Distr.
LIMITED
LC/CEA.13/7
20 November 2025
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH
2500625[E]

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

Santiago, 25–27 November 2025

BIENNIAL PROGRAMME OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES, 2026–2027, OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

CONTENTS

Page

INTRODUCTION 3

I. DATA GOVERNANCE IN NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS 4

II. EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS 6

III. READINESS OF DATA AND METADATA FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE 9

IV. INTEGRATION OF STATISTICAL AND GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION 12

V. POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS 16

VI. STATISTICAL BUILDING AND POPULATION REGISTERS AND THEIR USE IN CENSUSES 19

VII. GOOD PRACTICES DERIVED FROM THE 2020 ROUND OF THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 23

VIII. HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS 26

IX. CLASSIFICATION OF TIME-USE ACTIVITIES FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 32

X. REGIONAL GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATORS 35

XI. ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING 39

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the proposed outputs selected for implementation by the working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the 2026–2027 biennium.

Through a call for proposals, all national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean were invited to submit, from 24 June to 15 August 2025, proposed outputs to be developed over the next two years. Twenty-nine proposals were received from nine countries.[1] Subsequently, the Executive Committee, with support from the technical secretariat of the Conference, reviewed the proposals using several criteria: (i) the clarity with which the product was defined; (ii) the novelty of the topic compared with those addressed in previous bienniums; (iii) consistency with the region's current level of progress; (iv) the substantive scope needed to sustain a working group over a two-year period; and (v) the absence of overlap with other initiatives. Each proposal was also examined for its alignment with the objectives of the Strategic Plan, 2026–2035. As a result of this process, the Executive Committee selected the 13 proposals with the highest scores and suggested merging two pairs owing to the similarity of their topics, resulting in a total of 11 proposals hereby submitted for adoption at the thirteenth meeting of the Statistical Conference.

The aim of the selected proposals is to contribute to the development of official statistics through the preparation of guidelines and recommendations in: (i) data governance; (ii) experimental statistics; (iii) data for artificial intelligence; (iv) integration of statistical and geospatial information; (v) population projections; (vi) use of administrative records in censuses; (vii) agricultural censuses; (viii) household and education surveys; (ix) time use (Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean); (x) gender and climate change; and (xi) environment statistics.

The following sections describe each proposal, including its rationale, objectives, expected outcomes and workplan.

[1] Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru and Uruguay.

I. DATA GOVERNANCE IN NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS

1. Coordinating country

Dominican Republic: National Statistical Office (ONE)

2. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

For many countries in the region, establishing clear and functional data governance frameworks presents significant challenges, which translate into shortfalls in timely access to data, technological and regulatory interoperability and the application of ethical information exchange protocols among public institutions. The absence of common guidelines and shared standards hampers the consolidation of more robust, secure and transparent statistical infrastructures, which limits the effective use of data, leads to duplication of institutional efforts and may undermine public trust in official statistics.

At the international and regional levels, there is a clear trend towards approaches based on maturity frameworks, centralized catalogues and metadata, data architecture (such as data hubs or controlled data lakes) and a strong emphasis on data protection and responsible openness. Likewise, growing attention is being paid to compliance with legal frameworks on privacy and ethics in the use of statistical information, requiring national statistical systems to incorporate robust anonymization processes and risk control mechanisms.

Analytical assessments reveal that, although national statistical systems have developed ad hoc initiatives aimed at data quality management and dissemination through open data portals, significant structural gaps persist, including the absence of a comprehensive data governance framework, the lack of clearly defined roles and responsibilities, the fragmentation and heterogeneity of information catalogues and the limited institutional capacity for data management and standardization. These weaknesses create risks of non-compliance with data protection regulations, constrain inter-agency interoperability and may compromise public trust in official statistics.

In this context, a formally adopted and implemented data governance policy is considered a priority, with defined institutional roles and responsibilities, a unified catalogue of data and metadata, and quality indicators. These actions form the basis for strengthening public trust, ensuring inter-agency consistency and positioning national statistical systems as models of responsible information management.

The proposed working group on data governance is envisaged as a technical and institutional space to support comprehensive data management by the national statistical systems of the region. Its role is strategic, as it will help to coordinate dispersed efforts, harmonize methodological and technological standards, define roles and responsibilities and foster an organizational culture of data protection and responsible data use.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Prepare a regional guide that provides technical and strategic guidelines to strengthen data governance in national statistical systems.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Systematize regional and international good practices in data governance.

(ii) Propose a conceptual framework tailored to the region.

(iii) Develop practical recommendations for institutionalizing policies on open data, data protection and inter-agency collaboration.

(iv) Provide national statistical offices with tools to conduct a self-assessment of data governance practices.

5. Expected outcome

Countries will have a clear road map and tools for modernizing statistical governance, thereby strengthening public trust and improving coordination among national statistical system stakeholders.

6. Gender mainstreaming

The guide will incorporate gender-equity principles in data access, use and protection and possible mechanisms to prevent gender bias in data governance processes.

7. Workplan

Activity	Start date	End date
Review of literature and regional case studies	January 2026	April 2026
Regional workshop to identify experiences	May 2026	June 2026
Drafting of the guide	July 2026	November 2026
Peer review and regional approval	December 2026	April 2027
Finalization of draft and submission for adoption	May 2027	August 2027

II. EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS

1. Coordinating country

Ecuador: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC)

2. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

Experimental statistics have become a key tool for addressing emerging challenges (e.g. digital economy, climate change and technological innovation) that require more timely, specific and relevant information for decision-making. They enable national statistical offices to explore non-traditional data sources and methodologies to generate statistics that complement or expand official statistics. This process follows an iterative approach: prototype design is followed by evaluation and documentation of results; the output, if deemed viable, is then incorporated into regular statistical production.

However, the incorporation of these initiatives within national statistical offices faces methodological, quality and governance challenges. From a methodological perspective, challenges relate to data coverage and representativeness, inherent selection bias in non-probabilistic data sources, difficulties in establishing sampling frames and the risk of model overfitting. Regarding quality, limitations include process traceability, reproducibility of results and comparability over time and across countries. In terms of governance, challenges include confidentiality restrictions, personal data protection, dependence on private data providers and the need for methodological transparency and ethical evaluation in the use of models.

In Latin America, a number of national statistical offices have made progress in implementing experimental projects, including the use of big data and the integration of administrative records, digital sources, automatic classification algorithms and statistical modelling. These efforts both highlight the potential of experimental statistics to complement traditional statistical operations and reveal the absence of shared guidelines on concepts, taxonomies, documentation standards and criteria to guide the transition of statistics from experimental to official.

At present, the region's national statistical offices follow a variety of internal protocols and guidelines. While their existence represents significant progress, they lack a common framework to guide key aspects, such as: (i) operational definitions and scope of "experimental"; (ii) validation criteria (quality metrics, replicability, robustness and sensitivity); (iii) responsible dissemination practices (explicit labelling as experimental, metadata description and disclosure of assumptions and limitations); (iv) thresholds and criteria for integration into official statistics (methodological stability, sufficiency of time series, costs and required capacities); and (v) governance and ethics (risk management, impact assessment, privacy safeguards and secure data access). The lack of standardization in these processes hinders comparability across countries, undermines user and policymaker confidence and may generate confusion among the public regarding the status and appropriate use of these products.

The proposed working group would aim to identify national experiences, consolidate good practices and develop a methodological proposal to guide the formalization of experimental statistics in the region. Moving towards shared definitions and protocols will enable the region to enhance comparability,

improve quality and strengthen confidence in experimental statistics, paving the way for its gradual and secure integration into official statistical production once predefined criteria are met. This initiative will thus contribute to building more innovative and robust statistical systems, capable of responding effectively to the information needs of constantly evolving societies.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Formulate regional recommendations to guide the production and formalization of experimental statistics through the identification of technical criteria, institutional protocols and good practices in Latin America.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Systematize national experiences in the production of experimental statistics and their transition towards official statistics.

(ii) Develop a conceptual framework for the production of experimental statistics.

(iii) Propose recommendations, guidelines and quality criteria for the production and formalization of experimental statistics.

(iv) Promote the adoption of emerging methodological approaches, such as machine learning, data integration, predictive modelling and big data.

(v) Foster the sharing of knowledge and methodological approaches on the production and formalization of experimental statistics among national statistical offices in the region.

5. Expected outcome

- Strengthen collaboration and the sharing of experiences among national statistical offices, promoting the use of innovative methods in statistical production.
- Help to identify opportunities to apply and integrate non-traditional methods into national statistical systems.
- Promote the creation of networks and spaces for cooperation focused on methodological innovation and the production of experimental statistics.
- Lay the foundation for future regional initiatives on incorporating experimental statistics into the regular production of official statistics.

