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Regional Workshop on Poverty Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean

Rio de Janeiro, 10-14 May 2004

Background, Objective and Participants

Background

The United Nations Statistics Division has recently launched a project to prepare a publication entitled *Handbook on Poverty Statistics: Concepts, Methods and Policy Use*. The overall objective of the project is to assist policy-makers and statisticians in member countries to face the growing demand on poverty statistics and related information by building up a system of poverty measurement which is responsive to national and international data needs. In particular, the project will help share experience on the collection and analysis of poverty statistics across different regions, provide countries with an overview over the extensive literature on poverty and put forward the options available at the country level. Furthermore, it will provide some practical guidance for the compilation and reporting of poverty data.

In support of the preparation of this handbook, UNSD, in collaboration with the Rio Group and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), will be organizing a regional workshop on poverty statistics in the Latin America region. The workshop will be hosted by the IBGE (National Statistics Office of Brazil) during the period 10-14 May 2004, and will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Objective

The objectives of the regional workshop are: (1) to discuss the content of the handbook with countries in order to incorporate practical regional perspectives, (2) to share experience on the collection and analysis of poverty statistics among countries in the region with a view of (a) identifying common problems and limitations/constraints the countries face in this area, (b) sharing good practices with the African and the Asian regions, and (3) to explore a regional applicability of a harmonized approach to data collection for poverty assessments within a broad national statistical system and with particular attention to the harmonization of household and national accounts based poverty estimates.

Participants:

The Workshop will be attended by the following participants:

- a) up to 8 regional participants, from Latin American and Caribbean countries selected by the United Nations;

- b) local government officials selected by the Government;
- c) one official from the United Nations
- d) one regional consultant; and
- e) other participants, invited as observers by the United Nations and the Government, including representatives from the United Nations system.

The total number of participants will be approximately 30. The list of participants will be determined by the United Nations in consultation with the Government prior to the holding of the Workshop.