Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2019/210 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on cooperation for regional statistical development. This report highlights the importance of collaborative work among countries and with the UN system to overcome the different challenges for statistical development, making particular reference to the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) of ECLAC and the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians.

The results achieved by collaborative mechanisms, such as thematic working groups, the statistical coordination group for 2030 Agenda and the joint activities between the statistical and geospatial communities, have contributed to the strengthening of national statistical capacities in the region, and provided inputs for processes and setting of standards at the global level. These mechanisms offer the possibility to bring together the experiences and knowledge of national statistical offices and international organizations to address issues of regional concern, while contributing to a better coordination of activities among them.

The Statistical Commission is invited to comment on the work undertaken in the Latin American and Caribbean region and to identify possible opportunities for interregional exchange of experiences.
I. Introduction

1. The “Report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean: recent achievements and next challenges”, presented at the 46th session of the Statistical Commission, on March 2015, described some of the work undertaken in the region towards statistical progress and discussed the statistical challenges that were expected to derive from the post-2015 development agenda.

2. In November that year, the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC approved a strategic plan to set out the values, mission, vision and strategic and specific goals for the next ten years. Such period was considered to include the major challenges that national statistical systems in all countries would face, such as the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, the execution of the 2020 round of population censuses, and the implementation of SNA 2008, SEEA and FDES.

3. Since then, Latin American and Caribbean countries have made progress on different aspects, while many significant challenges lie ahead. The status follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals provides some evidence of both situations. Taking into consideration the number of countries that have presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) or have expressed an interest in submitting reports, by 2020 the region will likely have 34 reports submitted by 23 countries. Nevertheless, on average, only 31% of the indicators included in the global SDG framework are being produced by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with large differences between countries, ranging from less than 15% to slightly above 50%1.

4. Recent evaluations on the status of implementation of the Regional Code of Good Practice and of national legislations also offer clear indicators of the obstacles to achieve fully functional national statistical systems: most national statistical legislations do not fully adhere to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics; less than half of the countries have national statistical development plans in place and most countries have reported a decrease in the budget assigned to the national statistical offices.

5. Different initiatives at the national and regional level have been implemented in recent years to overcome these challenges and support statistical development. Among them, this report focuses on the main results that have been attained through the cooperation among countries and with the UN system in the context of statistical governmental bodies, in particular the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians. This report highlights the importance of collaborative work among countries and in close cooperation and coordination with the UN system to overcome the different challenges for statistical development and presents the experience of Latin America and the Caribbean in this regard for consideration of other regions.

6. The report is structured as follows: The first section describes the basic characteristics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and its recent meetings. The second section focuses on the achievements in the cooperation for the follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals and the coordination among the UN system, in the context of the UN reform process led by the Secretary General. The third section describes some results of the SCA working groups. The fourth section describes the main milestones of the integration between the statistical and geospatial communities. The fifth section presents the activities undertaken in the framework of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians.

II. Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC

7. The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean is the intergovernmental body for the coordination of statistical activities in the region, with the purpose of improving national official statistics and their international comparability. It is composed of the 46 member nations of the ECLAC.

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1 See ECLAC (2019), Quadrennial report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, LC/FDS.3/3.
countries of ECLAC, which include 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and 13 North American, European and Asian countries, and 14 associate member countries.

8. In its Eighth meeting, held in Quito, Ecuador on November 2015, the Conference established a decennial strategic plan for 2015-2025, with 3 strategic goals: strengthen the organization and management practices of the national statistical offices and the integration and coordination of national statistical systems; foster the development of technical and methodological capacities in order to generate high-quality statistical information; and foster coordination and cooperation between the member countries of the Conference and subregional and international organizations.

9. The Working Groups constitute a modality of collaboration between countries that contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. Through the design of a biennial program of regional and international cooperation activities, each of them proposes the realization of a set of objectives and goals depending on the development of a particular statistical issue or area. For its operation, the member countries of each group designate a Coordinating Country and a Technical Secretariat.

10. Between 2015 and 2019, there have been working groups in 16 topics: Administrative records, agricultural statistics, censuses, disability measurement, environmental statistics, gender statistics, household surveys, indicators related to disaster risk reduction, international classifications, labour market indicators, measurement of information and communications technologies, national accounts, poverty statistics, institution-building, statistics on childhood and adolescence, and statistics on public security and justice.

