability would be formed under the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians.

(c) Small area estimation models for the disaggregation of official statistics

27. The representative of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) highlighted the massive amount of available information and the growing demand for more detailed data, and recalled the commitment expressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind. Household surveys as a means of generating disaggregated information were limited, but small area estimation models were useful in overcoming those limitations. He detailed recent initiatives aimed at expanding the use of such models in the production of official statistics and the increasing availability of reference materials. Small area estimation was still not regularly implemented in the production of official statistics in Brazil. Progress along those lines presented challenges and opportunities. It was critical that the estimation models be assessed for quality assurance.

28. The representative of DANE of Colombia said that her country had made progress in applying disaggregation and small area estimation methodologies. The 2022–2026 National Development Plan recognized that population groups for which no information was available should be made more visible and that increased levels of geographical disaggregation were needed. She described the steps for the implementation of small area estimation by DANE and the information available to it for the purpose of data source integration. She also described some of the ways in which DANE had applied the methodologies, and next steps to be taken in that area.

29. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC shared the Commission's experience in small area estimation for statistical disaggregation. He highlighted the importance of small area estimation, described the context in which it was applied and gave a brief overview of how it worked. At ECLAC, the adoption of the small area estimation methods had begun with the publication of a document that addressed existing methodologies, followed by online and in-person courses, technical assistance to various countries, regional seminars and other publications. ECLAC also used the methods to disaggregate some of the indicators that it produced for the purposes of regional comparability, which would soon be disseminated through a CEPALSTAT geoportal. Lastly, he raised questions about how to increase the use of small area estimation in the region.

30. In the discussion that followed, representatives expressed considerable interest in the development of small area estimation methodologies. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Panama said that small area estimation made it possible to identify the specific priorities and needs of the population, which was fundamental for policymaking. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Uruguay called for increased use of small area estimation, not just in testing but in the production of official statistics.

31. The representative of ECLAC highlighted collaboration with international agencies, such as FAO, UNFPA and ILO, aimed at making progress in that area. Representatives of FAO, UNICEF and UNFPA also stressed the importance of small area estimation. The representative of FAO said that the agency was working with countries in the region to carry out small area estimation in relation to food security and agricultural surveys. The representative of UNICEF announced the upcoming launch of the seventh round of Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, all of which would have georeferenced data. She expressed interest in working with other organizations that had greater experience in that field. The representative of UNFPA thanked ECLAC for its work.

(d) The Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

32. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC discussed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. It was important to ensure the quality of statistics, and peer review was a relevant mechanism in that regard, supporting the implementation of good practices and assessing compliance with the Principles. Significant achievements had been made within the framework of the Conference, including the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean and global assessments of compliance with the Code; the adoption of the Generic Law on Official Statistics for Latin America; and the preparation of the *Guide for the implementation of a quality assurance framework for statistical processes and outputs*.

33. The representative of DANE of Colombia presented the updated Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim of the update was to respond to changes in the data ecosystem and bring the Code into alignment with subsequent instruments, such as the Generic Law on Official Statistics for Latin America and the *United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics*. The update included the addition of a new principle related to the use of secondary data sources; an added emphasis on good practices in making statistical information accessible to users; and a new focus on the importance of producing statistical information on groups that had historically been discriminated against or more vulnerable.

34. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Spain discussed the European experience in implementing the peer review mechanism, which aimed to assess compliance with the principles and indicators of the European Statistics Code of Practice and to help member States to continuously improve. The improvement measures identified on the basis of the peer review recommendations were to be specific, measurable, feasible, relevant and time-bound, as well as agreed upon by the Institute and the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat) and evaluated annually. Communication in the peer review process had been crucial for raising the profile of the statistical system and strengthening its ability to produce statistics of the highest quality. The innovative practices identified throughout the process had been compiled in order to be shared with other statistical offices.

35. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Uruguay presented the draft statement on the use of data held by the private sector for the purposes of official statistics. The statement built on a similar proposal prepared within the framework of a specialized meeting on statistics of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). The impetus for the draft statement was the increasing difficulty of collecting data directly through surveys or censuses, which had led national statistical offices to seek new sources of data for the production of official statistics. Administrative records were being used in that regard. However, statistical offices faced with growing demand for information had to contend with increasingly limited budgets. The mass of information in the hands of private parties, in many areas, offered a possible new source of data for low-cost statistical production.

36. In the discussion that followed, the updated Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean received broad support and recognition. Representatives of the national statistical offices of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico and Panama, as well as CARICOM, made statements. One of the most frequently mentioned topics was self-assessment and the importance of its implementation in all national statistical system entities. It was also important to continuously adapt instruments to changes in the environment and to communicate with users and the rest of the system entities. In addition, general support was expressed for the draft statement on the use of private sector data for official statistics. The representatives of UNEP and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data expressed their appreciation for the work that had gone into the update. The statement was an important step forward.

Outcomes of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2022–2023, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

37. The representative of ECLAC presented the report on the outcomes of the programme for the 2022–2023 biennium. He gave an overview of progress and the percentage of activities completed by the 11 working groups for the biennium. He mentioned the documents that had been submitted for the approval of the Conference, and provided a brief description of those that had not been submitted, specifically the outcomes of the working groups on data management, administrative records on children, labour informality, prison systems, input-output tables and disasters. From August to November 2023, each working group would be able to share its outcomes via videoconferences held through the Knowledge Transfer Network.

