



Distr.
LIMITED
LC/CEA.11/12
22 November 2021
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH
21-00797

Eleventh meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas
of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Virtual meeting, 23–25 November 2021

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



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

During 2021, the Group focused particularly on the activities described below:

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

The third mandate of the member countries of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development concluded during the first half of 2021.

Accordingly, the countries that will represent the region for a new two-year term were elected at the twentieth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC, held on 7 and 8 April 2021. As agreed by the Executive Committee, the representatives were nominated on the basis of a geographical classification similar to the one used to define the composition of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference, as follows:

- South America (two representatives): Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
- North America, Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean (one representative): Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama
- The non-Spanish-speaking Caribbean (two representatives): Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The regional representatives elected for the period 2012–2023 are the following:

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

The Statistical Coordination Group is made up of regional representatives in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and in the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Accordingly, the composition of the Statistical Coordination Group was also renewed in June 2021, in line with the renewal of the region's representation in the aforementioned global bodies. The Statistical Coordination Group also includes two other countries — Chile and Cuba— which currently participate as observers. The tasks assigned to the Group are specified in the terms of reference.¹

¹ See ECLAC, *Proposed terms of reference of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC* (LC/L.4179(CE.15/3)), Santiago.

2. Information system for the continuous update of the inventory of national capacities for the production of SDG indicators

To guarantee the continuous update of the inventory of national capacities for the production of SDG indicators, during 2021 the Statistics Division of ECLAC has been developing an online information system to which information can be uploaded on a continuous basis and which can readily be populated by members of national statistical systems in each country.

The information system includes four modules that will allow countries to manage groups and users, upload information in a decentralized manner and visualize the results through online reports.

Unlike data compilation exercises carried out to date, the new system includes the SDG indicator framework following the 2020 comprehensive review, as well as the indicators prioritized for the region by the Coordination Group. This new system aims to better identify national efforts to address all the issues included in the 2030 Agenda, specifying the type of indicators produced (global or proxy), the level of disaggregation (taking into account the minimum disaggregations suggested in the 2030 Agenda and those specific to each indicator) and how the indicators are used to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.²

The implementation of the system will involve a pilot or testing process in which the 10 countries of the Group will participate, after which it will be made available to the region's 33 ECLAC member countries.

Implementation of this system will fulfil the Executive Committee's request, in paragraph 3 of the agreements adopted at its seventeenth meeting, that member States update the information on national statistical capacities for the production of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, and also takes into account paragraph 85 of the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, which encourages the Statistical Conference of the Americas to continue analysing national statistical capacities of the region to identify areas of cooperation, in consultation with the respective governments, with a view to advancing in the generation of disaggregated, accessible, timely and reliable data.³

3. Platform to improve communication between the representative countries in the global groups and the rest of the countries in the region

As agreed at the third meeting of the Group, the technical secretariat, together with the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) of Colombia, is working on the implementation of a virtual collaboration space where a range of content can be managed by the member countries of the Statistical Coordination Group and thus keep countries of the region permanently informed of the activities carried out within the scope of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

² In line with the work on disaggregations carried out by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

³ See [online] <https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/sca-executive-committee-17-agreements-of-the-meeting.pdf>.

The space has been developed in the Teams and Sharepoint tools, thus enabling information to be stored, organized and shared, including collaboration functions and process management modules. The 10 countries of the Group, with the support of the technical secretariat, will be responsible for keeping the contents of the site up to date, including relevant news and events. It will also be possible to prepare strategic documents online, receiving contributions from all the member States of the region.

The site will also serve as a repository of the reports of the activities carried out at the global level, which have been prepared by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) of Brazil, DANE of Colombia and representatives of the region in the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators.

4. Fourth meeting of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

The meeting was held virtually on 10 November 2021, as a space for countries, the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations operating in the region and the technical secretariat of the Group to reflect on strategic issues in statistical monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region. Representatives from 11 countries and three United Nations agencies operating in the region participated.

The topics discussed included: (i) information on the activities being carried out by the secretariat, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the agencies, funds and programmes and some of the countries of the Group; (ii) features and functioning of the new online information system for surveying national capacities for the production of Sustainable Development Goal indicators; (iii) new reports and progress in the process of updating information on support activities for the production and monitoring of SDG indicators and statistical operations aimed at improving national statistical capacities, implemented in the region by the United Nations system; and (iv) characteristics of the new collaborative platform as a mechanism for sharing knowledge and engaging countries of the region in strategic issues discussed at meetings of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The meeting also addressed issues related to horizontal cooperation and statistical capacity-building activities conducted by the countries, and the linking of these activities with those carried out within the framework of the Knowledge Transfer Network of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.