11. In addition, at the fifteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference (June 2016), a group was created to coordinate the implementation of indicators and to support building national capacities for the follow-up to the Sustainable Development Goals. The Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean is comprised by the ten regional members of the Inter-Agency and 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.

12. One of the main goals set by the member countries of the Conference in the last years was to increase the relevance and effectiveness of the working groups, given their central role as a mechanism for collaboration among countries and with the UN System. To this end, during 2019 the Executive Committee conducted a consultation process with member countries to identify the regional priorities for statistical development and then prepare work programmes that were consistent with those priorities. As a result of this process, the tenth meeting of the Conference (19-21 November 2019), discussed and approved eleven working group proposals, each of them with a clearly defined output that will be developed within a two-year period and submitted for approval at the eleventh meeting of Conference in 2021.

13. The tenth meeting of the Conference also marked the start of a new geographical representation of its Executive Committee, consistent with the geographic and linguistic distribution of the countries. Each of the three subregional groups (South America; North America, Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, and English-speaking Caribbean) has two representatives, while members from outside the region have one. As previously, a seat on the Committee is reserved for the country that served as Chair in the preceding biennium. While the number of Executive Committee members remains at seven, the new composition increases the representation of the English-speaking Caribbean.

14. Several high-level seminars have been held in the context of the meetings of the Conference and its Executive Committee. In 2016, the Seminar on the Statistical Framework for the Follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals aimed to address some recent initiatives related to the monitoring of the SDGs, such as the creation of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, the consolidation of regional and national statistical coordination mechanisms for the SDG indicators and the development of statistical planning tools. In 2017, the seminar “Towards the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial

2 See Resolution 11(X) of the Tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.
Information” discussed a road map for the integration of both sources of information and analyzed several experiences in the use of geospatial information for the production of statistics. In 2018, the high-level seminar on the integration of non-traditional data sources in National Statistical Systems addressed successful experiences in the use of such data sources and the challenges concerning quality control, data access, institutional coordination and capacity building, among others. In 2019, the high-level seminar on the Future of Economic Statistics noted the need to pursue a collaborative regional response to the demand for economic statistics to support the formulation of evidence-based policy-making in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to contribute to improving the organization and management of national statistical systems. This seminar formed part of the global consultation to inform the Friends of the Chair Group on Economic Statistics formed at the 50th meeting of UN Statistical Commission (March 2019).

III. Statistical Coordination for Sustainable Development Goals

A. Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda

15. One of the particular achievements of the Latin American and Caribbean region in recent years has been the consolidation of a group that coordinates the work at the regional level on the statistical aspects of the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. The composition of the group brings together different countries that represent the different subregions as well as a group of UN agencies that represent the UN system, together with ECLAC as technical secretariat.

16. The Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (SCG) was created in June 2016, at the request of the Member States at the eighth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (November 2015) to define a governance scheme and generate a regional plan of implementation to gradually cover the information requirements derived from the 2030 Agenda. This group is composed of the five regional members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and five regional members of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with two additional countries as observer States. In addition to the Statistics Division of ECLAC as technical secretariat, the group includes UN-Women, UNFPA and UNICEF as representatives of the regional statistical coordination mechanism for Latin America and the Caribbean of the UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies. As explained below, this framework has contributed to the coordination of statistical activities across the UN system in the region and to the harmonization of strategic support for strengthening national capacities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which is of particular relevance in the context of the UN reform process underway.

17. The Statistical Coordination Group produced an overview of the region’s statistical capacity for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. It implemented a survey of the region’s national statistical systems with a view to identifying the extent to which the global Sustainable Development Goal monitoring indicators were being produced, as well as the causes of non-production, the national institutions responsible for collecting and producing them, the frequency with which they were being produced, the level of disaggregation and the statistical event or instrument being used to gather the information, among other subjects. After its implementation in 2016, two updates have been completed. The main results by goal are summarized in table 1 3.