38. The representative of INEGI of Mexico spoke about the document on guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistical production. The document included a conceptual framework, regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities of the countries, and guidelines for the inclusion of the gender perspective in each phase of the statistical process in accordance with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model. The guidelines were based on good practices and documents of the national statistical offices in the region, and international organizations. She discussed the regional challenges for gender mainstreaming and the conditions necessary to overcome them.

39. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile presented a summary of the document on methodological recommendations on the measurement of the quality of household survey figures. She described the activities carried out by the working group, including the drafting of the document. She detailed the document's contents, focusing on the chapter containing flow charts for the evaluation of estimates and the evaluation of tabulations. The aim was to provide clear and precise recommendations for the evaluation of estimates from household sample surveys to determine the feasibility of their publication.

40. The representative of INEGI of Mexico presented a summary of the document on recommendations for measuring perceptions in household surveys, which was aimed at strengthening national statistical system capacities for measuring well-being on the basis of subjective information. The document included international experiences, criteria for preparing indicators based on perceptions, and a conceptual and methodological framework. It also addressed the need to include a gender perspective. In addition, she presented a proposal of 14 dimensions for measuring perceptions in the region and said that the document included a set of indicators and standard questions for each dimension.

Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2024–2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 4)

Working groups 2024–2025

41. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC introduced the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2024–2025. He briefly outlined the stages in the formation of working groups for the new biennium. A call for proposals had been issued, followed by a regional consultation in which countries had been able to identify the proposals that they considered most relevant. The results of the consultation, together with additional criteria identified by the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, had yielded a list of 13 proposals to be submitted to the Conference. On the basis of comments made during the discussion of the proposals at the meeting, coordinating countries should revise their proposals and submit final versions. The secretariat would then invite all countries to form the new working groups.

42. The representative of DANE of Colombia introduced the proposed peer review mechanism in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was aimed at consolidating a regional methodology for peer review of statistical practices. The mechanism would be institutionalized under the Conference and based on the updated Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean and international methodologies, such as the methodology of Eurostat. Its purpose was to encourage the proper implementation of the Code of Good Practice by the national statistical offices of the region through the application of the methodology and tools necessary to conduct peer review. She then presented the group's workplan for the biennium, which included the implementation of a pilot test that would produce, by the end of the biennium, a methodology, a self-assessment tool and other necessary documentation, revised on the basis of the pilot test results.

43. In the discussion that followed, the representative of Costa Rica expressed concern about the availability of funding to ensure the sustainability of peer review. The representative of Aruba asked about the possibility of including the Caribbean countries that were not members of CARICOM. In response to the concern raised by the representative of Costa Rica, a representative of ECLAC said that financing was available for the pilot test envisaged by the proposal. However, one of the objectives of the working group should be to identify ways to reduce reliance on external financing. In response to the question from the representative of Aruba, the ECLAC representative said that the purpose of presenting the proposals for the 2024–2025 biennium was to solicit comments from the countries with a view to their subsequent revision. In that regard, the coordinating countries were to decide on the inclusion of comments in the final versions.

44. The representative of INDEC of Argentina introduced the proposed analysis of technologies and methodologies for census mapping, to be carried out by the working group co-chaired by INDEC of Argentina and the National Institute of Statistics of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. He provided background information and noted that the overall objective was to draft a document compiling regional experiences in the use of updated technologies and methodologies for the production of geospatial information in the management of census mapping during the 2020 round of censuses, ahead of the next census round. To that end, a self-administered questionnaire would be prepared for the countries, and the results would be systematized and presented in the document. He also presented the group's workplan for the biennium.

45. In the discussion that followed, the representative of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic pointed out the need to take into account management aspects of information mapping. The representative of INEI of Peru said that mapping exercises should reflect the impacts of cities'

horizontal and vertical growth. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Costa Rica said that the group's work should not be limited to censuses, given the importance of mapping in the production of other official statistics. ECLAC representatives mentioned the need for synergy between the working group and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and recalled the commitment to establish, in the 2026–2027 biennium, a working group dedicated to the comprehensive evaluation of the 2020 round of censuses.

46. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile introduced the proposed data imputation methodologies applied in household surveys and population censuses, the aim of which was to systematize international experiences, with a focus on the region's national statistical offices, and to develop recommendations for the implementation of statistical data imputation methodologies in household surveys and population censuses. The purpose of the proposed effort was to establish regional standards for the imputation of missing data and to provide technical teams with theoretical and practical guidelines to improve the accuracy and reliability of statistical data, as well as to strengthen the capacities of national statistical offices. She also presented the group's workplan for the biennium.

47. The representative of DANE of Colombia introduced the proposed recommendations for incorporating small area estimation methodologies into the production of statistics, to be developed by the working group co-chaired by DANE of Colombia and the National Institute of Statistics of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Disaggregated statistics were essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The aim of the working group was to produce a document that would expand the supply of information from traditional sources and strengthen targeted analysis for the design, implementation and assessment of social policy programmes. She also presented the group's workplan for the biennium.

48. In the discussion that followed, country representatives expressed support for the draft recommendations and recognized their importance. Both the representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile and the representative of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica said that small area estimation methodologies were already being used to measure poverty in their countries, and they hoped to be able to apply the methodologies to other statistics. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador hoped that the working group would be able to develop criteria to help small area estimation to transition from experimental use to application in official statistics. The representative of IBGE of Brazil proposed using big data as auxiliary variables.

