



CARICOM

Latin America Conference on the Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics

**Coordination at and between the Global, Regional and National
Statistical Systems (Thematic 1) and Communication and Advocacy
(Thematic 2)**

14-16 September 2016, Santiago, Chile

OVERVIEW



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**Development Priorities in CARICOM-
Challenges, Main Pillars, Strategic Framework, CSME**

**Modernization/transformation agenda of
NSOs/NSS- Concerns, Contextual Background,
Strategic Drivers, Major Initiatives**

**Coordination of Global, Regional and
National Statistical Systems- Rationale,
Challenges and Best Practices**

**Communication and Advocacy - Rationale -
Challenges, and Best Practices**

**Conclusions from CARICOM-
Points for Consideration/Opportunities**



DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES
MAJOR CHALLENGES IN CARICOM

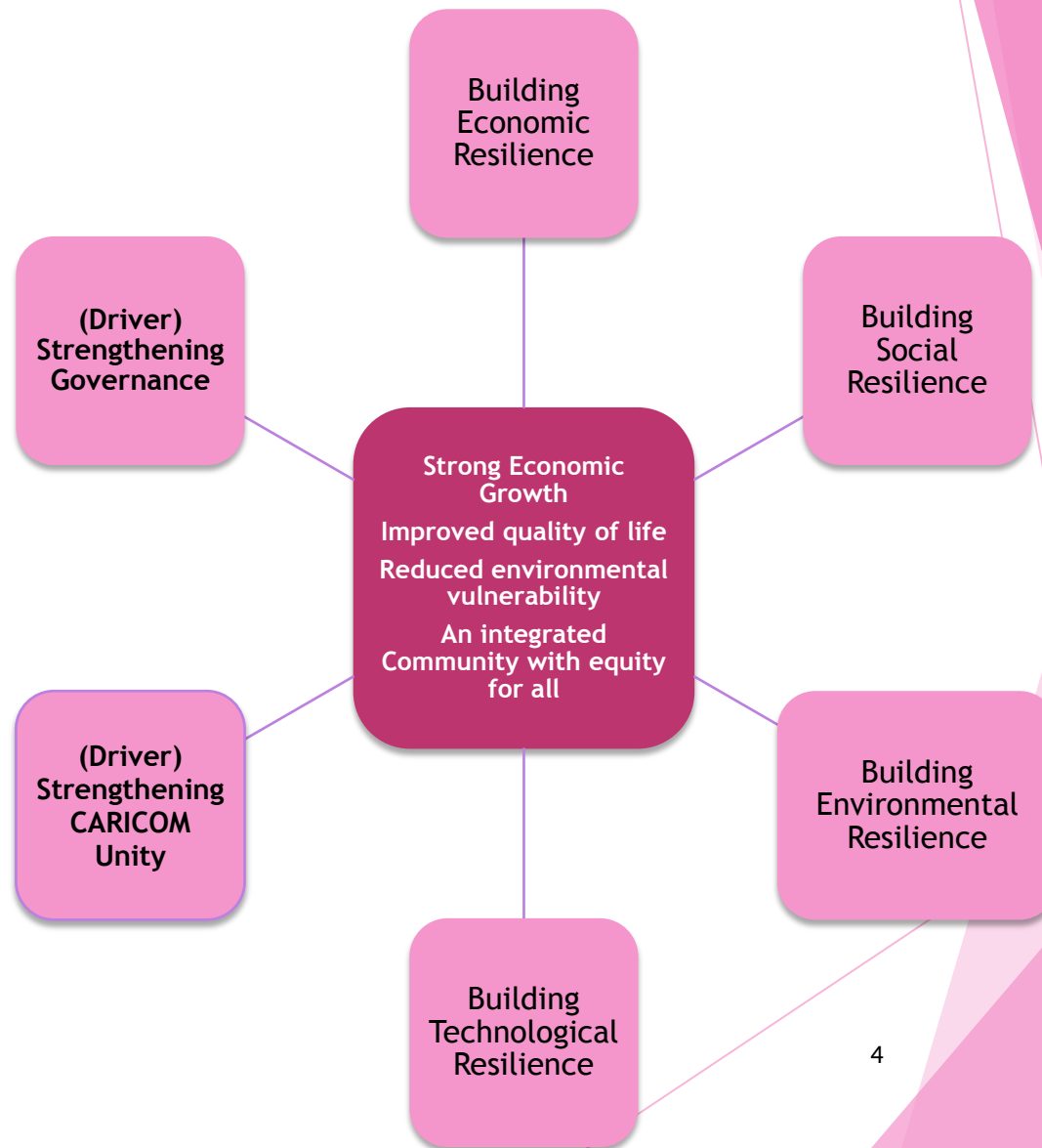
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- ▶ Contagion effect of global economic and financial crisis, high indebtedness and unemployment
- ▶ High incidence of crime, youth marginalization and poverty
- ▶ Susceptibility to natural disasters and climate variability
- ▶ Low penetration rate of internet
- ▶ Weaknesses in governance infrastructure.