3 See Quadrennial report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, (LC/FDS.3/3)
Another key product of the Statistical Coordination Group has been the definition of a regional framework of indicators for monitoring the 2030 Agenda. Following the request by member States at the ninth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, the group worked on a framework that should take into account regional specificities, thereby complementing the global indicator framework for the SDGs, and contribute to prioritizing measurement efforts and coordinate capacity development activities. The selection of indicators for the regional framework was based on several criteria, including the regional relevance of the indicator, its inclusion in other monitoring frameworks and the feasibility of its production at the regional and national levels. Although the availability of information was an important consideration, the prioritized list includes indicators for which information might not be currently available. The outcome of the process was a prioritized set of 150 indicators (122 indicators from the global framework, 28 complementary or proxy indicators). It is expected that this regional framework will be useful for reporting the progress of the region towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and will allow a better coordination of horizontal, regional and international cooperation to move towards closing the gaps in statistical capacities.

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4 See the Report on the activities of the Statistical Coordination Group for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/CEA.10/6), presented at the 10th Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas.
Based on the regional statistical capacities for the production of SDG indicators and the set of prioritized indicators, the UNSDG LAC Data Group and ECLAC implemented a mapping of all support actions on SDG technical assistance and statistical cooperation of the UN system in the region. This exercise provides relevant inputs for planning capacity-building activities in the immediate future and for the regional SDG Gateway, described below.

### B. SDG Gateway and Interagency coordination for SDG support

The coordination of statistical activities between ECLAC and the UN system has been particularly relevant in the context of the development of a regional web based platform on the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDG Gateway. This platform, developed by ECLAC and UNDP in its capacity as UNSDG LAC Chair, in close consultation with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the DCO regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean, represents a first step towards the establishment of a regional knowledge management hub, which is one of the proposals by the Secretary General for restructuring UN regional assets in support of the 2030 Agenda.

The SDG Gateway is intended to serve as a one-stop shop for all SDG-related information, including UN offer of services, regional SDG data collected and specific analytic and policy tools provided by the United Nations in response to member countries’ needs. It will be closely linked with the data available through the United Nations Global Platform being developed under the leadership of DCO and to the data and information available from all UN entities, avoiding duplication of efforts. The SDG Gateway will provide up-to-date information on global, regional and national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, including links to relevant information on the institutional processes and monitoring mechanisms carried out by the countries themselves. Member States, UNCTs and the general public will have access to the SDG Gateway, allowing for wide dissemination and day-to-day planning, based on reliable and updated information, to respond to specific regional and subregional or transboundary demands and to coordinate UNDS support in the field.

The proposed regional portal on the Sustainable Development Goals was presented at the Tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, where countries recognized it as a key tool for supporting the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for strengthening the capacities to that end and requested that it be presented at the fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development as a regional contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

### IV. Selected areas of international cooperation in the context of the Statistical Conference

The working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas are organizational arrangements that allow member countries to jointly address different issues that are relevant for the statistical development of the region. Some of their results have contributed to the definition of processes, mechanisms and standards at the global level. Their main outcomes, such as documents, methodological materials and meeting reports, are disseminated through the SCA Knowledge Transfer Network.

### A. Administrative records

In the field of administrative records, cooperation activities have been carried out to encourage their use in the production of statistics. The regional Seminar "Enhancing the use of Administrative Records for Statistical purposes for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda" offered the possibility to share experiences, methodologies and techniques for obtaining quality statistics from administrative records, and to analyze the situation on the statistical use of administrative records in the region. The group also applied questionnaires to assess the quality of administrative records and to evaluate the operating capacity of the statistical records system.

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6 https://rtc-cea.cepal.org/
B. Agricultural statistics

25. The Working Group on Agricultural Statistics carried out cooperation activities through the project “Development of methodology for the implementation of agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”, with the support of the IDB Regional Public Goods Initiative. In this context, workshops and courses addressed the implementation of agricultural statistical systems, the use of satellite images in the delimitation of sample frames, the use of administrative records and evaluation of data sources and the use of electronic devices for collecting agricultural information, among others.

C. Censuses

26. The working group on censuses has focused on assessing and identifying lessons learned from the 2010 population and housing censuses and making recommendations for the preparation of the 2020 census round. It has provided support to improvements in the calculation of population estimates and projections and encouraged exchanges of knowledge and experiences among the region’s countries.


D. Disability measurement

28. The working group on disability measurement has promoted the design and inclusion of questions on disability in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses in the region. It prepared a joint proposal with the working group on censuses and carried out a training seminar on the subject. In addition, regional training seminars and workshops were held on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and its implementation in the collection and analysis of disability data for NSOs according to the census round. Also, a regional workshop on the measurement of child disability in Latin America and the Caribbean was held.

