



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 December 2014
English
Original: Spanish

Statistical Commission

Forty-sixth session

3-6 March 2015

Item 3 (m) of the provisional agenda*

**Items for discussion and decision: regional statistical
development in Latin America and the Caribbean**

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

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2014/219, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on statistical activities in Latin America and the Caribbean: recent achievements and next challenges, which is submitted to the Statistical Commission for discussion. Points for discussion are presented in section III of the report.

* E/CN.3/2015/1.



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

I. Introduction

1. The first section of this report provides an overview of the architecture and institutional mechanisms under which many of the joint statistical activities among countries of the region and regional and global institutions are undertaken. The considerable number and wide range of activities undertaken in the individual countries of the region through their national institutions are therefore beyond the scope of this summary report.

2. The section also describes a selected set of recent activities that are highlighted because of the achievements and lessons learned in their development and the strong level of commitment and involvement of the countries in the region. These activities represent a significant collective advancement and a platform for joint international and horizontal cooperation, with a relevant level of South-South cooperation.

3. The second section of the report focuses on the vision of the post-2015 development agenda and the main statistical challenges identified from the Latin American and Caribbean perspective.

A. Institutional mechanisms of statistical activities at the regional and subregional levels

4. The Statistical Conference of the Americas, a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) established by resolution 2000/7 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, is the regional body for the coordination of statistical activities.

5. The Conference is composed of the member countries of ECLAC, comprising the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, together with 11 North American, European and Asian countries, and 13 associate member countries. The Conference has an Executive Committee, composed of seven member countries, which is responsible for promoting and monitoring the implementation of agreements reached at the meetings of the Conference. The Conference meets every two years, while the Executive Committee holds one annual in-person meeting, although special remote meetings have also been added recently.

6. The Conference has a ten-year strategic plan, currently in effect for the period 2005-2015, which aims to highlight the conduct of joint activities between countries and international organizations. At the next session, to be held in late 2015, a new strategic plan for the next period will have to be adopted; the preliminary version of that plan will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting that will be held in the second quarter of 2015.

7. The programme of work of the Conference is set biannually and actions under the programme of work are carried out by working groups and task forces. The task forces were established at the last meeting of the Conference, held in November

2014, as a forum for generating specific products and with a more limited scope of activities than the working groups. Both types of groups have a wide variety of members, including one coordinating country (in some cases two) and a technical secretariat, generally under the responsibility of an international organization.

8. At present, there are 14 working groups and 2 task forces, covering a wide range of topics, including censuses, poverty statistics, monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals, national accounts, information and communications technologies, labour market indicators, institution-building, environmental statistics, international classifications, gender statistics, household surveys, statistics on childhood and adolescence, public safety and justice statistics, and task forces on the quantification of South-South cooperation and the measurement of disability.

9. Various coordination mechanisms exist at the subregional level. The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians is the statistical arm of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and is the oldest subregional body, celebrating its fortieth anniversary in 2014. Its tasks include coordination on topics such as national accounts, population and housing censuses, social and gender statistics, and the environment. The statistics programme of the CARICOM secretariat, which provides technical support to the Standing Committee, is also responsible for coordinating and promoting statistical activities in the subregion in several of the aforementioned areas.

10. The countries of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) have established a Framework Agreement on the Coordination and Harmonization of Statistics which, despite not having a specific institutional structure, aims to enhance statistical harmonization in various thematic areas. The Central American Statistical Commission was created in 2008 with the member countries of the Central American Integration System to facilitate the development of a regional statistical system, generate statistical information in the subregion, and homogenize methodologies and definitions to ensure greater comparability. The Statistics Committee of the Andean Community is the body of that Community responsible for issuing non-binding expert opinions in the field of community statistics. It aims to improve statistics and to harmonize related concepts, definitions, methodologies and presentations.

B. Major achievements and lessons learned from notable recent activities

1. Institution-building

11. As part of its activities, the working group on institution-building of the Statistical Conference of the Americas devised the Regional Code of Good Practices in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean, approved at the sixth meeting of the Conference, held in November 2011. As stated in its introduction, the Code is a technical and regulatory instrument, structured by principles and best practices, in order to contribute to the improvement of national statistical activity. The Code sets out 17 principles and 84 criteria for compliance, concerning both the institutional environment and coordination of national statistical systems, and statistical processes.