6. Gender mainstreaming

The working group will integrate a gender perspective in a systematic and cross-cutting manner to ensure that advances in statistical innovation help to identify and narrow gender gaps, using equity-based criteria to guide key decisions and disaggregating information by sex and other relevant variables whenever possible.

7. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date	Remarks
Regional assessment of projects on experimental statistics and mapping of initiatives	January 2026	April 2026	Preparation of the document structure and specific content; data collection in the member countries concerned; virtual consultations through structured questionnaires and interviews
Mapping and analysis of innovative methodologies in the region	May 2026	August 2026	Cross-cutting focus on different statistical areas; includes review of documentation and contact with statistical offices of other countries; incorporates an inventory of ongoing experimental statistics initiatives in the region
First regional workshop: initiatives in experimental statistics	September 2026	September 2026	Virtual meeting; presentation of regional consultation results and review of international experiences
Design of the conceptual reference framework for the production of experimental statistics	October 2026	February 2027	Based on inputs from assessment and technical consultations
Second regional workshop: presentation of findings on experimental statistics and feedback	March 2027	March 2027	Virtual meeting
Technical validation of the proposal with experts and national statistical offices from countries of the region	April 2027	June 2027	
Refinements and consolidation of the final document	August 2027	October 2027	Incorporation of comments

III. READINESS OF DATA AND METADATA FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

1. Coordinating country

Chile: National Institute of Statistics (INE)

2. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

Timely access to understandable official statistics is critical for sustainable development, democratic governance and evidence-based public policy design. However, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean face common challenges in their capacity to disseminate data in accessible formats, particularly amid growing demand from researchers, policymakers and the general public, who are increasingly using artificial intelligence technologies to access information. The proposed working group aims to develop a regional practical guide for the publication of data and metadata ready for use by large language models, recognizing the necessity of artificial intelligence readiness and guided by the imperative of adapting to user needs.

This effort responds to calls from international organizations emphasizing the need to modernize public data infrastructure in line with the digital transformation. For instance, the International Monetary Fund framework for managing the data life cycle and the World Bank initiative on fostering artificial intelligence readiness and responsible redistribution of official statistics explicitly recommend moving towards open, structured and standardized data formats with machine-readable metadata. Likewise, the High-level Group for the Modernization of Official Statistics of the Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has highlighted the urgency of adapting statistical systems to new technologies, including generative artificial intelligence. In addition, the Inter-American Development Bank, in its 2025 publication *Artificial Intelligence Framework for the Inter-American Development Bank Group*, notes that there is considerable scope for countries in the region to strengthen their artificial intelligence readiness.

The aim of the proposed working group is to reach agreements and formulate regional standards to advance artificial intelligence readiness within the region's national statistical offices, addressing two of the challenges identified in the Strategic Plan, 2026–2035, of the Statistical Conference of the Americas: methodological and technological innovation, and the dissemination and accessibility of statistics.

The objectives proposed for this working group will enable both specialized and non-specialized users and institutions to access accurate and reliable official statistics when executing queries using artificial intelligence models, such as large language models. Developing this capacity is an increasingly urgent need shared by statistical institutions throughout the region, given the rapid progress and widespread adoption of tools powered by artificial intelligence in the public and private sectors. In response to this shared need, the proposed working group seeks to provide a joint solution that will generate economies of scale, avoid the duplication of efforts and establish sustainable mechanisms for technical cooperation among participating countries.

The regional and coordinated nature of the working group of the Statistical Conference will help to raise awareness of the concept of artificial intelligence readiness and of the challenges associated with publishing data in light of this technology's increasingly significant role. The working group's activities will help to create linkages with other ongoing initiatives, platforms, standards and systems pursuing similar objectives in Latin America and the Caribbean. This will enhance potential for interoperability and foster strategic partnerships among countries for deeper and more systematic cooperation in the future.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Develop a practical guide for the national statistical offices of Latin America and the Caribbean on the publication of data and metadata ready for use in artificial intelligence applications.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Prepare a technical report comparing the most widely used standards for publishing data and metadata and recommend the standard best suited for use in artificial intelligence models in the region.

(ii) Carry out a practical exercise using a basic set of official indicators from one of the region's statistical offices, applying the recommended standard.

(iii) Within the framework of the Statistical Conference, create a network of professionals specializing in technology, innovation and artificial intelligence to ensure ongoing coordination on regional challenges in these areas.

5. Expected outcome

A practical guide will be jointly developed by the member countries of the working group for the national statistical offices in Latin American and Caribbean countries to publish data and metadata ready for use in artificial intelligence applications in line with the data access requirements of large language models. Building on regional cooperation, this initiative aims to develop institutional capacities within national statistical offices to progressively adapt to the constantly evolving landscape and ongoing challenges of artificial intelligence, and seeks to create a regional network of professionals from these offices specializing in technology, innovation and artificial intelligence.

6. Gender mainstreaming

The working group will systematically integrate a gender perspective throughout all stages of product development, ensuring that the practical guide promotes gender equality in statistics and strengthens institutional capacities to produce, document and disseminate gender-sensitive data and metadata ready for artificial intelligence.

Specifically, the recommended standards and good practices will include guidance on:

- Publishing sex-disaggregated data and other sociodemographic data in open and structured formats that facilitate their integration and use in artificial intelligence models;
- Ensuring the availability of metadata enriched with a gender perspective, allowing large language models to correctly identify and contextualize the gender dimension in indicators;
- Prioritizing demonstrative use cases that draw on gender-related indicators relevant to the region and show how proper data and metadata readiness enhances the quality and relevance of information extracted through artificial intelligence tools.

In addition, the initiative will seek gender-balanced participation in the working group, encouraging the involvement of both women and men experts on gender, statistics and artificial intelligence in the design and technical validation of the guide.

In this way, the guide will not only boost the technological modernization and artificial intelligence readiness of the region's national statistical offices but will also directly contribute to narrowing gaps in both information and participation, thereby strengthening the production of official statistics with a gender perspective.

7. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date
Establishment of the working group	January 2026	January 2026
Agreement of the workplan for the preparation of the technical report comparing the most widely used standards for publishing data and metadata and recommending the standard best suited for use by artificial intelligence models in the region	January 2026	February 2026
Preparation of the technical report	February 2026	August 2026
Preparation of the first partial submission: annotated index of the practical guide for the national statistical offices in Latin American and Caribbean countries on the publication of data and metadata ready for use in artificial intelligence applications	March 2026	April 2026
Implementation of a practical exercise using a basic set of official indicators from one of the region's statistical offices, applying the recommended standard	September 2026	December 2026
Development of the practical guide	October 2026	June 2027
Workshop to disseminate the results presented in the technical report and practical pilot exercise, and to prepare recommendations for inclusion in the practical guide	January 2027	January 2027
Delivery of the second draft of the final output, including the final index and 60% of the final content of the practical guide	April 2027	April 2027
Review of the practical guide and submission of comments by member countries and the technical secretariat	June 2027	July 2027
Finalization and delivery of outputs	July 2027	August 2027
Presentation of the practical guide for adoption by the Statistical Conference of the Americas	August 2027	August 2027

IV. INTEGRATION OF STATISTICAL AND GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION

1. Coordinating country

Argentina: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC)

2. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

The integration of statistical and geospatial information is a high-level priority in the programmes of work of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). Both bodies have recognized its importance in supporting national, regional and global development agendas, in particular the 2020 census round and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2013, the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information was established, composed of members of the statistical and geospatial communities of Member States and other international bodies with competencies in these areas. The Expert Group has submitted reports to both the Statistical Commission and UN-GGIM.

One of the Expert Group's most relevant outputs is the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF), a set of principles and guidelines to inform the joint work of national statistical offices and national geospatial agencies in integrating statistical and geospatial information. Since the development and approval of GSGF, global efforts have focused on concrete action to support its implementation by Member States through institutional arrangements, statistical and geospatial data management and technological tools.

The UN-GGIM has five regional committees, among them the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas), which creates opportunities for regional geospatial communities to contribute to the objectives and activities of the global agenda. UN-GGIM: Americas has an operational working group on the integration of statistical and geospatial information, which includes among its priorities support for the implementation of GSGF and its five principles. The UN-GGIM: Americas working group is composed of representatives of national geographical institutes of the region and focuses primarily on the geographical aspects of GSGF. Given that GSGF implementation requires coordinated review by both the statistical and geospatial communities while taking into account their respective specificities, it is appropriate that the regional statistical community should address these tasks in coordination with developments in the geographical discipline.