E. Environmental statistics

29. The Working Group on Environmental Statistics has sought to strengthen the capacity to produce statistics and environmental indicators in a sustained and systematic manner, as well as to strengthen inter-institutional work in the countries of the region. One of the events carried out under this objective was the Regional Seminar-Workshop “Development and strengthening of environmental statistics and indicators in Latin American countries, the joint path of the SDGs and ILAC”. Likewise, the Regional Workshop for Latin America “Energy and environment indicators” stands out, from which it was sought to improve the capacity of the national statistical systems of the region in the areas of energy and environmental statistics, especially in relation to SDG and Green Economy indicators.

30. In addition, during this period the Regional Network of Environmental Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean was implemented, to bring together experts, technicians and managers who work on environmental statistics, indicators and accounts in the region. Regular webinars in different thematic areas within environment statistics and the organization of a side event on Climate Change indicators within the COP25 in Madrid have been important highlights of the work of the Network.

F. Gender statistics

31. The 8th Meeting of the SCA adopted the Classification of time-use Activities for Latin America (CAUTAL), responding to the need to have an instrument with a gender approach and appropriate to the regional context, which allows the harmonization and standardization of time-use surveys, as well as the production of statistics on this thematic. The CAUTAL offers the possibility of having a comprehensive and orderly vision of the...
activities that people carry out and the time they devote to them, evidencing the different time assignments of
women and men, and providing inputs for public policies of equality, in the social and economic fields.

32. The working group has also been instrumental in the organization of meetings of information specialists on
time use and unpaid work, which have been held periodically for 17 years, and the discussions and experiences
shared are a fundamental input for moving towards greater harmonization of time-use measurements in the region.
The experience from Latin America and the Caribbean with time-use surveys, where 19 countries have carried out at
least one measurement, has provided key contributions to the development of standards at the global level.

G. **Household Surveys**

33. The working group on household surveys has focused on the identification of best practices regarding the
implementation of income and expenditure surveys. A regional workshop was held to identify the common
challenges in relation to the production processes and uses of expenditure and income surveys, and a document
summarizing the presentations and discussions was prepared. In addition, the group is preparing a document on best
practices on expenditure and income surveys, based on a regional consultation that gathered information on the
processes of statistical design, questionnaire construction, recollection, processing and analysis.

H. **Indicators related to disaster risk reduction**

34. The group produced a document on the conceptual framework for indicators related to disaster risk
reduction, with the purpose of improving the quality of the information and data collected to monitor the
implementation of the Sendai Framework and disaster risk reduction and management initiatives in the countries.
The document presents the terminology on disaster risk reduction and statistics management, the relevant global
agreements, the availability of data in the field and a set of recommendations. In addition, a seminar was held on the
situation of statistics and indicators on extreme events, disasters and disaster risk reduction, which sought to identify
the statistical needs to measure these events and review the availability of sources and statistical series to address
them.

I. **Institution building**

35. The Regional Code of Good Practices in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted by the
SCA at its 6th meeting (2011), constitutes a technical and regulatory instrument with the objective of contributing to
the improvement of national statistical activity and the independence of national statistical offices. Until 2015, the
working group on institution building conducted peer reviews to evaluate the implementation of the Regional Code
of Good Practices. More recently, the working group implemented a questionnaire to update the evaluation of the
implementation of the code in 22 countries. In addition, the group implemented the Regional Bank of Statistical
Good Practices in Latin America and the Caribbean, which presents a selection of actions that have contributed in
innovative ways to the improvement of statistical processes and the quality of information, in coherence with the
Regional Code of Good Statistical Practices.

36. Following the discussions of the “Regional workshop on legal frameworks for the production of official
statistics” held in 2018, the working group prepared the adaptation and translation to Spanish of the Generic Law on
Official Statistics for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, published by the Economic Commission for
Europe (UNECE) in 2016, with the purpose of providing a regional model for countries in the region that are
interested in formulating or reformulating the legal basis for the functioning of their National Statistical Systems
(NSS) and the production of official statistics. The SCA adopted the Generic Law at its 10th Meeting (November
2019).