12. Following its establishment, the next step was to develop a programme of activities to support countries in adopting and implementing the Code. In 2012, a self-assessment questionnaire on the 17 principles was administered in the countries of the region. That survey and other activities led to the preparation of global assessments of the Code. In 2014, six countries volunteered to be assessed for their compliance with the Code, in particular with reference to the institutional environment and coordination component and the principles of timeliness, punctuality, accessibility and clarity. Two teams were formed for those assessments, each composed of two international experts and a representative of any of the member countries of the working group.

2. 2011 round of the International Price Comparison Program

13. An unprecedented number of countries from the region, particularly the Caribbean countries, participated in the 2011 round. A total of 39 countries (17 Latin American and 22 Caribbean) participated actively in the 2011 round, which itself is a clear sign of success compared with only 10 countries from South America that participated in the 2005 round. The 2011 round was led worldwide by the World Bank, with ECLAC participating as the regional coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean.

14. While the 2011 round made it possible to achieve the general objective of compiling the purchasing power parities of the participating countries using the common methodology of the International Price Comparison Program (ICP), one of its the main objectives and achievements was to significantly reduce the gaps in national capacities in terms of price harmonization and national accounts classification, data collection, estimation and dissemination in many countries in the region, especially those of the Caribbean.

15. The 2011 round also strengthened the joint work of the countries, with cooperation between ECLAC and CARICOM, the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the World Bank and other regional coordination mechanisms and organizations involved in the round worldwide.

16. The activities of the 2011 round were conducted over a period of about five years, starting in 2010, the last year when ECLAC reported its activities to the Statistical Commission. During that period, about 20 workshops were organized at the regional and subregional levels to discuss the methods of collecting data on prices and national accounts, and results analyses. A similar number of technical assistance missions were also undertaken to strengthen data collection and the capacities of the participating countries. Memorandums of understanding were signed with seven countries to supplement the additional costs resulting from the extra workload involved in the round.

17. With that round already completed, the main challenge that remains is to develop a viable and sustainable plan for the future of the organizations and entities involved, including ECLAC. Some countries have already changed the way prices and national accounts are collected and validated, using the technical and methodological tools provided under the Program.

18. There is a growing demand for more frequent rounds of the ICP, which may provide more current information through a series of strategic data of compared

statistics on living standards. In this connection, there is a need to ensure that the technical capacities acquired by member countries are long-lasting, and to identify prospects for replicating the activities and products in other countries.

19. There is also a need to maintain the Program as an activity funded under the regular budget at the national, regional and global levels, reducing as much as possible the technical and financial burden of the national institutions involved.

20. This would probably mean redesigning in part the existing global and regional governance structures and data collection mechanisms, including the use of sampling at more frequent intervals and greater use of estimates at the central level, while maintaining a satisfactory level of capacity development in the light of new methodological challenges.

3. Environmental statistics

21. Environmental statistics is one of the fastest-growing and challenging fields of the most recent period. In 2013, in coordination with and with feedback from the countries of the region, ECLAC developed and presented at several regional meetings its strategy for implementing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting 2012 Central Framework. On this basis, and in order to be able to start the regional programme outlined, the Spanish version of that statistical standard will be presented in the short term. This will be complemented by a training programme for technicians in environmental accounting of the Latin American and Caribbean region which, with the support of the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, will be delivered in the early months of 2015.

22. Also worth noting at the regional level is the United Nations Development Account's project on public spending on environmental protection entitled "Improving management of resource allocation for the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean", which is managed by the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, with contributions from the Statistics Division. Much has been accomplished under the project, including the development of a methodological guide for measuring spending on environmental protection by the Government as a whole. The project has also led to the establishment of several regional forums on key aspects of sustainable development, including technical support for the generation of indicators, treatment of greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity accounting, advising of several countries on more specific aspects of environmental statistics (an agreement has been signed with the Government of Chile and another is being initiated with the Government of Costa Rica), and co-sponsorship of regional projects on the green economy and green growth.