The proposed working group of the Statistical Conference of the Americas would focus on the integration of statistical and geospatial information. Its purpose would be to promote capacity-building and the sharing of experiences among the countries of the region, with a view to adopting good practices for the integration of statistical and geospatial data, in line with GSGF guidelines and in coordination with the initiatives of UN-GGIM: Americas and the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

The proposed working group envisages generating valuable contributions for the region in two areas. The first relates to one of the objectives of the Expert Group's task force on resources for the implementation of GSGF, namely the preparation of a report on global readiness to implement and operationalize GSGF, identifying progress and gaps at the country level.

To this end, the Expert Group has developed a self-assessment tool addressing elements deemed relevant for national GSGF implementation, through a series of questions grouped in components on governance and institutional capacities, legal and policy issues for data management, human resources and capacities, and data and interoperability.

This self-assessment tool has been tested and applied at the regional level in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Europe, but not in the Americas. Given that several efforts are under way in Latin America and the Caribbean to implement this framework —not only through projects and technical assistance provided by ECLAC but also through the work of UN-GGIM: Americas— the proposed working group aims to review this tool, adapt it to the regional context and implement a systematic process to assess the progress of each country in integrating statistical and geospatial information. This would make it possible to better target support, promote horizontal cooperation and reduce disparities in progress, in particular by supporting member States at earlier stages of development in these areas.

Accordingly, the working group will develop an automated version of the self-assessment tool, expanding the original set of parameters defined by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information to incorporate new indicators that reflect the context of the member countries of the Statistical Conference. Once the tool has been developed, the working group will initiate its application in member countries to conduct a preliminary round of data collection for a maximum period of two years while contributing to global efforts and strengthening the region's presence and participation.

The second area to be addressed by the proposed working group concerns documenting good practices in the implementation and use of technological tools for disseminating georeferenced statistical data, building on the results of the project implemented by ECLAC with financial support and technical collaboration from the European Union and the Eurostat programme, as well as technical assistance activities carried out over the past five years. As a result of these initiatives, the national statistical offices of at least seven countries in the region now have geoportals capable of disseminating disaggregated data from various statistical operations, including national population and housing censuses, agricultural censuses and economic censuses, as well as data from administrative records, environment statistics and other sources.

Given the opportunity to move forward with the deployment of these tools in other countries of the region, it would be useful to establish a repository of good practices on such geoportals, including documentation of processes, practical guidelines and other inputs that could support potential implementation. The member countries of the working group would contribute materials to the repository and coordinate efforts with the UN-GGIM: Americas working group on the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Gain a detailed understanding of the level of preparedness of the countries of the region to implement GSGF principles and provide support to reduce disparities in progress on institutional arrangements, data management and technological development, as well as to foster regional cooperation in these fields.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Develop a tool or application that automates the self-assessment carried out by countries regarding their level of readiness to implement GSGF in the regional context.

(ii) Conduct a systematic and comprehensive compilation of information on the implementation of GSGF in the countries of the region, in order to identify key advances and gaps.

(iii) Establish an interactive, regularly updated knowledge base that brings together technical documentation, implementation guides, national case studies, lessons learned and recommendations on institutional management, with the aim of supporting the expansion of geoportal development in less experienced countries.

5. Expected outcome

(i) Automated self-assessment tool on the level of preparedness of the countries of the region to integrate statistical and geospatial information

This tool is expected to provide accurate information on progress and gaps in integrating statistical and geospatial information in the countries of the region, enabling more effectively targeted support and capacity-building efforts focused on the areas with the largest gaps. It will also help to identify and determine where each country's strengths lie relative to thematic areas in order to foster horizontal cooperation, enabling countries with more knowledge and experience to support those with less developed capacities in their areas of interest.

The self-assessment tool is intended for regular use, with a frequency or periodicity to be determined, so that the report generated from its indicators can be regularly updated.

(ii) Repository of good practices on the implementation of statistical geoportals used to disseminate geographically disaggregated data

This repository is expected to contain reference and support materials that can help to advance this work in the countries that have not already implemented such solutions.

Documenting the technological components defined during the design, construction and deployment of these tools is considered a starting point; special attention will be paid to country experiences and institutional challenges encountered in the course of technological implementation and statistical and geospatial data population, which may bring to light new functional requirements for the platforms.

The information and experiences culled from this process will serve as valuable inputs for future implementation initiatives.

6. Gender mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming seeks to transform the underlying rationale shaping the actions of the State with a view to highlighting public policies' differentiated effects on individuals and communities and promoting gender equality as a pillar of sustainable development.

Accordingly, the proposed working group's efforts and outputs will focus on ensuring that the processes for integrating statistical and geospatial information include the dissemination of indicators that can be disaggregated not only at the geographical level but also by sex.

7. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date
Output 1		
Review of the self-assessment questionnaire template developed by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information	January 2026	June 2026
Design of the tool to automate completion of the self-assessment questionnaire	July 2026	December 2026
Completion of the questionnaire by countries	January 2027	June 2027
Preparation of a report on the results of the first iteration of the self-assessment tool	July 2027	August 2027
Dissemination of the results of the first iteration of the self-assessment tool	September 2027	October 2027
Output 2		
Compilation of documentation on the development and implementation of statistical geoportals, including the identification of new functional requirements	January 2026	June 2026
Preparation of a document summarizing the information compiled	July 2026	December 2026
Implementation of a web-based solution for publishing this documentation	January 2027	April 2027

V. POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

1. Coordinating countries

Argentina: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC)
Ecuador: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC)

2. Technical secretariats

Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC
Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

The preparation of population estimates and projections is a complex process that requires careful analysis of a wide range of data sources, such as national and international population and housing censuses, administrative data, including vital and migration records, and specialized demographic surveys. The results constitute a fundamental statistical product for estimating social and demographic indicators, which are essential for analysing social conditions in countries and planning the provision of goods and services at the regional, national and local levels. Accordingly, high quality data sources and robust demographic methods are crucial for estimations and projections that accurately reflect and anticipate the evolution of components of demographic change and their impact on the population.

Given the importance of population estimates and projections and the challenges faced by national statistical offices in their review and publication, particularly following each census round, the objective of the proposed working group is to contribute to the institutional strengthening of demographic teams, with a view to improving and enhancing the comparability of population statistics in the countries of the region while promoting greater international cooperation and the sharing of experiences from a gender perspective. Within this framework, the aim is to reinforce technical capacities for the preparation and dissemination of population estimates and projections at the national and subnational levels through intraregional cooperation.

In October 2024, a regional workshop was held in Santiago, targeting teams responsible for population estimation and projection in Latin American countries. The workshop, organized by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), brought together 40 representatives from 18 countries of the region, facilitating the sharing of experiences and joint reflection among participants regarding good practices, common challenges and specific strategies to define demographic levels and trends in Latin America.

Among the workshop's outcomes was a recognition of the importance of spaces for inter-agency dialogue and cooperation, resulting in a proposal for a joint working document and discussion of the need to formalize a working group within the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas, which form the basis of the present proposal. While other mechanisms have been maintained, such as communication through a WhatsApp group and the organization of webinars, formalizing the working group in the framework of the Statistical Conference and preparing the joint working document would provide significant added value and substantively strengthen population statistics in the region.

These initiatives demonstrate how some countries of the region, drawing on the experience accumulated and shared by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, together with other demographic research centres, have made progress in applying methods for population estimates and projections and adjusting and correcting demographic data sources to reflect their specific realities and needs. This progress

demonstrates the considerable importance of compiling lessons learned, as doing so allows for the dissemination of this methodological and instrumental framework while also sharing successful experiences and challenges encountered at the technical and institutional levels.

This compilation will also support the formulation of recommendations for strengthening the capacities of national statistical institutes to regularly prepare and review these essential statistics for national, regional and subnational planning.

Accordingly, the proposed working group would focus on preparing a document that compiles relevant experiences to guide countries of the region in the preparation, updating and monitoring of population estimates and projections by sex and age, taking into account different levels of territorial disaggregation.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Improve population statistics in the countries of the region and enhance their comparability by promoting greater international cooperation and the sharing of experiences. Within this framework, the aim is to strengthen technical capacities for the preparation and dissemination of population estimates and projections at the national and subnational levels, including a gender perspective, through intraregional cooperation.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Prepare a document compiling experiences and lessons learned from Latin American and Caribbean countries regarding the preparation, dissemination and regular updating of population estimates and projections by sex and age.

(ii) Share experiences in leveraging administrative records and other data sources to promote their use, and update projections during the period of the working group, with a gender perspective.

(iii) Develop recommendations for communicating the results of population estimates and projections to authorities and to users more broadly.

(iv) Create spaces for regional dialogue (i.e. virtual or in-person seminars) to exchange views on progress in population estimation and projection.

5. Expected outcome

The expected output is an innovative document presenting examples that can provide guidance to countries of the region in preparing their population estimates and projections at various levels of disaggregation. The document will compile best practices from countries that produced these estimates and projections based on the latest census round and will examine the challenges encountered in the process.