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8 Results for 14 countries available at https://rtc-cea.cepal.org/es/documento/estado-de-implementacion-de-los-principios-del-codigo-de-buenas-practicas-estadisticas.
9 https://sistios.dane.gov.co/visor-brbp/
J. International Classifications

37. The working group on international classifications prepared a report on the situation of the countries in the implementation of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all economic activities (ISIC), Central Product Classification (CPC), International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) and Uniform Classification for International Commerce (CUCI). It has also developed training videos to support the implementation of these classifiers and contributed to the translation of the Central Product Classification (CPC 2.1).

K. Labour market indicators

38. The working group on labor market indicators implemented the project for “Regional adaptation of new international guidelines for measuring work statistics through the design of questionnaires and methodological guides”, as part of the Regional Public Goods Initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The project undertook an assessment of countries’ harmonization gaps and supported the implementation of cognitive tests to validate and develop household survey questionnaires. As a result, the group published a harmonized household survey questionnaire and methodological guidelines to implement the most recent international standards from the International Conference of Labor Statisticians of the International Labor Organization.

39. The group has been instrumental in systematizing the regional contributions to global processes, such as the revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93) and its impact on labor force surveys. In addition, the group undertook an analysis of the availability of information for the production of work-related SDG indicators, considering their link with the measurement of decent work.

L. Measurement of information and communications technologies

40. The working group on measurement of Information Technology and Communications (ICT) has contributed to the exchange of experiences and good practices in measuring ICT in the dimensions of education, government, households and companies. The group prepared a regional diagnosis of the process of creating harmonized statistics on information and communication technologies in national statistical offices. In addition, it contributed to the production of the “Methodological reference framework for access measurement and use of the Technologies of the Information and Communication (ICT) in Education” (CETIC, 2019).

M. Poverty statistics

41. The working group on poverty statistics has focused on the measurement of non-monetary indicators of poverty and the relevant indicators from SDG 1. A regional seminar was held to discuss the feasibility of improving and incorporating new indicators on the various dimensions of poverty in household surveys. A document was prepared that analyzes the availability, comparability and adequacy of a set of non-monetary indicators commonly used in household surveys in 17 countries in Latin America.

42. With the support of the Statistics and Data Programme of the Development Account 10th Tranche, the working group held a regional seminar to address the challenges of accounting for missing dimensions and indicators, the possible innovations in measuring income and ECLAC methodology for income poverty measurement\(^\text{10}\), the use of small area estimation methodologies for data disaggregation and the contribution of poverty measurements to the formulation of public policies.

N. Statistics on childhood and adolescence

43. The working group on statistics on childhood and adolescence has held several virtual conferences for knowledge sharing, on topics such as the dissemination and visualization of statistical information on childhood and adolescence and sampling techniques for children less than 5 years of age. The group produced a document on the use of censuses in monitoring the situation of children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean was produced, which analyzes the potential of censuses for such purpose and makes recommendations for their

\(^{10}\) See ECLAC (2019), Income poverty measurement: Updated methodology and results, LC/PUB.2018/22-P.
improvement. The group also contributed to the Spanish translation of the questionnaires for the measurement of disability in childhood and adolescence, by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics and UNICEF.

O. Statistics on public security and justice

44. Cooperation activities in the field of public security and justice have focused, among other things, on promoting the questionnaires and methodologies developed within the framework of the Initiative for the Survey of Criminal Victimization in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the inclusion of statistical information on crimes and criminal justice in national statistical programs. A technical meeting was carried out on the topic of security, violence and justice indicators to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals, to exchange good practices in the production of 10 of the 23 SDG 16 indicators and to identify possible official sources for the monitoring of SDG 16.

V. Progress in the integration between statistics and geospatial information

45. One of the priorities for regional development has been the integration of statistical and geospatial information communities. At the Thirty-Sixth Session of ECLAC (May 2016), resolution 712 on the regional integration of Statistical and Geospatial information was approved, opening the space for dialogue between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC and the Regional Committee of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, UN-GGIM: Americas.