23. The project entitled "Strengthening national capacities in statistics and water accounts for the development of evidence-based public policies" was executed in 2011, with the aim of strengthening national capacities to implement the International Recommendations for Water Statistics (IRWS) and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts for Water (SEEA-Water) as frameworks for organizing and compiling statistics on that resource. The project was executed in two countries of the region through a competitive process.

24. The Statistical Conference of the Americas has a working group on environmental statistics comprising eight countries of the region and one coordinating country, with ECLAC serving as its technical secretariat. The group promotes the development of official systems of basic environmental statistics that will serve as the foundation for the regional implementation of SEEA-Water 2012, in an integrated manner within the national statistical systems of the countries of the region. This effort includes a project registered under the Regional Public Goods Program of the Inter-American Development Bank and is being implemented with a schedule that currently runs until October 2015. The effort has three components: regional analysis; development of a strategy and action plan for strengthening environmental statistics; and development of a tool-kit.

25. Meanwhile, ECLAC has continued expanding the coverage of its CEPALSTAT database and has updated the processing of information based on the parameters set out in the Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics (2013). One result of this process will be seen in early 2015 upon the publication of the Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean 2014.

4. Experience from the 2010 round of censuses

26. The region has a great census tradition, which could be said to represent the main source of information on a wide array of development issues. For the 2010 round of censuses (conducted between 2005 and 2014), all Caribbean countries conducted the population and housing census, while in Latin America some countries are still in the process of doing so. Since 2010, 14 of the 20 Latin American countries have conducted population and housing censuses. The majority of them (ten) were *de jure* censuses, with collection periods ranging from one week to four months. The other four were *de facto* censuses, with data collected in one day, although coverage recovery activities were undertaken afterwards. Three countries used a basic questionnaire for all households and populations and another extended questionnaire for sampling. Five countries used digital platforms to capture information, five used scanners and four used portable data assistants. In most of the countries, the delivery of both preliminary and final results was streamlined. Some countries chose to partially release the database with variables that had already satisfied the consistency analysis, while others disseminated the final results with full details, including post-census coded variables, in a span of seven months. All the countries had established basic tables for online consultation; in some countries, tables can be created online and most of the countries used the Redatam program or are working to disseminate the results with this software. Two countries delivered two sets of population data following the census exercise: one is the surveyed population for which information on its characteristics was collected through interviews; the other is an estimate of the population in surveyed households with absentee residents.

27. The topics covered in the housing and household censuses have remained largely unchanged. The information on the forms for individuals reveals the following: (a) the downtrend in the age limit for capturing adolescent fertility; (b) the inclusion of questions focusing on the protection of rights, such as the right to have an identity card or form, medical coverage, access to health care and the pension system; (c) all countries where the quantification of indigenous peoples and people of African descent is relevant included the corresponding questions in that regard and more countries used the two main criteria of ethnic identity in their

questionnaires: language and self-identification; (d) all countries that included questions on disability and on the use of or access to communications technologies asked those questions to individuals, unlike in previous rounds, when some countries included those questions in the household section.

28. The quality of information shows a marked improvement in age-related data and fewer cases of digit preference and underreporting and overreporting at certain ages. The frequency with which some questions are left unanswered has also decreased.

29. While methodologies for assessing coverage have not changed significantly, there has been an increase in the use of information from pre-census counts of dwellings and households, which helps to generate more disaggregated indicators. Likewise, the consideration of registered households with absentee residents has become important for the identification some of the omissions.

30. The average omission in the 12 censuses that have been evaluated is 3.3 per cent, a figure that is influenced by the results of the larger countries which recorded fewer omissions (between 1 per cent and 3 per cent). Six countries registered more omissions in relation to their historical trend, two of which faced serious problems, with omissions of 10 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively. The censuses for these two countries were evaluated extensively to both identify the causes and decide whether abbreviated surveys or censuses were needed in the shortest time possible.