The outputs will disseminate countries' experiences in a systematic manner, contributing to technical training of national statistical office personnel and to the identification of similar situations, strategies and monitoring approaches concerning adjustments in fertility, mortality and migration. This, in turn, will support gender mainstreaming in demographic activities.

The sharing of lessons learned and challenges related to the preparation and dissemination of population estimates and projections will contribute to strengthening countries' technical capacities and will be of great value in positioning these statistics, which are highly relevant for the planning and monitoring of national, regional and subnational actions and policies.

6. Gender mainstreaming

Mainstreaming the gender perspective into population estimates and projections is essential for achieving a better understanding of demographic trends, designing more effective policies and promoting a more just and equitable society. In the preparation of population estimates and projections, in addition to separate consideration of men and women, attention is paid to the ways in which gender roles, relations and social structures influence fertility, mortality, migration and the spatial distribution of the population.

7. Workplan

Activity	Expected output	Start date	End date
Formal launch meeting of the working group and presentation of the proposed structure of the document	Definition of the working guidelines, timeline, activities and responsibilities of the members of the working group Agreed structure of the document	January 2026	January 2026
Establishment of subgroups or breakout groups to draft the chapters of the document	Distribution of drafting tasks among the participating countries	February 2026	February 2026
Bilateral meetings to clarify or expand on content related to the experiences to be included in the information-gathering instrument	Expanded and technically validated background information for preparation of the chapters, agreed with the countries that provided it	February 2026	June 2026
Meetings to present progress of the subgroups or breakout groups	Report compiling countries' experiences regarding the processing and sources of mortality, migration and fertility data	July 2026	September 2026
First progress update to the Statistical Conference	Draft document 60% completed	September 2026	October 2026
Progress in the document preparation and submission of the draft for review and approval by the working group	Continued progress in document preparation	November 2026	May 2027
Adjustments to the draft document on the basis of working group feedback	Agreed document ready for submission to the Statistical Conference for review and adoption	June 2027	August 2027
Submission of the document for adoption by the Statistical Conference		September 2027	October 2027

Note: Follow-up (virtual) meetings will be held with the countries participating in the working group.

VI. STATISTICAL BUILDING AND POPULATION REGISTERS AND THEIR USE IN CENSUSES

1. Coordinating countries

Argentina: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INDEC)
Ecuador: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC)

2. Technical secretariats

Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC
Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

Administrative records have been used for statistical purposes for decades, thanks in large part to digitization, which made it possible to access data in electronic format. This process required a certain level of data cleaning and processing to ensure adherence to expected statistical parameters. Administrative sources have largely been processed and used in isolation, but developing statistical registers based on the nominal integration of administrative records represents a significant improvement in the quality and use of data for decision-making on population and territorial matters.

An integrated system of statistical records links different data sources through unique identifiers associated with the units they represent (e.g. persons, buildings and businesses). Establishing an integrated statistical register requires adherence to regulatory and statistical parameters of quality, comparability, use and security, while also ensuring data confidentiality and exclusive use for statistical purposes. In this context, integrating nominal administrative records through a unique identifier (e.g. national identity document or unique labour or tax identification key) requires the establishment of protocols for access, storage, anonymization, processing, analysis and dissemination.

Statistical population registers provide information on population size, demographic characteristics and trends in a given territory and at a given point in time; statistical building registers, based on the preparation of a national parcel-based statistical register, provide information on land use and on the stock, flow and use of buildings; statistical business registers are directories of economic units; and statistical activities registers compile information that makes it possible to characterize individuals in terms of their activities in areas such as labour, education and health. Integrating these basic registers enables statistical analyses that link the characteristics of individuals, household composition, public policies and economic units within a territorial framework while protecting personal data and ensuring exclusive use for statistical purposes.

Depending on their purpose and use, and according to their level of exhaustiveness and quality, statistical registers on population, buildings and activities may have varying degrees of linkage or integration with population and housing censuses. Using a register-based census approach or a combined census enables progress in harmonizing and improving comparability between the number and geographical location of people according to the statistical population register and the corresponding population census data.

Recent experiences in the region in the use of administrative records include the presentation of the main results of inventory and assessment instruments on the statistical use of administrative records in countries of the region at a seminar on enhancing the use of administrative records for statistical purposes for follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, held in October 2017 by the Statistical Conference of the Americas

In addition, in 2022, the Statistical Commission supported an initiative to move towards the creation of national statistical population registers based on the 2020 census round, ensuring alignment with the framework of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and with clear legal guarantees of confidentiality and exclusive use for statistical purposes.

Within this context, the Statistical Conference has had several working groups focused on the statistical use of administrative records: the working group to prepare a methodological document on conceptual aspects and statistical use of economic administrative records (2020–2021 biennium); the working group for the development of quality assessment tools for administrative records (2022–2023 biennium); and the working group to prepare a manual on the integration of administrative data on children and adolescents (2024–2025 biennium).

However, none of these groups specifically addressed the development of statistical population or building registers or their potential use in register-based or combined censuses.

In 2023, at its twenty-second meeting, the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference emphasized the potential use of administrative records in population and housing censuses in the 2030 round, along with the need to improve their quality and accessibility. Subsequently, in 2024, UNFPA, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, the Inter-American Development Bank and the INE of Uruguay organized a workshop on register-based censuses, where regional and international experiences were presented with a view to building a statistical population register.

UNECE has also produced various documents on this approach, drawing on experiences in Canada, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia and the United Kingdom.

Recognizing the strategic importance of this agenda for the countries of the region, the proposed working group would be tasked with gathering experiences and good practices in the implementation of statistical building and population registers within the framework of planning integrated statistical register systems.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Analyse the progress made and the outlook for the statistical use of administrative records and the implementation of statistical building and population registers by establishing a collaborative space for the countries of the region to exchange good practices for their development and use in preparation for the 2030 census round.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Systematize national experiences in the use of administrative records in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

(ii) Compile the experiences and lessons learned of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the processing and statistical use of administrative population and business registers.

(iii) Collect experiences and good practices in working with nominal administrative records that include unique identification keys.

(iv) Disseminate existing experiences in the development of statistical registers and integrated statistical register systems.

(v) Share experience-based solutions to recurring challenges associated with the statistical use of administrative records in the region.

(vi) Prepare a document with recommendations and good practices for the implementation and development of statistical building and population registers within the framework of an integrated statistical register system.

5. Expected outcome

A document will be prepared that systematizes the experiences and good practices of the countries of the region for the implementation and development of statistical building and population registers within the framework of an integrated statistical register system.

The sharing of lessons learned, challenges and good practices in the preparation, development and use of statistical building and population registers will contribute to strengthening countries' technical capacities and will be of great value both in monitoring population estimates and projections and in the design and management of the population and housing censuses of the 2030 round. Likewise, the statistical use of registers is highly relevant for the planning and monitoring of national, regional and subnational actions and policies.

6. Gender mainstreaming

Mainstreaming the gender perspective is essential for designing more effective policies and promoting a more just and equitable society. Statistical population registers classify the population by sex, which is indispensable for conducting analyses related to fertility, mortality, migration, household composition and the spatial distribution of the population.

7. Workplan

Activities	Expected output	Start date	End date
Formal launch meeting of the working group Guidelines for inviting countries to participate in the group and prepare an inventory of experiences to be examined in depth	Preliminary inventory of experiences related to the implementation of statistical building registers and population registers	January 2026	March 2026
Presentation of the proposed structure of the document Establishment of subgroups or breakout groups to draft the chapters of the document	Definition of the working guidelines, timeline, activities and responsibilities of the members of the working group Agreed structure of the document Distribution of drafting tasks among the participating countries	January 2026	March 2026

Activities	Expected output	Start date	End date
Virtual meetings to clarify or expand content related to the experiences	Expanded, technically validated background information for preparation of the chapters, agreed with the countries that provided it	April 2026	June 2026
First progress update to the Statistical Conference on the preparation of document	Annotated index of the document, to serve as a blueprint for the preparation of the final document	June 2026	June 2026
Meetings to present progress of the subgroups or breakout groups	Report compiling countries' experiences regarding the processing and sources of mortality, migration and fertility data	July 2026	September 2026
Submission of the document draft for review and approval by the working group		March 2027	March 2027
Second progress update to the Statistical Conference on the preparation of the document	Draft document 60% completed	April 2027	April 2027
Revision of the draft document on the basis of working group feedback	Agreed document ready for submission to the Statistical Conference for review and approval	April 2027	June 2027
Submission of the document for adoption by the Statistical Conference	Document adopted by the Statistical Conference	August 2027	August 2027

VII. GOOD PRACTICES DERIVED FROM THE 2020 ROUND OF THE AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

1. Coordinating country

Brazil: Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)

2. Technical secretariats

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

Since the establishment of the first working group on agricultural statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas (2014–2015 biennium), the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have sought to strengthen agricultural statistics in the region by adopting international recommendations, including those of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. In subsequent bienniums (2016–2017 and 2018–2019), progress has been made in training and methodological development. In parallel, in 2015, FAO launched the World Census of Agriculture 2020, covering the period from 2016 to 2025.