49. The representative of DANE of Colombia introduced the proposed guidelines on metadata management when implementing the Generic Statistical Business Model. An analysis of metadata management practices in national statistical offices would be conducted in order to formulate specific recommendations to improve the documentation of processes and strengthen management practices in the production of statistics. The aim was for national statistical offices to develop documentation on metadata in the production of statistics, by establishing good practices and recommendations at the national and regional levels. She also presented the group's workplan for the biennium.

50. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile introduced the proposed manual on the integration of administrative data on children and adolescents. The working group was co-chaired by the National Institute of Statistics of Chile and the National Institute of Statistics of Uruguay, with UNICEF serving as technical secretariat. She described the objectives of the proposal and the strategies that would be implemented to achieve them. She also discussed the challenges of working with data on children and the expected outcomes of the working group. Lastly, she presented the group's workplan for the biennium.

51. In the discussion that followed, the representative of UNICEF highlighted the efforts of the working group in recent years. In the previous biennium, in particular, the group had responded to countries' requests for progress in the integration of administrative records related to children. She invited the national statistical offices to join in the efforts of the working group in the new biennium. The representative of ILO said that the child labour surveys incorporating the recommendations of the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians were already available to any country wishing to review the methodology.

52. The representative of INEGI of Mexico introduced the proposed tools for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistical production processes. The objective was to create an online platform to operationalize the guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistical production, bringing together good practices, measures and examples. She described the expected impact of the proposed output and presented the group's workplan for the biennium.

53. In the discussion that followed, the representative of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic underscored the need for progress on such issues in the private sector. The representative of UN-Women highlighted the efforts of the working group, emphasizing the contribution made in the 2022–2023 biennium in the form of the guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistical production. It was hoped that both the guide and the tools for its implementation would serve as regional benchmarks, which each country could adapt and complement according to its needs. The representative of UNEP highlighted the crucial need to include a gender perspective in environmental matters. Lastly, the representative of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC thanked the working group, in particular for the guidelines.

54. The representative of INDEC of Argentina introduced the proposed guidelines for the development of an integrated system of well-being indicators that would go beyond GDP. The purpose of the guidelines was to facilitate the integration of different types of sources for Latin America and the Caribbean, taking a multidimensional approach, and to provide theoretical and methodological guidance for measuring well-being. He presented the workplan for the biennium, which included the conceptualization of well-being, the review of data sources available at the country level and the selection of indicators for monitoring well-being in a manner that reflected the reality of each country in the region.

55. In the discussion that followed, a representative of ECLAC mentioned several international initiatives aimed at measuring well-being and suggested that the working group should develop guidelines for progress and not necessarily build its own conceptual framework. The representative of INDEC of Argentina agreed that the working group should consider international experiences and adapt existing conceptual frameworks to the regional reality. The representative of INEI of Peru said that it was important to develop well-being indicators that measured not just the coverage of services but actual access to them.

56. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Honduras introduced the proposed guidelines for the harmonized production of statistics on forced displacement and migration. The objective of the guidelines was to strengthen the capacities of national statistical offices to implement the recommendations of the Expert Group on Refugee, Internally Displaced Persons and Statelessness Statistics. The working group's aim was to develop and apply recommendations, conduct analyses and draw up a guide for the creation of standardized tools, and to encourage the publication of official statistics on displaced persons, disaggregated on the basis of vulnerability factors and gender, with a view to including such statistics in cooperation frameworks and fulfilling shared commitments. Lastly, he announced the workplan for the biennium.

57. In the discussion that followed, the representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Panama said that the issue of migration was vital, especially in his country where, in 2023, more than 600,000 people were expected to migrate through the Darién Gap. He stressed that national statistical offices must work with migration systems and administrative registries in order to produce clear statistics. The representative of WFP said that the region was facing a migration crisis. WFP had partnered with UNHCR to administer a survey at border crossings in order to identify why people migrate and what protection needs they may have. The representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction said that climate change and disaster variables were key considerations in measuring migration and displacement. The representative of UNHCR, which served as the technical secretariat of the working group, said that quality statistics on the issue were essential to enable States to design better public policies.

58. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile introduced the proposed analysis of measurement of dependent contractors and the informal economy, to be conducted by the working group co-chaired by the National Institute of Statistics of Chile and INEGI of Mexico. The purpose of the proposed assessment was to document progress in implementing the recommendations of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians and in measuring the impact of those changes on the labour statistics of countries, including a gender perspective. The working group intended to prepare a technical document to systematize the results of the assessment and to hold webinars to encourage the members of the working group to share their experiences. Lastly, he detailed the activities of the workplan for the biennium.

59. In the discussion that followed, the representative of ILO, which served as the technical secretariat of the working group, recognized and appreciated countries' willingness to participate in previous years and their interest in indicators for measuring all the items on the agenda of the next International Conference of Labour Statisticians, to be held in October 2023, in particular labour informality. He invited countries to join the working group and offered the support of ILO in facing the challenges that changes to conceptual frameworks and new definitions of labour informality would entail.

60. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Costa Rica introduced the proposed recommendations on strengthening official environmental statistics systems. She discussed the history, importance and challenges of environmental statistics. She highlighted the need for inter-institutional work, strengthened coordination mechanisms and the incorporation of a gender perspective in environmental statistics. The overarching aim was to prepare a document with recommendations on strengthening official environmental statistics systems that were integrated within the national statistical systems in the region. Experiences relating to good practices and opportunities for collaboration would be shared. She described expected outcomes and presented the group's workplan for the biennium.

61. In the discussion that followed, the representative of UNEP recognized the coordination carried out by Costa Rica and the coordinated work with the ministries of environment, and encouraged more inter-institutional collaboration between the national statistical offices and the ministries. The representative of IBGE of Brazil said that IBGE was producing environmental statistics even though it did not yet have an integrated information system. The representative of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic said that coordination was indispensable and that, in addition to the preparation of a final document of recommendations, the working group activities should be organized so that outcomes could be presented throughout the biennium. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile said that environmental statistics and the various global frameworks would be key in strengthening the production of environmental indicators. Lastly, the representative of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction said that the Office could provide support to the working group and explained how the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and disaster risk management could contribute to its final output.

62. The representative of IBGE of Brazil introduced the proposed analysis of area frames in agricultural surveys, to be carried out by the working group co-chaired by IBGE and the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador. He provided background information on the proposal and emphasized the absence of a regional standard or guidance on the development, updating and use of multiple frames for national agricultural surveys. One of the objectives and expected outcomes was a document on the status of agricultural surveys in the countries of the region, which would provide a road map for improving area frames in order to produce higher-quality statistics. He also presented the group's workplan for the biennium.

63. In the discussion that followed, countries expressed support for the proposal and recognized the importance of the topic. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador said that the Institute considered its participation in the working group strategic, given that the products that it developed could also be useful in social and economic statistics. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Costa Rica and the representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile said that the topic was of importance to agricultural censuses in their countries. In the context of agricultural statistics, greater attention should be paid to non-response, the challenges in the incorporation of new technologies and non-traditional methods, such as satellite images, and other aspects. The representative of INDEC of Argentina mentioned the challenges that agricultural surveys presented and the use of technological tools for capturing information. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda expressed his country's support for the proposal, noting the country's efforts to improve its capacity to produce agricultural statistics. The representative of FAO, which served as the technical secretariat of the working group, stressed the relevance of the topic and underscored the commitment of FAO to contributing whatever was needed to conduct the analysis.

64. The representative of INEGI of Mexico introduced the proposed reference guide on police administrative records, which was intended to steer the implementation of the UNODC *Guidelines for the Production of Statistical Data by the Police*, develop a methodological baseline for the administrative records produced by police institutions in the region and mainstream the gender perspective in the statistics produced and compiled by those institutions. He provided background information, discussed regional challenges related to police administrative records and presented the group's workplan for the biennium.

65. In the discussion that followed, representatives of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Panama, the National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala and the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic expressed support for the proposal, emphasizing the importance of providing both technical assistance to the police for the production of statistics and support for relevant national initiatives. The representative of UNEP stressed the need for clear and well-structured statistical information on environmental crimes and their causes.

Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

66. The representative of ECLAC introduced the composition of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean for the period 2023–2025 and detailed its activities in recent months. He said that the secretariat continued to improve the management modules of the system for the continuous update of the inventory of national capacities to produce the SDG indicators, in accordance with the conclusions of the pilot test. The work on building programming interfaces for the online applications and reports was approaching completion. Those outputs were intended to serve as useful input, for countries and system entities alike, in the 2025 comprehensive review of the global SDG indicator framework.

67. In the discussion that followed, the representative of DANE of Colombia thanked ECLAC for its leadership with regard to the Statistical Coordination Group. On behalf of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he requested that seamless communication continue between its members and the other countries of the region, to keep States informed of the themes discussed and agreed on in global forums. Such communication was particularly important in view of the upcoming 2025 comprehensive review, which would require technical coordination among national statistics offices.

Knowledge Transfer Network and related communities

68. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile presented the outcomes of the work of the Knowledge Transfer Network, in particular relating to the webinars and videoconferences—which were available in the “Conectados RTC” section of the Network website—and to the RTC Community. With regard to Conectados RTC, she referred to the numerous events held during the biennium and highlighted partnerships that had been formed with other United Nations entities. With regard to RTC Community, she described objectives and results, and announced the creation of a new community, dedicated to measuring aspects of the care society. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC, which would act as coordinator, provided a description of the community and its objectives.

69. In the discussion that followed, representatives highlighted and expressed appreciation for the work of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile in coordinating the online discussions and RTC Community. Representatives of some countries expressed interest in gathering lessons learned from completed population censuses and sharing them with national statistical offices that had upcoming censuses of their own. In particular, the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama and Uruguay expressed their countries’ interest in following up on the topic by reviving the population and housing census community of the Network. The representatives of ECLAC and the National Institute of Statistics of Chile agreed. The representative of UN-Women appreciated the creation of the communities on women leaders and on measuring the care society.

Working groups of the Caribbean Community

70. The representative of CARICOM presented on the activities of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians, the objectives of which were to expand the scope and coverage of statistical data collection and improve the quality, comparability and timeliness of the statistics produced. He also discussed the Committee’s origins and mandate. The aim of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics was to create an efficient statistical system that aligned with national, regional and global development agendas and contributed to building a resilient community with sustained economic growth and development. He mentioned the main items on the agendas of the Committee and the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics to advance the development of regional statistics, as well as challenges facing CARICOM countries in that regard.

