

MITAD DEL MUNDO DECLARATION OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

We, the member countries of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Quito on 19 November 2015, on the occasion of the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas:

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to generating good-quality statistics for monitoring national agendas and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. *Urge* the governments of the region to bolster their commitment to sustaining and strengthening national statistical systems, establishing legal frameworks to ensure the professional independence of national statistical offices, consolidate the leading role of official statistics and guarantee the necessary human, technological and financial resources;
3. *Highlight* that it is indispensable to use and facilitate access to a broader range of information sources and take advantage of administrative records and other non-traditional sources, including geospatial information, preserving data confidentiality and consistency with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
4. *Recognize* the need for metrics that go beyond traditional measurement paradigms and that contribute to the process of designing, monitoring and evaluating public policy;
5. *Call upon* the international community to channel resources towards efforts to strengthen national statistical systems through cooperation, technical assistance and financial support;
6. *Urge* the member countries to develop plans to foster the culture of statistics among different stakeholders in society;
7. *Request* the secretariat and the Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas to distribute the Declaration to all member countries of the Conference;
8. *Also request* the Chair of the Conference to present this Declaration to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at its thirty-sixth session, to be held in 2016.