The agricultural census is one of the fundamental pillars of national agricultural statistical systems. Its primary function is to provide the framework for probability surveys, generate structural indicators at disaggregated levels and serve as a basis for reconciling agricultural statistics. It also offers an opportunity to introduce innovations in the collection and analysis of agricultural data that will be used in subsequent agricultural surveys and censuses. The use of Earth observation imagery, georeferencing of agricultural holdings, administrative records, mobile data capture devices and online data collection (computer-assisted web interviewing) has proved useful for improving sampling frames for national agricultural surveys in several countries of the region, increasing effectiveness and reducing costs relative to traditional data collection methods. However, these experiences need to be systematized in order to identify country strengths and weaknesses.

According to FAO, results from the World Census of Agriculture 2020 show that an increasing number of countries are shifting their census methodologies from the classical to the modular approach, combining field enumeration with the use of administrative records. Computer-assisted personal interviewing is becoming the main data collection method, taking the place of pen-and-paper interviewing, and a growing number of countries are turning to new technologies, such as online data collection, computer-assisted telephone interviewing, geographical information systems and interactive online databases. This methodological shift has significant budget implications, which remain the greatest constraint on census operations. Indeed, few countries in the region have been able to conduct regular censuses due to budgetary limitations.

During the 2020 round of the World Census of Agriculture, nine countries of Latin America participated and implemented various innovations. For example, Chile and Uruguay incorporated online data collection for part of the census; Mexico succeeded in the digitalization of all agricultural land registers; and Brazil included questions to measure selected Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators and climate impacts, among other topics. At the same time, countries faced common challenges in developing census frames, measuring quality indicators, applying imputation methodologies and disseminating microdata, among other technical issues.

As countries of the region prepare for the 2030 round, which will begin in 2026, there is a valuable opportunity to systematize these lessons learned and good practices with a view to enabling other countries to incorporate these experiences into their planning processes, contributing to the improved implementation of the World Census of Agriculture 2030 guidelines.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Strengthen regional capacity for the implementation of the 2030 round of the World Census of Agriculture by systematizing and disseminating good practices and lessons learned from the 2020 round.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Identify and prioritize the key components of agricultural census processes to be analysed, drawing on the experiences of countries that participated in the 2020 round. Activities will include compiling a comprehensive list of census processes and conducting a survey of countries to prioritize the components considered most relevant. This list will subsequently be technically validated by the participating countries.

(ii) Facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experiences on the prioritized components among member countries. To this end, virtual and in-person meetings, where feasible, will be held to address each of the components previously identified.

(iii) Research, examine and systematize good practices associated with the selected components. Countries will prepare documents describing the measures implemented and lessons learned for each aspect.

(iv) Consolidate the findings in a technical document to be widely disseminated among countries of the region, with the aim of supporting the planning and implementation of their upcoming agricultural censuses.

5. Expected outcome

In the medium term, it is expected that countries of the region will integrate the identified good practices into their census planning processes, thereby increasing operational efficiency, improving data quality and enhancing regional comparability. In the long term, the document will contribute to a more harmonized implementation of the 2030 World Agricultural Census in the region, promoting the application of international standards adapted to local contexts and strengthening the institutional capacities of national agricultural statistics systems.

6. Gender mainstreaming

The document will incorporate a cross-cutting gender perspective, highlighting census practices that have successfully integrated the gender dimension, whether through questionnaire design, disaggregated data analysis or inclusive dissemination of results. Lessons learned will also be documented on how to improve information collection in order to adequately reflect the participation of women and other groups traditionally underrepresented in the agricultural sector.

7. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date
Review of background information Compilation of relevant documents from the 2020 round and mapping of participating countries	January 2026	February 2026
Identification of key components Selection of priority topics for systematization (e.g. technology, frameworks, gender and dissemination)	February 2026	March 2026
Collection of experiences Interviews, review of reports and presentations from participating countries	April 2026	May 2026
Regional workshop (virtual or in-person) Forum for sharing of good practices and preliminary technical validation	June 2026	June 2026
Technical systematization Drafting of the technical document presenting a summary of lessons learned and recommendations	July 2026	December 2026
Document technical validation Review by the working group and member countries of the Statistical Conference	January 2027	July 2027
Dissemination Publication of the document on the Knowledge Transfer Network website and presentation in the Network's virtual discussions focused on disseminating results of the Statistical Conference working groups	August 2027	October 2027

VIII. HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

1. Coordinating country

Peru: National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI)

2. Technical secretariats

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the production of quality education statistics faces the persistent challenge of using all available data sources in a comprehensive and consistent manner to better understand education trajectories, measure progress on Sustainable Development Goal 4 and guide public policies on the basis of solid information.

Household surveys (both multipurpose and employment-focused) and population censuses, administered by national statistical offices, are an essential complement to the administrative records kept by ministries of education. They make it possible not only to measure attendance and educational attainment but also to record participation in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and non-formal education, as well as to identify socioeconomic and family circumstances that influence learning. However, the potential of these sources is far from fully realized.

In recent years, various reports, —including by ECLAC and UNESCO, have documented the strengths and limitations of using household surveys and population censuses as sources for education statistics.[2] The reports show that these tools have significant potential to complement administrative records, but structural and methodological problems affect their comparability and capacity to respond to Goal 4 monitoring needs.

Some of the main issues are set out below.

- Lack of uniformity in the design and formulation of questions on attendance and educational attainment: survey questions, reference periods and response structures are not always consistent with international recommendations, making it difficult to compare countries and time series.[3]

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[2] UNESCO Institute for Statistics. (2024). *Household survey data: challenges and solutions forward*; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2025). *Statistical Yearbook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024* (LC/PUB.2024/26-P); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and United Nations Children's Fund. (2022). *Education in Latin America and the Caribbean at a crossroads: regional monitoring report SDG4 - Education 2030*; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2024). *The urgency of educational recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

[3] UNESCO Institute for Statistics. (2024). *Household survey data: challenges and solutions forward*; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2024). *The urgency of educational recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

- Use of broad or aggregate categories that reduce the level of detail, hindering precise data monitoring in accordance with the International Standard Classification of Education and making it more difficult to estimate indicators disaggregated by programme level and type.
- Uneven coverage of TVET and non-formal education programmes: in many cases, information on these areas is not systematically gathered or is treated as marginal despite its importance for measuring lifelong learning and skills development. There are challenges in the estimation and regional comparability of SDG indicator 4.3.1 (participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex) and UNESCO indicator 4.3.3 (participation rate in TVET programmes (ages 15–24), by sex).[4]
- Limitations in capturing retrospective information on education programmes no longer in existence: although these programmes represent the highest level of attainment for many adults, they tend to be left out of response options or classified ambiguously.[5]
- Specific gaps in the Caribbean: the infrequent or non-existent administration of household surveys in some countries and the limited use of population censuses for education-related purposes impede the availability of regular and comparable information, despite the fact that these censuses could cover key aspects such as school attendance, literacy and education level attained.[6]

The experience of the Household Survey Data Bank (BADEHOG), developed by ECLAC, has shown the feasibility and value of harmonizing microdata among countries to generate comparable indicators. At the same time, these exercises have highlighted the need for methodological improvements and greater standardization of questionnaires for optimal regional comparability. In the Caribbean, for example, population censuses are critical in compensating for the reduced frequency of household surveys, but fully harnessing their potential requires aligning education modules with regional and international standards.

The INEI of Peru (lead institution and coordinating country of the proposed working group) will contribute its experience in the design, implementation and harmonization of household surveys and population censuses at the national and regional levels. This institution has led national and international initiatives to strengthen statistics, contributing to data comparability and the development of methodologies at the regional level, and has positioned itself as a key actor in coordinating efforts and ensuring that the group's recommendations take into account country realities and capacities. At the same time, understanding the need to strengthen alignment with the International Standard Classification of Education and the international definitions of formal, non-formal and continuing education, Peru’s INEI will receive specialized technical assistance to apply those standards in the calculation and analysis of SDG indicator 4.3.1 and UNESCO indicator 4.3.3. This will improve the use of existing data (including from the National Household Survey) to produce more comparable and pertinent estimates based on data already available through national instruments, optimizing their statistical use and the codification of relevant variables.

Though not novel, this topic has gained prominence in the international agenda since the UNESCO Institute for Statistics held the Conference on Education Data and Statistics in Paris in February 2024, which had more than 420 participants from 130 member States and 80 organizations in attendance.