46. The process of integration between statistical and geospatial communities has been actively encouraged through several joint meetings. A first meeting between the Executive Committee of the SCA and the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM: Americas was held in June 2016, where some steps were taken to define a joint agenda. The XVI Meeting of the Executive Committee of the SCA (April 2017) included a joint session with the UN-GGIM: Americas, to bring together the authorities of national statistical and geospatial organizations. In November that year, the Ninth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas included the seminar “Towards the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information”, with the participation of the Group of Experts on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information of the United Nations, among other speakers. In the context of the Fifth Session of UN-GGIM Americas (November 2018), the “Regional workshop on integration of geospatial and statistical information for sustainable development: from dialogue to action”, took place. In 2019, two new meetings between the Executive Committee of the SCA and the Board of Directors of UN-GGIM Americas took place. The first, in October 2019, on the margins of the 6th Extended Session of UN-GGIM: Americas and the second, as part of the agenda of the Tenth Meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. As a result of these meetings, the “Declaration on the integration of geospatial and statistical information between the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas” was approved (see annex 1).

47. To support the process of integration of geospatial and statistical information, the geospatial area was created within the ECLAC Statistics Division in July 2017, through the incorporation of a regional expert in geospatial information management. ECLAC has provided support to UN-GGIM: Americas in the implementation of the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) Project, by fostering the dialogue between national statistics offices and national geospatial agencies and executing the regional consultation of the document “MEGA-Standardization of Geospatial and Socioeconomic Information”, addressed to the authorities and technical focal points of the national statistical offices.

VI. Statistical activities in the context of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCSS)

A. Continuation of the Modernisation and Transformation Process

48. Since the last report to the United Nations Statistical Commission by the LAC Region, progress continued in countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) towards modernisation and transformation of the National Statistical System. This process was stimulated by political commitment to statistics at the highest level of CARICOM through the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community.

49. At its Thirty-Seventh Meeting in 2016, the Conference of Heads of Government (HGC) of the Caribbean Community endorsed the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean which comprised specific actions stimulated by
the need to produce the 230+ indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals. At this meeting Heads of Government also agreed that for the purposes of statistical work at the international level of the United Nations statistical system, that CARICOM be viewed as an undividable grouping within the Latin America and Caribbean area.

50. After endorsing the preparation of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics at its Thirty-Eighth Meeting (2017), at its Thirty-Ninth Meeting (July 2018) CARICOM Heads of Government endorsed the Strategic Framework of the RSDS as prepared by Member States with the support of the CARICOM Secretariat, PARIS21 and contributions from a number of stakeholders.

51. The region also benefitted from the convening in 2016 of the Caribbean Conference on The Transformation Agenda for Official Statistics held in Barbados out of which recommendations were developed relevant to the modernisation of the statistical systems in CARICOM and incorporating the Action Plan for Statistics approved by the 37th HGC.

52. A number of Countries continued to undertake work on the development of National Strategies for the Development Statistics (NSDS) that included the conduct of an assessment, review of the statistics legislation and consultations with stakeholders. These countries included, Belize (2017 and continuing), Grenada (in progress), Guyana (in progress), Jamaica (2017) and The Bahamas (in progress soon to be finalised). This work on designing of NSDS has been supported by PARIS21, IDB or by both organisations.

B. Statistical Capacity-Building

53. Statistical Capacity-Building continued in a number of areas supported by the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) mainly in National Accounts. The Secretariat provided support in a number of areas through funding received under the Tenth European Development Fund and from the Inter-American Development Bank. The IDB provided support under two regional public goods project, the first to continue the work from the 2010 Census Round on a Common Census Framework to enable harmonised census results grounded in international and regional principles and recommendations. The Second IDB project focuses on the area of Gender Environment and Agricultural Statistics. This project is complementing support being received from the Government of Italy in these three areas of statistics as well as training in Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX). Canada through the Project for Regional Advancement for Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC) is focusing on four core areas, National Accounts, household and business surveys infrastructure and communication and advocacy. There were a number of other activities based on request by the CARICOM Secretariat or by countries such as in Leadership and Management training, Anonymisation of Microdata and Census support and training in Information Management and Communication. EU support included a pilot activity undertaken on International Trade in Services Statistics as well as support on National Accounts, Social/Gender and Environment Statistics

C. International Comparison Programme

54. CARICOM Countries continued their participation in the 2017 cycle of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) that is led by ECLAC with collaboration from the CARICOM Secretariat. The CARICOM Countries through the coordination by the Secretariat undertook a review of the Latin American and Caribbean list and recommended a short list of additional items thought highly relevant to the region, that were accepted by ECLAC as part of the LAC regional list of items. In June this year, the Secretariat in collaboration with ECLAC also hosted a meeting for countries to enable their completion of prices on the special surveys including Construction, Rental and Education and other requirements. CARICOM countries have also embraced the new approach of continuous ICP activities, and some have commenced data collection for the 2020 cycle. More concrete support including a train-the-trainers workshop has been requested in the past to develop experts in the CARICOM Region that can better support participation in the future ICP process.