5. Gender statistics

31. The seventh session of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (November 2013) reaffirmed that the plan of the working group on gender statistics should continue with a view to fine-tuning and improving time-use statistics and satellite accounts for unpaid work, statistics on violence against women and gender-based poverty measurements, and discussing and promoting the generation of gender-based statistics for indicators to be included in the post-2015 development agenda.

32. Notable achievements in the area of technical assistance included the time-use surveys in countries of South America and the Caribbean and the technical seminar developed for Caribbean countries in December 2014. Technical assistance was also provided for the economic valuation of unpaid work and the calculation of satellite accounts for unpaid household work in several countries in South and Central America, with the involvement in many countries of the region of a major player in the national statistical system, namely the central bank, along with statistical institutes and mechanisms for the advancement of women.

33. It is also important to note the training activities, mainly via e-learning, such as the fourth course on gender statistics and indicators, the corresponding course on public policies on care, the second course on time-use surveys and the first course on measuring violence against women, which all form a core line of work between ECLAC and the countries of the region for the improvement of gender statistics and their use as input for the discussion and design of public policies on gender equality.

6. Activities relating to the Millennium Development Goals

34. In the framework of the Millennium Summit, the United Nations system, through its organizations and specialized agencies, has contributed significantly to the improvement of national statistical capacities for monitoring the indicators of

the Millennium Development Goals and their specific targets. ECLAC has also worked in a cross-cutting manner across all the topics contained in the Goals and contributed to the overall effort by establishing regional mechanisms to monitor the progress made by countries of the region towards achieving the proposed targets; following up on the indicators of the Goals; supporting countries in their monitoring at the local level; and promoting methodological developments that take into account the problems faced by Latin American and Caribbean countries in the regional context.

35. Thus, through the Millennium Development Goals Statistical Programme of ECLAC, in coordination with the working group on the Millennium Development Goals of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, actions have been taken to facilitate the work of the region on statistical issues arising from the targets set at the Millennium Summit, with a view to increasing the availability of reliable and quality statistical data for monitoring the progress of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean towards achieving the targets.

36. In this regard, efforts were focused on strengthening statistical capacities for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals; devising a proposal for the regional adaptation of the Goals through a set of complementary indicators in line with the issue and the regional context; developing a diagnosis for the existence of gaps and discrepancies in the indicators of the Goals, including national, regional and international reports, and identifying their possible causes; and increasing the availability and accessibility of information at the regional level to track the progress of countries towards achieving the Goals.

37. These efforts and areas of action were accompanied by a work environment that fostered inter-institutional coordination at various levels, the development of common methodological guidelines for the production of statistics concerning the Millennium Development Goals, and support for the building of technical statistical capacities for the proper tracking and monitoring of progress on the Goals. The objective was to create a common strategy between country institutions and specialized agencies with a view to improving the information available, which made it possible to address various factors that contributed to the achievement of the goal in question, including:

- (a) Establishing and strengthening forums for dialogue among various institutional authorities within countries, including with the agencies of the United Nations system and between international organizations;
- (b) Promoting the creation and strengthening of national inter-institutional committees;
- (c) Identifying focal points in the countries and agencies;
- (d) Developing common methodologies to address the various thematic areas of the Millennium Development Goals;
- (e) Creating mechanisms for access to and dissemination of common metadata;
- (f) Building technical capacities, particularly for the production of statistical information.

38. The statistical work on the Millennium Development Goals in the region have generated a significant inter-institutional network among the countries of the region, with the participation of national statistical institutes, agencies responsible for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, sectoral ministries, and regional and international specialized agencies. These key players, working with ECLAC as the convenor and coordinator, have made progress in discussing the status of work and have laid out the main guidelines for designing the action plan presented and approved by the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

7. Statistical dissemination activities

39. ECLAC contributes to the effort to promote and support the production and dissemination of timely, consistent, relevant and comparable statistical information of the countries in the region, as an essential tool for making informed decisions and monitoring regional and international commitments, by using its regional information systems to provide internal and external users with a set of internationally comparable statistics on the economic, social and environmental status of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

40. Given the increasing variety of devices and tools available for the dissemination of statistics, as well as the centrality of improving information systems in the region by implementing mechanisms that facilitate access to information in line with the demands of society, various measures have been implemented to promote the dissemination of internationally comparable statistics at the regional level. In this connection, CEPALSTAT, the portal for data and statistical publications of ECLAC, has been incorporated into the regional scene as a primary reference for analysts of the social, economic and environmental situations in the region, providing access to regional information for comparative analyses. This online data centre with multiple services that facilitate access to information from a relevant, strategic and dynamic perspective improves the communicability of statistical data and indicators, and provides statistical support and evidence for different areas of development of the countries of the region.