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4 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2024). *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024* (LC/PUB.2024/10-P).

5 UNESCO Institute for Statistics. (2024). *Household survey data: challenges and solutions forward.*

6 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and United Nations Children's Fund. (2022). *Education in Latin America and the Caribbean at a crossroads: regional monitoring report SDG4 - Education 2030*.

The Conference discussed the International Standard Classification of Education, administrative data, household surveys, education spending and the measurement of learning outcomes, among other central topics, and adopted more than 30 decisions, including on pursuing concrete action to harmonize and improve the comparability of surveys and censuses in reference to education.

The working groups of the Statistical Conference of the Americas are a natural fit to respond to these mandates. They are composed of countries that have decided to work together to solve a shared problem and produce a specific outcome, in accordance with the Strategic Plan, 2026–2035, and with the explicit commitment of national statistical offices' resources and expertise.

Accordingly, the creation of a working group focused on the harmonization and comparability of household surveys for education statistics constitutes a strategic opportunity to convert recurring analyses into concrete solutions. The group's work would make it possible to achieve consensus on standards and methodologies, prepare guides and provide examples of good practices so that each country could strengthen the quality and utility of its education data.

The workplan will be structured so as to have the working group's conclusions and proposals ready for presentation at the second session of the Conference on Education Data and Statistics, in Paris in April 2027, and to make them available to the member countries of the Statistical Conference in the second half of 2027, thus concluding a cycle that will link the regional agenda on statistics with global commitments on education and make the results available for discussion, technical validation and potential adoption by the statistical community at the regional and international levels.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Develop recommendations to facilitate the harmonization and comparability of multipurpose household surveys or household employment surveys with a view to improving the region's reporting capacity and its production of statistics on education.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Evaluate household survey items concerning school attendance in order to identify challenges and propose improvements to increase comparability across countries.

(ii) Analyse the potential of population censuses for data collection and the production of comparable education statistics in Caribbean countries.

(iii) Study the measurement of participation in TVET and non-formal education, including guidelines for optimizing the estimation of SDG indicator 4.3.1 and UNESCO indicator 4.3.3 in the region, on the basis of available surveys and censuses, and formulate recommendations thereon.

(iv) Evaluate and propose improvements to classifications in household surveys with a view to increasing alignment with international classifications and standards, focusing in particular on harmonizing categories and definitions for the comparability and relevance of SDG indicator 4.3.1 and UNESCO indicator 4.3.3.

5. Expected outcome

Medium term

- Produce guidelines and technical recommendations for the countries of the region to adopt good practices for improved survey comparability, including with existing collection instruments.
- Contribute to national statistical teams' capacity for more consistent and timely reporting on education indicators, in particular SDG 4 indicators.

Long term

- Increase methodological harmonization in the region, focusing in particular on generating data series that are comparable across countries to facilitate the monitoring of progress in education and the design of policies based on solid information.
- Strengthen the regional statistical system in the area of education, improving the quality, coverage and relevance of statistics used to monitor progress towards international targets.

6. Gender mainstreaming

The output incorporates a gender perspective by proposing guidelines and methodological improvements that ensure data disaggregation by sex, age, self-identified ethnicity, native language and disability status, so that education statistics reflect gender gaps and help to guide public policies for their reduction. It also fosters the harmonization of definitions and classifications that integrate gender equality as a cross-cutting principle in regional statistical production.

7. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date	Remarks
Phase 1: Organization of work and initial analysis			
Analysis on two priority thematic areas: (i) school attendance; and (ii) TVET. As an example of a good practice led by INEI, an exercise will be carried out to map variables and categories of Peru's National Household Survey and other national surveys in relation to the International Standard Classification of Education, with an emphasis on formal education, non-formal education and TVET. The mapping exercise will include documenting conceptual differences and developing recodification criteria aimed at improving the estimation of SDG indicator 4.3.1 and UNESCO indicator 4.3.3, focusing on comparability.	January 2026	March 2026	Analysis expected to be made available to the Statistical Conference in 2026
Phase 2: Further analysis and pilot testing			
Initial coordination meeting with two aims: (i) confirm the support team in the technical secretariats; and (ii) define the roles and responsibilities of participating countries.	April 2026	April 2026	Involvement of participating countries' ministries of education is considered important

Activities	Start date	End date	Remarks
Design and administration of a regional questionnaire to broaden the country coverage of the analysis, prioritizing Caribbean countries with reduced data availability.	April 2026	October 2026	
Selection of a volunteer country to test survey design changes, incorporating revised items on school attendance and non-formal education or TVET.	April 2026	October 2026	
As a good practice and example of methodological application by INEI, development of a harmonization protocol that includes category correspondence between national and International Standard Classification of Education, together with examples of improved calculation of SDG indicator 4.3.1 and UNESCO indicator 4.3.3.	November 2026	December 2026	Second coordination meeting and presentation of first draft of the outcomes document (November 2026)
Phase 3: Presentation of outcomes and final recommendations			
Evaluation of pilot tests to measure the impact of modifications on data quality, coverage and comparability.	February 2027	May 2027	
Meeting to present the second draft of the outcomes document, and presentation of outcomes at the second session of the Conference on Education Data and Statistics (Paris).	April 2027	April 2027	
Preparation of a final document with recommendations, to be made available to all member countries of the Statistical Conference and the Education Data and Statistics Commission, incorporating lessons learned from pilot tests and suggestions for scaling up these initiatives at the regional level in the working group's four thematic areas: (i) school attendance; (ii) censuses in the Caribbean; (iii) TVET; and (iv) International Standard Classification of Education.	June 2027	October 2027	
Incorporation in the final document of a practical guide describing the method of estimating SDG indicator 4.3.1 and UNESCO indicator 4.3.3 on the basis of household surveys, using the information available through existing collection instruments and integrating lessons learned in the process.	July 2027	October 2027	

Activities	Start date	End date	Remarks
Presentation of the final document at the fourteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference.	October 2027	October 2027	

IX. CLASSIFICATION OF TIME-USE ACTIVITIES FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

1. Coordinating country

Uruguay: National Institute of Statistics (INE)

2. Technical secretariats

Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC
Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

Time-use statistics are essential to understand how people allocate their time and to bring visibility to the unpaid care work performed mainly by women. They offer a sound analytical basis for a variety of areas of study, such as the sexual division of labour and the relationship between poverty, income and time. Thus, time-use statistics are a key tool for designing public policies to support progress on gender equality.

The Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL) was developed by the working group on gender statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas in response to the need for an instrument that would harmonize and standardize time-use measurements in the region. Preliminary versions were presented at the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference in 2009 and 2010, and a first printed version was issued in June 2010, incorporating modifications based on comments received during those meetings. Subsequently, the document underwent further consultation and adaptation.

At a meeting of the working group held during the sixteenth International Meeting on Gender Statistics, in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in 2015, a final document was agreed and submitted for consideration by the Statistical Conference. The final version of CAUTAL was officially adopted by the member countries of the Conference at its eighth meeting, held in Quito from 17 to 19 November 2015. Since then, CAUTAL has become a fundamental instrument for strengthening and promoting time-use measurement, serving as a guide for data planning, processing, presentation and analysis by enabling the systematization and standardization of people's activities, including paid and unpaid work, and personal or non-productive activities.

The structure of CAUTAL is based on the production boundary of the System of National Accounts and is consistent with recommendations adopted in a resolution of the nineteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians of the International Labour Organization. CAUTAL was modelled on the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics, resulting in similarities and interoperability between CAUTAL and its international precedent.

To date, at least 23 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have carried out one or more time measurement exercises focused on domestic and care work.[7] Despite a certain degree of variability among these experiences, the adoption of CAUTAL as a regional standard has led to significant progress on harmonizing results. In that regard, CAUTAL serves as a reference for the harmonization of national

[7] Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2022). *Methodological guide on time-use measurements in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CEA.11/17).

statistical office databases in the repository on time use in Latin America and the Caribbean, created in 2007 as part of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (administered by ECLAC), which makes it possible to calculate care indicators for the countries of the region.

Uruguay has been a pioneer in measuring time use and raising the visibility of gender gaps associated with the social organization of care. A pilot time-use measurement exercise was conducted in 2007, and a second measurement exercise was conducted in 2013 using a subsample of the Continuous Household Survey to enhance geographical disaggregation. The final measurement exercise was conducted between the periods November–December 2021 and March–May 2022. The INE of Uruguay has led all of the above-mentioned data collection exercises, in constant coordination with other relevant national entities.