71. In the discussion that followed, the representative of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic urged countries to test innovative measures to overcome the language barriers that often hindered communication with the Caribbean. She highlighted in that regard the Caribbean Association of Professional Statisticians, the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics and the training activities that had been carried out. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC agreed with the representative of the Dominican Republic, thanked the participants and underscored the importance of the Caribbean being represented at the meeting. The representatives of UN-Women and the Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC highlighted their collaboration with CARICOM that had resulted in a joint workshop on gender statistics held in

Trinidad and Tobago. The representative of UNEP said that the Programme had been working on organizing a workshop in the Caribbean on waste management statistics. The representative of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data announced that a workshop on the SDG indicators would be held in Trinidad and Tobago in late November 2023.

Other matters (agenda item 5)

Use of the cloud for official statistics

72. A representative of Amazon Web Services delivered a presentation on the benefits of using the cloud, including cost savings; increased productivity and agility in data analysis; operational resilience, which referred to the low number of incidents and service interruptions; and secure data storage. He also acknowledged some concerns associated with cloud use, such as the potential loss of control over data, data storage at unknown geographical locations and the possibility of cloud service providers accessing the information stored there, and offered reassurances on each count, explaining how cloud services addressed them all.

73. In the discussion that followed, questions and concerns were raised regarding data security and protection, which the presenter duly answered. The representatives of INEGI of Mexico and the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic noted that such services were costly in the context of limited statistical office budgets. The topic of using such technologies in censuses and other operations was also raised. The representative of INDEC of Argentina referred to the regulations of the countries and the requirements imposed on the national statistical offices regarding the geographical location of data storage. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank stressed the importance of the topic and raised the possibility of addressing it through a Knowledge Transfer Network community. Representatives of the Statistics Division of ECLAC thanked the representative of Amazon Web Services for the presentation and also stressed the importance of the topic. The goal was to raise awareness to enable each country to evaluate its situation and make its own decisions on the contracting of companies and services.

Activities of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys

74. The representative of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys said that one of the objectives of the Working Group was to help to improve the methodology of household surveys at the country level. She described the Group's functions and the types of support it had provided to countries, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. She mentioned the publication of documents on disseminating and anonymizing survey microdata and support in the context of data disaggregation for the SDG indicators. The Group had also published a document on positioning household surveys for the next decade, with the aim of identifying priority areas to strengthen and enhance the role of household surveys.

Working group on agricultural and livestock statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

75. A representative of FAO informed the Conference of a proposal to present to it the results and recommendations of the working group on agricultural and livestock statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean of FAO, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. The objective of the working group was to identify strategies and workstreams to improve agricultural statistics and foster regional cooperation. The proposal was motivated by a desire to establish a common agenda with the Conference, create synergies, increase collaboration, avoid duplication of efforts and mobilize resources. He proposed that the working group present a summary of its recommendations at the biennial meetings of the Conference.

76. In the discussion that followed, the representative of IBGE of Brazil expressed his country's support for the proposal and stressed its importance. The representative of WFP also expressed support and said that agencies working on food security faced challenges in supporting governments in the area of agricultural statistics. Agricultural data were key to understanding food and nutrition security trends among different populations and enabling governments to respond to their needs.

International Comparison Programme

77. The representative of the Statistics Division of ECLAC discussed the status of International Comparison Programme implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Some publications on results were available online, and additional information could be found on the CEPALSTAT and Division websites. She shared figures for GDP per capita, expenditure per capita indices and price level indices, among other indicators, for Latin American and Caribbean countries. She discussed the global uses of Programme data and regional implementation during the 2021 Programme cycle, as well as challenges and opportunities for improvement.

78. In the discussion that followed, the ECLAC representative said that statistical quality varied widely across the countries of the region: some had higher-quality statistics, while others needed support to make progress in that regard. She invited countries to make their needs known and indicate how ECLAC could contribute to the continued implementation of the International Comparison Programme in each of them.

Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2024)

79. The representative of the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC discussed the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2024) and the challenge of measuring the progress of digitalization. Digital transformation was important for development in general and for productive development in particular. Policies that created enabling conditions for digitalization were needed. The Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean (eLAC2024) was a regional intergovernmental initiative to drive digital transformation as a tool for economic growth, social inclusion and sustainable development. It addressed major strides in measuring digitalization, such as data connectivity, and challenges, including digital skills, uses of the Internet and levels of technological adoption.

80. In the discussion that followed, the representative of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic shared her country's experience of creating the Digital Transformation Cabinet in 2021, which included a data committee coordinated by the Office. The country had 51 indicators available for measuring the implementation of its digital agenda. She offered to share the experience through the Knowledge Transfer Network. The representative of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador discussed synergies between national statistical systems and telecommunications ministries in the production of information and data stewardship. The representative of DANE of Colombia said that, with regard to data requests between national statistical offices and private entities, support from international agencies would be welcome. The representative of Panama shared her country's experience in launching the *Panamá Digital* programme.

Projection of a video on the occasion of the 180th anniversary of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile

81. A short video on the history and mission of the National Institute of Statistics of Chile was shown to commemorate its 180th anniversary. It described the main measurements that the Institute had carried out from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to the present and the 70 statistical products that it

had generated in that time. The Institute's technical work and institutional independence were highlighted, as were the international relationships that it had established in recent decades. The upcoming 2024 population and housing census was also featured.