Developmental Priorities

Main Pillars of Community Strategic Plan



Developmental Priorities



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Strategic Framework Value Chain

INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	Economic Resilience - Stabilisation and Sustainable Economic Growth and Development	Social Resilience - Equitable Human and Social Development	Environmental Resilience	Technological Resilience	Strengthening the CARICOM Identity and Spirit of Community	Strengthening Community Governance
STRATEGIES	Accelerate implementation and use of CSME	Advocate Human Capital Development	Advance Climate Adaptation and Mitigation	Develop a Single CARICOM ICT Space	Enhance Public Education, Public Info and Advocacy	Reform of Organs Bodies and Governance Arrangements
	Integrate into the Global Economy	Mainstream inclusiveness in the Public Sector	Advance Disaster Mitigation and Management	Bring Technology to the People and transform them into Digital Citizens	Refine and Promote the CARICOM Identity and Civilization	Develop Arrangements for Participatory Governance
	Introduce Measure for Macroeconomic Stabilisation	Advance Initiatives for Health and Wellness	Enhance Management of the Environment and Natural Resources	Strengthen Cyber Security	Facilitate opportunities for the People of Region	Develop Governance Arrangements of Community Institutions
	Build Competitiveness and Unleash Key Economic Drivers	Enhance Citizen Security and Justice		Mobilise Resources and Commitment of MS to invest in ICT	Strengthen relationships among MS	Strengthen Relationships with IDPs
						Develop and Agree on Future Governance Arrangements
ENABLING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	COORDINATED FOREIGN AND EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS					
	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION					

Development Priorities

Key Elements of the CARICOM SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY-CSME



Single Economic Space

Free Movement of Labour

Free Movement of Goods and Services

Rights of Establishment

Free Movement of Capital

Development Priorities

Statistics

Establishment of the **Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS)** as a decision-making forum in 1974 by the Common Market Council of Ministers endorsed by the Inaugural Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Community.

“ ... To foster increased recognition of the importance of statistical services to the countries of the Region; to widen the scope and coverage of statistical data; and to improve the quality, comparability and timeliness of statistics produced...”

Sub-Groups of SCCS:

CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS)

Regional Census Coordinating Committee

Technical Working Groups



Modernisation/Transformation Agenda – Contextual Background and Strategic Drivers

Concerns of modernisation and transformation of the NSO/NSS

- ▶ **Effecting Change** that is required in response to new policy agenda, filling gaps in existing data e.g. Global Agenda/Regional Development Priorities, NDPs, gender, disability (SDGs, Samoa Pathway)
- ▶ **Conforming to latest international statistical standards and classification systems** (2008 SNA, ISIC Rev 4)
- ▶ **Being at the cutting edge of technological changes** that impact data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis - (faster, less paper, Big Data, mobile apps)
- ▶ **Leadership and Management /Governance** - innovative, creative, risk-taking, responsive, research-oriented-participatory and inclusive and transparent
- ▶ **Finance** - staffing, services and equipment for work programme implementation (to conduct surveys and access administrative records)

Modernisation/Transformation Agenda

Contextual Background and Strategic Drivers

- ▶ ***Initial Issues on the CARICOM Statistics Agenda/steps taken:***
- ▶ Micro-data dissemination was on the agenda as far back as 2003
- ▶ Establishment of a routinized Survey of Living Condition Programmes
- ▶ Coordinating of Statistics at the National Level - establishment of Social Indicators and Millennium Development Goals Committee
- ▶ Establishment of a CARICOM Programme in Social/Gender Statistics

Modernisation/Transformation Agenda

Contextual Background and Strategic Drivers

Initial Issues/steps taken (continued):