II. Post-2015 development agenda and the main statistical challenges from the perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean

41. From the outset, it is essential to highlight the significant role that statistical information will play within the set of mechanisms that will accompany the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The establishment of a global alliance on development data, the call for a “data revolution” by the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda commissioned by the Secretary-General, and the recommendations of the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development highlight the urgent need for the international community to focus its efforts on the development of national, regional and international statistics as one of the instruments for the implementation of the development agenda as a whole.

42. An unprecedented opportunity has been offered to define and generate a turning point in the production of official statistics and the creative, relevant and responsible combination of such statistics with non-official statistics, which, if

implemented, will break with the traditional paradigm of statistical systems at any of their levels of implementation.

43. The advent of new technologies that have made it possible to establish a wider variety of collection mechanisms and sources of information has given rise to still-unresolved challenges regarding the use of unofficial information and data for producing official statistics. This is why the big data generated still require harmonization and reliability work to enable the production of statistics in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

44. This challenge can only be addressed by creating synergies between the players in the statistical system that would help to strengthen the statistical capacities of countries to establish institutionally robust and sustainable national statistical systems and to confront the challenge of developing mechanisms for the governance of all official and unofficial statistics.

45. The consolidation of basic statistics and the development of measurements for emerging issues will only be possible upon the elaboration of a strategy that dovetails with the national strategies for the development of statistics and promotes the establishment of technically sound institutions with genuine resources to ensure their continuity and impartiality. This can and should provide a sustainable foundation for the system of basic statistics in compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

46. It is essential to promote the sustainability of the existing mechanisms for gathering and generating statistical data and to reject ad hoc mechanisms that do not assure the institutionalization or continuity of such data. Efforts should include actions to strengthen national statistical systems by allocating stable and duly remunerated human resources and financial resources that ensure the continuity of the information-gathering processes implemented; and facilitating access to statistical information and open dissemination of results, to ensure that decisions are made based on sound statistical evidence and that there is accountability.

47. Given the significant inter-sectoral nature of the new agenda, it is imperative to establish inter-institutional arrangements to ensure the participation of all generators of official statistics. Experience in the region has revealed very good practices concerning the statistical aspects of the monitoring framework for the Millennium Development Goals, including the establishment of inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary teams in many countries of the region which has facilitated the development of national monitoring reports and the establishment of statistical information systems led by statistical institutions in their capacity as the driving forces behind national statistical systems.

48. However, much remains to be done, given the limitations that persist with regard to basic statistics, the generation of statistics from administrative records, the quantification of inequality measurements, and the disaggregation of information for the identification of social, economic and environmental gaps.

49. In this regard and in relation to the status of basic statistics, each year, ECLAC processes and sends out a questionnaire to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean facing unresolved issues and challenges that jeopardize the implementation of the international recommendations on economic statistics, especially in the area of national accounts.

50. The more relevant challenges include those caused by problems of access to information by government entities; the ineffectiveness of existing legislation in the event that the private sector fails to respond; and the lack of support manifested mainly in the shortage of human and financial resources.

51. The more specific challenges include lags in the adoption of international classifications; lack of consistency in the compilation of household income and expenditure surveys; incomplete and outdated business directories; failure to compile producer price indexes; weakness in statistics related to non-financial services; and scarcity of business statistics, which affects the quality of quarterly national accounts and monthly indicators of economic activity.