Consideration and adoption of resolutions (agenda item 6)

82. The Conference adopted the resolution included as annex 1 to this report.

83. The Conference also adopted the Statement on the use of data held by the private sector for the purposes of official statistics, included as annex 2 to this report.

Election of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC for the period 2024–2025 (agenda item 7)

84. In keeping with the provisions of resolution 2000/7 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the Conference elected the following Executive Committee for the 2024–2025 biennium:

Chair: Dominican Republic

Members: Argentina, Bahamas, Grenada, Mexico, Peru, Spain and Uruguay

85. The Director General of the National Statistical Office of the Dominican Republic, which had been elected incoming Chair of the Conference, expressed her gratitude for the trust placed in the Office. Faced with a complex climate, the statistical community had to be increasingly coordinated in order to produce the official data and statistics needed to advance regional development. As the Conference embarked on a new programme of work, the region faced economic and social challenges of great consequence, compounded by the effects of climate change and other aggravating factors. Statistical offices had a duty to provide the raw material for the design and monitoring of public policies capable of accelerating change. A paradigm shift was needed to enable progress to proceed at the appropriate pace, in order to make the connection between official statistics and their potential to generate results. The new biennium called for upholding the commitment to establish an alternate regional narrative, one that incorporated an innovative, human-centred and rights-based approach to data to facilitate regional knowledge management, promote respect for the environment and foster continued collaboration among countries. Coordination was fundamental to achieving more effective and coherent communication with the countries regarding the work and outcomes of the Conference to create better policies. Confident in the knowledge that she could rely on the support of all members, she said that progress could only be achieved through teamwork.

Closing session

86. At the closing session of the meeting, statements were made by Rolando Ocampo, Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC, and Marco Lavagna, Director General of INDEC of Argentina, the outgoing Chair of the Conference.

87. The Chief of the Statistics Division of ECLAC thanked those who had supported the work of the Conference over the course of the three-day meeting. A great deal of information had been presented and the work had been intensive, with a high level of attendee participation. He made special mention of the Caribbean countries' participation and thanked CARICOM, in particular its statistical area. He also thanked the various agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and representatives of banks for their

attendance. The meeting had brought together an exceptional group, and Knowledge Transfer Network initiatives had been revived. The composition of the Executive Committee had been determined and 13 working groups had been formed for the new biennium. He reiterated his thanks to all participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC. He appreciated the enthusiasm with which the Conference carried out its work and looked forward to the many opportunities to gather again soon, including at the Statistical Commission and the upcoming meetings of the Executive Committee, which had much work to do for the good of the region. Lastly, he highlighted the energy and collaborative spirit of the Conference, and said that the Commission was honoured to serve as technical secretariat.

88. The Director General of INDEC of Argentina expressed his country's thanks to the team at ECLAC. He said that the two years of Argentina's chairship had been very positive ones, and he was grateful for the opportunity to have represented the countries of the region in that capacity. He hoped that he had been able to make a contribution to the strengthening of the region's statistical community. The aim of the Conference was to provide a forum where the region could express its vision for the world and advance its agenda. Latin America and the Caribbean had a voice, and needed to make that voice heard. He noted the Conference's interesting working groups, which highlighted the challenges facing statistical offices. Lastly, he said that INDEC stood ready to provide collaboration and support in whatever way possible, and he thanked the Conference for having granted him the honour of serving as Chair.

Annex 1

RESOLUTION 13(XII)

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its twelfth meeting, held in Santiago from September 26 to 28, 2023,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 of 25 July 2000, in which the Council approved the proposal on the establishment of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission,

Bearing in mind also that the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/7 provides that the Executive Committee of the Conference shall have the following duties: carry out the tasks assigned to it by the Conference; draw up, every two years, a biennial programme of activities of regional and international cooperation on statistical matters, to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Conference; follow up 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,

Presentation and discussion of substantive issues

1. *Recognizes* the importance of working at the national and regional level to generate and consolidate environmental, climate change and disaster statistics and indicators, which provide reliable and timely metrics for decision-making and for moving forward in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. *Calls upon* national statistical offices and national institutions with responsibility for environmental, climate change and disaster matters to work together to better leverage technical expertise in the production of the necessary statistics and thereby make effective and lasting progress on these issues;
3. *Notes* the importance of platforms for the dissemination of official statistical and geospatial information, which use innovative digital technology solutions that enable interoperability of available data assets, for making such information available in a more timely manner and to a wider group of users;
4. *Acknowledges* the role of national statistical offices as key stakeholders in leading and coordinating the dissemination of statistical and geospatial information by facilitating access to data, sharing the methodologies used for data collection, processing, production and geocoding, integrating geospatial data, and developing and promoting innovative strategies for the dissemination and use of statistical and geospatial information through digital platforms and official data portals;
5. *Invites* countries to move forward in consolidating their platforms for the dissemination of statistical and geospatial information using interoperable data ecosystems that facilitate their implementation;
6. *Recognizes* the usefulness of small area estimation methodologies as a tool for the production of official statistics disaggregated by interest group and geographic area, which allow adequate monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and feed a base of reliable information for the design and evaluation of public policy;