- ▶ Improving Statistics through Coordination - the establishment of a Statistics Commission in Jamaica - **“The Modernization of STATIN - A Strategic Plan 2002 - 2005”**
- ▶ A Programmatic Approach to the development of harmonized Statistics through the Common **Region Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) -2005**
- ▶ **Resolution on Regional Statistical Development-** calling on governments, *inter alia* to give priority to investment in statistics as a priority-2005
- ▶ Introduction of **PARIS21** to the Region and with it the notion of **the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and Advocacy -2005**
- ▶ **CARICOM Model Bill** addressing the establishment of an integrated statistical system 2011
- ▶ IDB funded interventions including production of a **Data Submission Protocol** and an **Online regional trade information system -2006**

Modernisation/Transformation

Major Initiatives

- ▶ **Statistical coordination** through the functioning of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians and a Regional Census Coordinating Committee- regionally-coordinated Census strategy
- ▶ **Resolution on Regional Statistical Development-** recognizing the demands being made on the weak under-resourced statistical calling on governments, *inter alia* to give priority to investment in statistics as a priority
- ▶ **Introduction of PARIS21** to the Region and with it the notion of **the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and Advocacy**
- ▶ **Data Quality and Management on the Information Chain-** - Data Warehousing, Metadata Management etc.- 2005
- ▶ Effort made to improve trade data through an IDB-funded project, review systems, established a **Data Submission Protocol and an Online regional trade information system -2006**
- ▶ **Ninth European Development Fund (EDF)** funding in a number of areas commenced in 2007 to 2011 such as training/technical assistance, Database Management, Code of Good Statistical Practices



Coordination of Statistical Systems

Rationale

- ▶ Getting the data required/filling data gaps from producers across the NSS -facilitating information sharing for production
- ▶ Enabling the production of harmonised, high-quality official statistics for dissemination to users for decision-making
- ▶ Achieving efficiency gains/cost effectiveness in the production of statistics through engaging in joint statistical activities
- ▶ Avoidance of duplication of efforts among organisations/institutions such that they work in harmony
- ▶ Alleviating the burden on countries as well as on the producers of statistics within countries and of respondents



Coordination of Statistical Systems

Rationale

- ▶ Gaining access to or making available the following in the NSO and across the NSS:
 - ▶ expertise -within countries or across - South-South,
 - ▶ standards and common tools (e.g. data management/dissemination, nomenclatures, legislation) to produce and disseminate high quality data
- ▶ Enabling effective/strategic management (e.g. a corporate business plan) to produce a coherent statistical system to obtain the desired results

Coordination of Statistical Systems

Challenges

- ▶ Absence of the ownership of the process by country/agency within country -participation in the formulation of the process if it excludes the country/agency may lead to a lack of relevance of the output and poor commitment;
- ▶ A lack of understanding of the situation on the ground (e.g. capacity constraints) in countries/agencies may lead to the failure to achieve the results;
- ▶ Ineffective planning and setting of priorities
- ▶ Regulations, procedures and operational policies that may not create **the optimal conditions** (accountability/transparency) to enable effective co-operation among partners;
- ▶ **Countries/agencies applying to more than one source** for identical support
- ▶ **Inadequate capacity** to facilitate coordination.



Coordination of Statistical Systems

Best Practices -some concrete examples

- ▶ **Joint collaboration on collection of statistics from Member States by international organisations:**
 - ▶ **UNSD/CARICOM** in the collection of National Accounts data from Member States;
 - ▶ Gender statistics developmental work **UNSD/CARICOM** and **UN Women/CARICOM**
- ▶ **Regional Coordination of Major Activities - Population Census:**
 - ▶ [Tradition of] Regionally coordinated Census Strategy- one strategy to which MS/IDPs contribute support including **UNFPA, UNECLAC, Canada, South-South;**
 - ▶ 2010 Census Round-a Common Census Framework - **IDB/UNFPA, DFID, EU**
- ▶ **MOUs/agreements at the national level** by countries for obtaining administrative data for statistics compilation such as in National Accounts -Jamaica is an outstanding case
- ▶ **Inter-Agency activities:** Environment Statistics in Suriname¹⁵, Social Statistics in Dominica