52. In other areas, for example in terms of gender indicators, the current challenge goes beyond the gender-based disaggregation of indicators for monitoring the post-2015 development agenda. In particular, the existing stock of databases and administrative records that have not been analysed from a gender perspective should be considered. In most cases, based on how they are built and by tradition, they are viewed solely from the perspective of their subject matter and as not being relevant to gender. However, much of the information that is used today in the field of development and its various thematic areas would be very useful if it included a gender analysis perspective. This, however, points to the need for more active interaction between technicians who design and use the information and gender specialists to discover the potential that these databases have in terms of gender analysis (economic surveys, agricultural censuses, surveys of industrial facilities, business directories, business registration records, public safety surveys and records, etc.). The possibilities of the subsidiary bodies of ECLAC engaging in the implementation and monitoring of this agenda are very clear in the case of gender equality, since the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Statistical Conference of the Americas create a positive synergy for the generation and use of statistical information relevant to public policy, through the relationship between generators and users, which is a key element to help achieve the goals related to gender equality.

53. Taking up the challenge as a whole, the Latin American and Caribbean countries continue to show marked asymmetries in the development of their national statistical systems within and between themselves. The Latin American and Caribbean statistical community involved in the generation of official statistics will have to continue its efforts to address the challenge of implementing information-gathering mechanisms that will allow for the disaggregation of indicators in line with national and sub-national realities, thus helping to monitor the overall achievement of the proposed goals. More and better statistics based on government records is one way of facilitating the task in this regard. In recent years, the region has made significant progress in setting up records information systems as a supporting tool for public and private management. However, these efforts have not been the same in all sectors. Biases and less universal coverage in some countries and in some sectors persist. Nonetheless, a look at the use and sustainability of these efforts over time shows that they may be one of the main steps towards establishing statistical information systems that allow for disaggregation commensurate with the challenges of the new agenda.

54. These topics, which were present at the Millennium Summit and are also reflected in the post-2015 development agenda, are accompanied by new challenges

in the field of statistics. There will be a need to consolidate environmental statistics, develop internationally comparable measurements for issues such as food security, sustainable agriculture, welfare, quality of education, lifelong learning opportunities, energy, inclusive and resilient cities, consumption and production patterns, climate change, biodiversity, peaceful and inclusive societies, and governance.

55. The Latin American and Caribbean region will have to address these new demands in an articulated manner, with the support of relevant agencies, in order to allow for statistical development at the local level that ensures not only the generation of data, but also the establishment of two separate, robust, quality and sustainable systems, and to set up expert bodies to ensure their continuity.

56. Addressing these issues will involve work by all members of the statistical community, who will have to combine their efforts through the regional implementation of actions defined globally, but taking into account the sensitivities of national situations and contexts and based on a thorough knowledge of their existing priorities and strengths.

57. In this connection, regional intergovernmental bodies under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean are the suitable forum for developing action plans in this area. Specifically, the Statistical Conference of the Americas has been a powerful institutional instrument that has made it possible to perform tasks related to the indicators for the Millennium Development Goals through its ad hoc working group, and to develop a medium- and long-term strategy that echoes the challenges of the post-2015 development agenda. The new strategic plan of the Statistical Conference of the Americas for the next decade (2015-2025) will address these issues from a regional perspective based on national realities. The commitment of the countries of the region through the exchange of experiences and good practices, support for the development of statistics related to data collection mechanisms, methodologies for calculating indicators, implementation of information systems online, and means of dissemination and communication of results in monitoring international commitments are important components of the overall capital that has been built over the last ten years of regional work. It seems clear that the institutional groundwork has been laid for the implementation of a more ambitious plan in line with the new challenges.

58. The Latin American and Caribbean region has to fulfil an arduous, complex, challenging yet stimulating agenda in order to contribute to a substantial change in the design of national statistical systems and their linkages with development strategies, in an effort to help generate more and better statistical information for the monitoring of the post-2015 development agenda and the elaboration of evidence-based public policies that promote the development of the nations of the region.

III. Points for discussion

59. The Commission is invited to comment on the present report, in particular on the main challenges faced in strengthening national statistical systems in Latin American and Caribbean countries and generating the statistical information required by the post-2015 development agenda for the elaboration of evidence-based development policies.