7. *Welcomes* the increasing availability of methodological guides, courses and other support materials provided by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and other international organizations, which aim to build the capacities of national technical teams in the use of small area estimation methodologies and encourage the mainstreaming of these models in national statistical offices and other public bodies;

8. *Underlines* the importance of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics for guiding national statistical production, and of codes of good practice as a means of operationalizing them through replicable guidelines based on proven experiences, which help to improve national statistical activity;

9. *Invites* the member countries of the Conference and other stakeholders to continue to support the organization of activities to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, recalling the event held in the framework of the Knowledge Transmission Network in November 2022, and to organize commemorative activities in forthcoming meetings of the Executive Committee of the Conference;

10. *Underlines* the value of peer review systems as an instrument of international cooperation that contributes to the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and codes of good practice in statistics by identifying both strengths and areas for improvement in their application, to the formulation of recommendations for improving compliance with the codes, and to national statistical planning;

11. *Endorses* the Statement on the use of data held by the private sector for the purposes of official statistics issued at the twelfth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the importance of furthering access to and use of data held by the private sector to increase the timeliness and efficiency of the production of official statistics;

Outcomes of the biennial programme of regional and international activities, 2022–2023, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

12. *Endorses* the *Report on the outcomes of the 2022–2023 biennial programme of regional and international activities of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*;¹

13. *Endorses* the Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023², the original 2011 version of which has been updated to bring it in line with other instruments that strengthen compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, such as the *Generic Law on Official Statistics for Latin America* and the United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics, and to respond to recent changes in data ecosystems by incorporating the principle on the use of secondary data sources;

¹ LC/CEA.12/3.

² LC/CEA.12/4.

14. *Endorses the Guidelines for mainstreaming the gender perspective in statistical production (Summary)*³ and calls on countries to make the necessary efforts to mainstream gender in national statistical systems, with a view to generating data that capture the persistence and magnitude of societal inequalities;

15. *Endorses the Methodological recommendations on the measurement of the quality of household survey figures (Summary)*⁴ and calls on national statistical offices of the region to implement the proposed methodologies, to move towards the production of more accurate and reliable data;

16. *Endorses the Recommendations for measuring perceptions in household surveys (Summary)*⁵ and calls on countries to move forward in the production of data on social progress and well-being, beyond material conditions, on the basis of people's perceptions, evaluations and experiences;

17. *Notes* that the complete versions of the documents mentioned in paragraphs 13 to 16 were reviewed and commented on by the member countries of the Conference as part of a regional consultation process;

18. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the successful preparation of the following agreed outputs of the working groups: assessment of data stewardship in Latin America and the Caribbean; recommendations on the integration of administrative records related to children; tools for the production of disaster-related indicators; assessment of statistics on work relationships and labour informality; compilation of experiences in generating statistics relating to prison systems and guide on the compilation and use of input-output tables, and requests the relevant working groups undertake, as a final activity, the dissemination of these products through the Knowledge Transmission Network;

19. *Notes* the deferral of the workplan of the working group for the development of quality assessment tools for administrative records, with a view to presenting the committed outputs at the twenty-third meeting of the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, in 2024;

20. *Endorses the Report on the activities of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean*⁶ and welcomes the progress in the 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;

21. *Thanks* the member countries of the Conference that have served as working group coordinators for their valuable efforts in pursuit of the statistical development of the Latin American and Caribbean countries through the cooperation of the international and regional statistical community;

22. *Also thanks* the international organizations for their support and collaboration in assisting with the activities of the working groups, by serving as technical secretariats or by providing financing for planned activities;

³ LC/CEA.12/5.

⁴ LC/CEA.12/6.

⁵ LC/CEA.12/7.

⁶ LC/CEA.12/9.

Review and adoption of the biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2024–2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

23. *Takes note of the Draft biennial programme of regional and international cooperation activities, 2024–2025, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,*⁷ as well as the suggestions made during the discussions at this twelfth meeting of the Conference, which will be included in the respective report;

24. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to design a peer review mechanism, within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, for evaluating compliance with the principles contained in the new Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023;

25. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare an analysis of technologies and methodologies for census mapping, which will help to strengthen the technical and management capacities of national statistical offices in preparation for the next round of censuses;

26. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to propose harmonized criteria for the imputation of missing data in household surveys and population censuses, thus improving the accuracy and reliability of the statistical data generated by these instruments;

27. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare recommendations for incorporating small area estimation methodologies into statistical production, as a means of increasing the potential to produce disaggregated data that can be used in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies;

28. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to develop guidelines on metadata management when implementing the Generic Statistical Business Process Model, which will help to ensure the interoperability, comparability and reuse of data over time;

29. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group on the integration of administrative data related to children and adolescents, which will improve the exploitation of various sources of information and the generation of data on children and adolescents with more frequency, better quality and more disaggregation;

30. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to propose tools for the operationalization and implementation of the guidelines for gender mainstreaming in the various stages of the statistical process, with recommendations and examples of strategies used in the national statistical offices of the region;

31. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group for the preparation of a proposal for an integrated system of well-being indicators, that will enable coordination of different types of sources for Latin America and the Caribbean as part of a multidimensional approach;

32. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare guidelines for harmonized production of statistics on forced displacement and migration, which will contribute to the design of national policies and strategies and the follow-up of international commitments in this area;

⁷ LC/CEA.12/8.

33. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare an assessment of measurement of dependent contractors and the informal economy, which will systematize the progress made by countries with regard to the adoption and adaptation of the recommendations of the International Labour Organization in this regard;

34. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to devise recommendations for strengthening official environmental statistics systems, with a view to having timely data to help guide policymaking and address the challenges for the region stemming from the global environmental crisis;

35. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to conduct an analysis of area frames in agricultural surveys, which will help to define a road map to support the countries of the region in improving this type of instrument;

36. *Endorses* the establishment of a working group to prepare a reference guide on police administrative records, which will make it possible to adapt international guidelines to the regional context;

37. *Invites* member countries of the Conference to strengthen knowledge dissemination and horizontal cooperation through the Knowledge Transfer Network, by organizing remote meetings and jointly constructing a repository of information relevant to the production and dissemination of statistics;

38. *Commends* the establishment of new communities of practice of the Knowledge Transfer Network to address issues such as the care society, lessons learned from the 2020 census round, women's leadership in statistical offices and the dissemination of innovative practices in statistical production, and to encourage dialogue and the sharing of experiences on issues of importance for the countries of the region;

Other matters

39. *Welcomes* the proposal by the Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to report on a regular basis to the Statistical Conference of the Americas, with a view to receiving feedback from delegations and ensuring the greatest possible synergy between programmes of work;

40. *Recognizes* the importance of various events related to data and statistics that will be held in the region in the current biennium, including the Data Festival (Uruguay, 2023), the nineteenth International Association for Official Statistics Conference (Mexico, 2024) and the United Nations World Data Forum (Colombia, 2024), and invites member countries of the Conference and other stakeholders to participate therein;

41. *Proposes* increasing to eight the total number of members of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the additional seat being reserved for the country that served as Chair in the preceding biennium, without using a slot from that country's subregional grouping;

42. *Conveys* its appreciation and thanks for the work of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina during that country's service as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Conference during the biennium 2022–2023.

Annex 2

**STATEMENT ON THE USE OF DATA HELD BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR
FOR THE PURPOSES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its twelfth meeting, held in Santiago from 26 to 28 September 2023,

Bearing in mind the considerations and commitments set forth in the “Position statement on the access to data held by the private sector for purposes of official statistics”,¹ adopted at the seventieth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, held in Geneva on 22 June 2022, and in the statement on the importance of access to data held by the private sector for statistical purposes signed at the XXIII Specialized Statistical Meeting of the Southern Common Market on 24 November 2022, with a view to their application in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing the interest expressed by the countries of the region participating in the high-level conference on the effective exchange of public and private data for evidence-based policymaking,² which was held in Montevideo on 22 and 23 November 2022, in issuing a statement on access to private data in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 68/261 of 29 January 2014 on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as well as the role of official statistics as an indispensable element of the information systems of democratic societies,

Taking into account also the increased challenges associated with the collection of primary data from persons, households, businesses and institutions, as well as the potential of private sector data in the more timely and efficient production of official statistics,

1. *Calls upon* the countries of the region to support national statistical offices in their key coordinating role in the access to data held by the private sector for official statistical purposes, taking into consideration the different levels of progress of the respective national statistical systems;

2. *Encourages* international organizations dealing with access to data held by the private sector to strategically coordinate their work so as to ensure a more efficient use of human and financial resources, and to support national statistical offices in their efforts to cooperate with the private sector;

3. *Agrees* to collaborate effectively with private sector data providers to ensure the mutual benefits of such collaboration, while maintaining the security and confidentiality of data;

4. *Also agrees* to explore the legislative tools for sustainable access to data held by the private sector for the purposes of official statistics, while maintaining confidentiality throughout the process;

¹ Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), “Position statement on the access to data held by the private sector for purposes of official statistics”, Conference of European Statisticians, 2022.

² See [online] <https://www.data4sdgs.org/resources/key-takeaways-high-level-conference-effective-public-private-data-sharing-evidence-based>.

5. *Calls for* the development, adoption and implementation of standards and protocols and the provision of infrastructure to facilitate access to data held by the private sector;
6. *Encourages* countries to ensure strict adherence to legal provisions in accessing data held by the private sector for the production of official statistics and to use such data under strict observance of statistical codes and good practices;
7. *Calls for* the acquisition of data to be based on the principle of necessity, always with a specific purpose and in the best interest of citizens;
8. *Suggests* establishing open communication and mutual understanding with private sector data providers and the public on the access to and the use of this source of data for official statistical purposes, to create trust and to earn and maintain social acceptability from the public;
9. *Calls upon* the countries to ensure the quality of statistics based on data held by the private sector, including in situations where such data are integrated with data from other sources;
10. *Agrees* to enhance organizational capabilities through training and competency building and the development of data management infrastructures and technological solutions for connectivity, storage, processing and cybersecurity;
11. *Also agrees* to define and promote shared principles and protocols of good practice for cooperation with the private sector in accessing data;
12. *Recognizes* the importance of sharing experiences and lessons learned through the mechanisms established in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas with a view to fulfilling the commitments agreed therein;
13. *Emphasizes* the importance of efficient coordination of work at the international, regional and national levels on the access to data held by the private sector.

Annex 3

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³ Los datos de esta lista son los suministrados por los participantes en el registro correspondiente que se habilitó para la reunión. The information contained in this list is as supplied by the participants themselves, in the register provided for the meeting.

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