D. Preparatory work for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census

55. The region is preparing for the conduct of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census with countries scheduled to undertake enumeration in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Continuous meetings of the Regional Census
Coordinating Committee (RCCC) which reports to the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS). A Census Symposium on the 2010 Round was also conducted in 2014. In 2017 CARICOM countries convened its first meeting of the Technical Working Group for the 2020 Census which served to review the common census questionnaire and methodologies and key census activities such as Census Management, Mapping/GIS etc. The key result was the production of the Common Census Questionnaire for the 2020 Census Round along with metadata. Since the 2017 meeting a third Version of the Common Census Questionnaire has been produced as well as a Guidance Note on key concepts and definitions. As is traditional a Regional Census Strategy has been prepared to support countries in the conduct of their census, to enable the sharing of best practices and finding common solution to challenges as well as ensuring that high quality and comparable data are produced from the Census. In collaboration with other partners two mid-year RCCC and Census workshops have been held side by side in 2018 and 2019. The Secretariat has also prepared an online Census Resource to facilitate networking and exchange of information.

E. Support to Merchandise Trade Statistics

56. In collaboration with the European Union, the CARICOM Secretariat provided training at a regional workshop - CARICOM Training Workshop on the Processing of Merchandise Trade Statistics using the New Eurotrace Software.

F. Continuation of collection and compilation of core areas of statistics and other initiatives

57. Core SDG Indicators were developed and approved at the political level. An assessment of the SDGs availability was also completed. Work continued on compilation of statistics in core areas as well as on the SDG Indicators. Work also continued on a number of projects including on Crime and Security -CARISECURE- Strengthening Evidence-Based Decision-making for Citizen Security in the Caribbean.; The Government of Italy Support to Capacity-Building in Gender, Environment and Agriculture Statistics and a project funded by the Caribbean Development Bank to support the Census is about to commence.

VII. Measures to be taken by the Statistical Commission

The Statistical Commission is invited to:

a) Take note of the progress made in the Latin American and Caribbean region on statistical development through the different modalities of collaborative work among countries and with the UN system;

b) Comment on the synergies and opportunities for exchange of experience across regions;

c) Discuss the global relevance of the progress made in the coordination within the regional UN system to develop a Latin American and Caribbean web based platform on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Gateway);

d) Take note the declaration of the Tenth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas on the integration of geospatial and statistical information (see annex 1) and support the call to establish governance mechanisms to facilitate the joint work of national statistical offices, national statistical systems and national mapping agencies to consolidate national spatial data infrastructure.
ANNEX 1


The members of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the members of the Board of Directors of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, meeting in Santiago on 20 November 2019 at the tenth meeting of the Conference,

1. **Reaffirm** their commitment to strengthening institutional links to move forward with the process of integration of statistical and geospatial information at the regional level, based on the understanding that the result of that integration is a crucial input for evidence-based decision-making that contributes to the sustainable development and prosperity of the countries of the region;

2. **Recognize** the importance of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and its five guiding principles, as adopted by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the Statistical Commission of the United Nations;

3. **Urge** the Governments of the region to establish governance mechanisms that will better support the joint work of national statistical offices, national statistical systems and national mapping agencies, to consolidate national spatial data infrastructure and to implement at the national level the five guiding principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, through the establishment of national geostatistical frameworks;

4. **Undertake** to establish mechanisms and initiatives to strengthen cooperation, the exchange of good practices and the transfer of knowledge to support the integration of statistical and geospatial information, taking advantage of the experience of the countries that have made the most progress in these areas;

5. **Urge** national statistical and geospatial communities to work in a coordinated and collaborative manner on the Statistical and Geospatial Framework for the Americas (MEGA) project, and to contribute to broadening its thematic diversity and increasing its levels of territorial disaggregation;

6. **Request** that the secretariat and the Chair of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean circulate this statement to all members of the Conference;

7. **Also request** that the President of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas circulate this Declaration to all member countries of said Regional Committee and present the Declaration at its seventh session, which will take place in 2020.