Updating CAUTAL represents a strategic opportunity to reinforce and further propel regional progress on gender-sensitive statistics, equity and public policies based on solid information. Uruguay has technical capacities consolidated within its INE and the academic sector, along with a recognized background in developing time-use surveys. This technical and political capital should be leveraged in service of a new phase of regional collaboration, in which Uruguay can play an active leading role in revising the methodology of CAUTAL, helping to produce a more robust, flexible and useful tool. As a leading participant in updating the tool, Uruguay could bring to bear its experience while benefiting from an improved instrument aligned with international standards, which would facilitate data comparability and the monitoring of multilateral commitments on recognizing and valuing care work.

Since the adoption of CAUTAL in 2015, there have been transformative developments in the organization of work, both inside and outside the home, and in social and economic relations, driven primarily by technological advances and the need to address the challenges emerging from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. These transformations have modified people's behaviour, forms of communication, work, commerce, transportation and, generally, activities that take up time. This is an opportune moment to revise and update the 2015 version of CAUTAL to ensure that all present-day activities are adequately reflected in the classification, to study recent experiences with measurement in the countries of the region and to modernize language, concepts and the description of activities. The aim is to ensure that CAUTAL remains a valid and useful technical tool for strengthening time-use statistics, facilitating international harmonization, monitoring key indicators and continuing to advance the production of quality data for public policy design based on solid information.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Update CAUTAL, adopted in 2015 by the Statistical Conference, to ensure its continued validity and utility as a standard for time-use measurement in the countries of the region.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Propose a framework of activities that can be performed by individuals, in an updated and hierarchical format to adequately analyse time use among men and women, with an emphasis on unpaid care work in Latin America and the Caribbean.

(ii) Provide a robust technical tool to the countries for harmonizing time-use measurements, statistics and indicators.

(iii) Present a taxonomy of time-use activities with a gender perspective, based on updated concepts, definitions and language, informed by high quality, relevant statistical data on time use.

(iv) Establish equivalency between the updated version of CAUTAL and the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics to support the comparability and adaptation of future time-use measurements.

5. Expected outcome

The revision and updating of CAUTAL is intended to ensure its continued applicability and utility as a technical tool to boost the production and strengthening of statistics on time use and unpaid care work in Latin America and the Caribbean. Adopting an updated standard will make it possible to generate information that more accurately reflects the current reality of activities performed by men and women, in particular unpaid care work. This will enable CAUTAL to continue to contribute to the design of public policies aimed at increasing gender equality and moving towards the care society.

6. Gender mainstreaming

Time-use measurements are fundamental tools for raising the visibility and recognizing the economic contribution of unpaid care work, performed primarily by women. Periodic measurement is crucial in analysing gender gaps, producing relevant information and guiding action to end the sexual division of labour and move towards the care society.

In this regard, CAUTAL constitutes a key technical input for designing and developing data collection instruments and analysing time-use measurements. It systematizes the activities of individuals, including those geared towards social reproduction and household well-being, bringing explicit visibility to unpaid care tasks— often unnoticed and performed mainly by women.

Revising and updating CAUTAL will strengthen the quality and relevance of time-use statistics, thus providing a foundation for public policy design to advance gender equality and move towards the care society.[8]

7. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date
Establishment of the working group	December 2025	December 2025
Drafting and adoption of the workplan	December 2025	February 2026
Revision and analysis of CAUTAL 2015	March 2026	June 2026
Discussions and co-construction	July 2026	November 2026
Preliminary draft	December 2026	March 2027
Revision, technical validation and adjustments	April 2027	September 2027
Adoption of the final document	October 2027	October 2027

[8] See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2022). *The care society: A horizon for sustainable recovery with gender equality* (LC/CRM.15/3); Working Group on Gender Statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2016). Classification of Time-Use Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean (CAUTAL). *Project Documents* (LC/W.679/Rev.1).

X. REGIONAL GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATORS

1. Coordinating country

Guatemala: National Institute of Statistics (INE)

2. Technical secretariats

Division for Gender Affairs of ECLAC
Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

Climate change manifests itself differently according to gender, exacerbating the structural inequalities facing women, especially poor, rural and Indigenous women. However, empirical data and statistical indicators for measuring, monitoring and designing public policies with a gender perspective are scarce, fragmented or not comparable at the regional level.

At the international level, the Asia-Pacific region has made progress in this area through pilot surveys that include modules on perception, vulnerability and capacity to adapt responses to climate change according to gender.[9] These pioneering efforts have brought visibility to gaps and led to the design of adaptive, gender-sensitive responses.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, efforts have focused mainly on leveraging existing information, such as data from censuses, household surveys and administrative records. However, the working group on environment statistics of the Statistical Conference of the Americas concluded that progress was needed on the preparation of a harmonized guide and regional framework that would systematically link those efforts and incorporate a gender perspective.

Key areas for improvement have been identified to achieve the following objectives:

- Strengthen data disaggregation: systematically produce environmental data through censuses, surveys and administrative records, disaggregated by sex, age, territory and other intersectional factors, to raise the visibility of gaps and differences in environmental impact;
- Define specific gender indicators: develop a list of environmental indicators with a gender perspective that can be applied across the region (e.g. differential access to water resources, land tenure and spaces for dialogue on climate change and the impact of disasters on women and men);
- Strengthen institutional analysis with a gender perspective: revise and update internal rules and regulations to include a gender perspective, strengthen or establish gender units in national statistical offices or inter-agency committees, and strengthen continuing education programmes that combine environmental accounting with data analysis and gender mainstreaming.

[9] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2022). *2022 Annual Report: Consolidating Gains, Expanding Reach*; (2023). *2023 Annual Report. Driving Transformative Change on Gender Data*.

A variety of pioneering national initiatives are under way in the region:

- Guatemala, through its Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, drafted its gender and climate change action plan, which designates priority sectors for climate change and gender equality and includes a matrix of indicators for monitoring its implementation.[10] In addition, the environment statistics workplan includes a strategic workstream that incorporates a gender perspective, which is focused on coordinating meetings with data producers to identify the environmental data available in disaggregated form;[11]
- Mexico, through its National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), incorporated environmental modules in its time-use surveys and has been a leader in creating spaces for information exchange between national statistical offices, machineries for the advancement of women and ministries of environment;
- Chile has made progress on developing participatory methodologies for analysing climate risk with women-led rural communities.

In addition, the regional working group on gender and environment of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean has recognized the urgent need to develop mechanisms for gender-sensitive measurement that can help to raise awareness of gaps and fuel progress on gender mainstreaming in environment policies and on recognizing women's and girls' role in sustainable natural resource management.[12]

Lastly, the regional programme of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the theme "Gender, environment and climate change: driving efficient, fair and effective action"[13] seeks to incorporate gender and intersectional perspectives in environmental and climate change policies and programmes and features a component focused on improving the collection, analysis and use of data to highlight, measure and understand how climate risks affect women and men differently.

Thus, there is a strategic opportunity to propose the establishment of a working group of the Statistical Conference to consolidate efforts, systematize existing methodologies and develop, in a collaborative manner and recognizing the ongoing efforts and initiatives of the national statistical offices of the region, a guide on generating gender and climate change indicators that are harmonized at the regional level.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Prepare a guide on generating regional indicators on climate change that bring visibility to its differentiated impact on women, based on an analysis of the different information sources available at the national level.

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[10] Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Presidential Secretariat for Women and International Union for Conservation of Nature. (2024). *Plan de Acción de Género y Cambio Climático de Guatemala*.

[11] Sectoral Coordinating Office for Environment Statistics. (2025). *Plan de Trabajo 2025*.

[12] United Nations Environment Programme. (n.d.). Gender and Environment - UNEP Actions in Latin America and the Caribbean. https://www.unep.org/gender-and-environment-unep-actions-latin-america-and-caribbean.

[13] This programme is financed by the Government of Luxembourg and coordinated by the Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office and Plurinational State of Bolivia country office of UN-Women, with components led by country offices in Brazil, Chile and Mexico.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Systematize experiences and existing good practices in generating gender and climate change data and indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions.

(ii) Identify and evaluate the national information sources available in the region that have the potential to generate indicators with a gender perspective.

(iii) Propose a harmonized regional methodology for the co-construction of gender and climate change indicators, based on data from censuses, surveys and administrative records, to progressively strengthen statistical production in this area.

5. Expected outcome

In the medium term, gender-focused statistical information on climate change in the region is expected to improve in both availability and quality, facilitating its use in designing more inclusive public policies. In the long term, these efforts are expected to contribute to progress on environmental governance with a gender perspective, increased resilience to climate change for women and girls, and stronger national statistical systems with regard to gender mainstreaming.

6. Gender mainstreaming

The proposal includes a gender perspective in the estimation of climate change indicators. It seeks to raise the visibility of structural inequalities and gaps in terms of exposure and vulnerability to climate change and access to adaptation and mitigation resources, and it involves the use of data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and territory, among other factors.

7. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date
Presentation of the proposal to the Statistical Conference	November 2025	November 2025
Establishment of the working group: open call for countries, institutions and experts to join the working group	December 2025	January 2026
Analysis of documentation and compiling of experiences: systematization of studies, pilot surveys and good practices at the international and regional levels (Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, national cases)	January 2026	April 2026
Mapping of available data sources: identification of the national statistical and administrative sources available for generating indicators	May 2026	July 2026
Regional technical workshop for the presentation of preliminary findings, methodological exchanges and participatory technical validation	August 2026	August 2026
Design of methodology for indicators: development of a conceptual and methodological framework for gender and climate change indicators	September 2026	December 2026
Preliminary draft of the regional guide: preparation of a draft technical document, including definition of indicators, sources and methodological recommendations	December 2026	March 2027

Activities	Start date	End date
Technical validation round: broader consultation with key national and regional actors on the preliminary version of the guide	April 2027	May 2027
Refinements, editing and final design of guide	June 2027	July 2027
Official presentation and training cycle: public launch of the guide, virtual and in-person events and regional training workshops	August 2027	October 2027

XI. ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC ACCOUNTING

1. Coordinating countries

Colombia: National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE)
Dominican Republic: National Statistical Office

2. Technical secretariat

Statistics Division of ECLAC

3. Background

In Latin America and the Caribbean, environment statistics have become an essential tool for understanding the interaction between the economy and the environment and for designing public policies that boost sustainable development. However, there are challenges relating to the periodicity, international comparability and dissemination of this information, due to technical, financial and governance factors.

Environmental and economic accounting is internationally recognized as an extension of the System of National Accounts, using the same concepts and classifications as traditional economic accounting, but with the explicit inclusion of the environmental dimension. Environmental and economic accounting has two major components: the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), and environmental and economic thematic accounts. SEEA includes the SEEA Central Framework, adopted as the international standard in 2012, which organizes and integrates information on environmental assets, flows and activities with economic accounts, and SEEA – Ecosystem Accounting, adopted as an international standard in 2021, which measures the extent, condition and services of ecosystems and ecosystem assets with a spatial focus. Environmental and economic thematic accounts, meanwhile, are modelled mainly on the System of National Accounts but also incorporate conceptual elements of SEEA and offer more detailed information on specific areas, such as the bioeconomy or the circular economy, adapting general principles to concrete information needs. In addition, their measurements make it possible to expand input-output tables to include environmental information.

In the region, the stage of development of environmental and economic accounting is uneven: some countries have built robust systems of environmental accounts, including periodic publications and quality certifications of the statistical process, while others are in the initial phases of development.

The environmental and economic accounting framework enables the construction of indicators for monitoring multilateral agreements in areas like biodiversity and climate change and informing national policymaking, including on the bioeconomy. This highlights the value of implementing statistical frameworks to support national and international commitments, fostering strengthened national coordination in national statistical systems and improved international comparability of environment statistics.

These indicators would enable the quantification of key aspects, such as biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and greenhouse gas emissions linked to economic activities, which would not only fortify environmental assessment in the region but also align statistics with global targets, including SDG and Paris Agreement targets.

The proposed guide and recommendations will support the identification of basic indicators and their integration in existing statistical processes, fostering the use of administrative records, environmental accounts and satellite data, among other sources, for the construction of the indicators identified. Countries will thus be able to monitor progress on ecosystem restoration and the transition to low carbon economies while improving the comparability and utility of information for decision makers.

This overview illustrates that, despite considerable progress, the region needs to harmonize methodologies, expand thematic coverage, improve data periodicity and quality, and strengthen technical cooperation. In this regard, formulating recommendations for developing or strengthening environmental statistical production in Latin America and the Caribbean would satisfy a strategic need. They would serve as a guide for statistical offices and other institutional data producers to prioritize their efforts, optimize the use of existing sources, develop new measurements and, most importantly, generate comparable and timely information to support the fulfilment of national commitments, evaluate policies and make decisions backed by solid information to address environmental and climate challenges.

4. Objectives

a) General objective

Produce a guide on strengthening statistical production in the framework of SEEA, fostering the production of indicators required at the multilateral level and the monitoring of national policies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

b) Specific objectives

(i) Conduct an assessment of international methodological standards and frameworks and the current state of environmental statistical production in each participating country, based on criteria such as periodicity of publication, variables and classifications used, thematic areas, production processes, level of automation, technological tools, available human capital, information gaps, good practices and opportunities for regional harmonization.

(ii) Identify and prioritize the environmental issues most relevant to the region, taking into account national needs, international commitments and possibilities for integration with economic accounts.

(iii) Collect and systematize the experiences of countries that have already made progress in implementing environmental and economic accounting, with a view to distilling lessons learned and offering models for the rest of the countries.

(iv) Formulate institutional, organizational and technical recommendations to strengthen the production and harmonization of environment statistics, ensuring their comparability, relevance and sustainability over time.

(v) Develop guidelines for constructing biodiversity and climate change indicators based on environmental and economic accounting to strengthen the monitoring of international commitments and the evaluation of public policies, ensuring comparability, relevance and consistency with economic accounts and international statistical standards.

(vi) Draft and technically validate the final document of recommendations for developing or strengthening environmental statistical production in Latin America and the Caribbean, to serve as a practical guide for institutional data producers and to facilitate monitoring of environmental indicators and policies.

(vii) Offer mechanisms and tools to make information available to the public and decision makers, through geostatistical information systems and other platforms enabling data visualization, analysis and consultation at the national and international levels.

(viii) Promote the creation of spaces for the countries of the region to share experiences and recommendations, through workshops and webinars, with a view to presenting the current state of environmental statistical production in each participating country and progress in implementing methodological standards and frameworks.

5. Expected outcome

In the medium term, the aim is to provide national statistical offices and other institutional producers of environmental information in Latin America and the Caribbean with a clear and practical guide to improve the production, analysis and dissemination of environment statistics. This will facilitate the adoption of common standards, strengthen technical capacities and lead to improved comparability among countries, more useful data for decision-making and easier integration with economic accounts. In addition, these efforts will support the adoption of international standards, which will enable countries of the region to participate more actively in global forums and networks on environment statistics.

In the long term, the implementation of these recommendations will help national statistical offices and partner entities to achieve more robust and sustainable production of environmental and economic information in order to meet growing information needs for policy design and evaluation, improve environmental management and fulfil international commitments. This will provide a more solid statistical foundation for the region to closely monitor the state of the environment, measure progress on sustainable development and guide measures to strengthen resilience and increase population well-being, raising its international profile and enhancing its global presence in the process.

Similarly, the aim is to boost the visibility of regional progress in this area in the context of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, leveraging synergies with an eye towards the revision of the SEEA Central Framework and sharing lessons learned for the 2025 update to the System of National Accounts.

6. Gender mainstreaming

One of the primary aims of the proposed recommendations is to strengthen gender mainstreaming in environment statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. Doing so is not just a matter of improving the quality and comparability of information but also of ensuring that it reflects differences between men and women and the particularities of each in relation to the environment.

The region already has environmental indicators that include a gender perspective, such as statistics on environmental and green employment, disaggregated by sex at birth, and certain biodiversity indicators that also include this differentiation. However, there remains ample room for improvement to achieve systematic gender mainstreaming in other environment statistics. Accordingly, the guide will offer clear recommendations to encourage national statistical offices and other institutions to accelerate progress to that end, generating inclusive information to support the design of equitable environmental policies in line with international commitments on gender equality.

7. Workplan

Activities	Start date	End date
Establishment of the working group and initial planning	January 2026	February 2026
Design of an instrument to identify international methodological standards and frameworks adopted by each country (e.g. System of National Accounts and SEEA)	March 2026	April 2026
Information-gathering and assessment of the current state of environment statistics in each country, including technical capacities, available resources and processes	May 2026	June 2026
Preliminary workshop or webinar to collect inputs for the assessment	July 2026	July 2026
Analysis of information collected to produce a regional assessment of current methodological standards and frameworks – Identification and prioritization of key environmental issues in the region in light of national information needs and international commitments – Identification and prioritization of biodiversity and climate change indicators in relation to environmental and economic accounting	July 2026	October 2026
Preparation of the first draft of the regional guide with harmonized recommendations for strengthening environmental statistical production – Inclusion of guidelines for the adoption of international standards and progressive gender mainstreaming in environment statistics	November 2026	March 2027
Preliminary workshop or webinar to present the draft and solicit technical input	April 2027	April 2027
Technical review and regional approval of the draft guide	May 2027	July 2027
Final refinements and editing	August 2027	August 2027
Presentation of the final document for consideration as a regional standard by the Statistical Conference of the Americas	September 2027	October 2027