Communication and Advocacy

Rationale

- ▶ **Distinction between Communication and Advocacy:**
 - ▶ Communication is about exchanging information while Advocacy is pleading for, defending or recommending an idea before key people” in order to obtain change (*Paris21*).
- ▶ **Rationale for Communication and Advocacy:**
 - ▶ convincing high level government officials/policy makers of the importance of statistics and to support and finance the change
 - ▶ enabling support including financial support for the development and implementation of a strategic approach to improving statistical including through the NSDS
 - ▶ driving of the change process- engaging, positioning, persuading - messaging/content and channels of communication specifically use of digital tools/mechanisms for targeting various groups of users/stakeholders
 - ▶ Communication and Advocacy are necessary across the entire process of modernization/transformation





Communication and Advocacy Challenges

- ▶ Seemingly lack of Interest at the highest levels of policymakers resulting in the inability to find a champion/traction for the change process
- ▶ Inertia at the level of the leadership of the NSO - a key driver of the change process is the head of the NSO
- ▶ Lack of specialized skill sets/access to skill sets in communication to drive process;
- ▶ Financial Constraints/ Capacity constraints- inadequate staff, equipment - large workload
- ▶ Not listening and therefore not communicating effectively...the best way to be heard is to listen....



Communication and Advocacy

Suggested best practices

- ▶ Having a unit/individual dedicated to Communication, Information Dissemination within the NSO or setting up a Communication group
- ▶ Working closely with Communication experts within government information departments/within organisation
- ▶ Designing a Communication strategy including undertaking the necessary research and analysis of the issue/problem, the change required;
- ▶ Advocacy programme as critical part of effecting change
- ▶ Training of staff/spokespersons on various issues pertaining to statistics development
- ▶ Targeting different audiences-youth etc.-making¹⁸ use of IT

Best Practices–Communication/Advocacy



CARICOM

- ▶ Whatever the process - ensuring ownership by staff-sharing information /Member States
- ▶ Strengthening of partnerships of organisations
- ▶ Success stories in Advocacy/Communication in CARICOM include:
 - ▶ **Caribbean Statistics Day since 2009/ High Level Advocacy Forum 2009/2014**
 - ▶ **Endorsement of the Action Plan for Statistics in CARICOM by the 37th Conference of Heads of Government of Community in July 2016**
 - ▶ **Champion for Statistics at the highest level - the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Grenada**

Considerations for key actions for strategic area 1:

Coordination at and between global, regional and national statistical systems

- ▶ Continue the momentum already started in the Caribbean Community of making operational the high-level political endorsement and commitment for data-driven decision-making including through the **Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean** and by **deepening the integration of the SDG framework** in regional and national development priorities, programmes and planning mechanisms
- ▶ Strengthen the national statistical system and enhance the key coordinating and leadership role of the NSOs in the NSS through gaining endorsement at the highest level, financing and implementing the NSDS framework across countries in collaboration with PARIS21
- ▶ Establish new institutional mechanisms and initiatives as well as make use of existing forum/models (such as SCCS/AGS/SCA) for facilitating, monitoring and reporting on the modernization and transformation processes at global, regional and national levels
- ▶ Build collaborative partnerships with data communities, users and other stakeholders to ensure harmonization of methodologies, efficiency gains and the avoidance of duplication

Considerations for key actions for strategic area 2:

Communication and advocacy

- ▶ Strengthen the communication and advocacy programmes and activities within countries and across the region including facilitating a Communication (Public Relations and Information) unit within NSOs where feasible and make use of opportunities under the PRASC
- ▶ Develop regional and national communication strategies and build on existing advocacy initiatives on the value of official statistics to enable the transformation and modernisation of statistics (Caribbean Statistics Day, Advocacy at the highest level of the Community)
- ▶ Develop and implement educational programmes to increase data literacy, provide statistical products as feedback to the data communities and empower institutions and individuals to use statistics effectively in their own decisions
- ▶ Continue to make use and cultivate additional high level advocates/champions for official statistics, with the support of PARIS21
- ▶ Develop effective communication strategies and guidelines and identify opportunities for training in communication and encourage public and private dialogue oriented to policy-makers, legislators, the media, the peoples of our Community

Considerations for key actions for strategic area 3:

Integrated statistical systems for data collection, processing and dissemination

Institutional setting

- ▶ Develop the institutional arrangements and governance schemes that are needed to address the modernization and integration of the NSS including the legal environment, coordination and governance arrangements, ICT network infrastructure, human resource development and the financial resources
- ▶ Establish National Statistical Councils to enhance the modernisation and transformation process
- ▶ Develop mechanisms needed to facilitate timely collection of source data from administrative records and from surveys and censuses
- ▶ Develop an appropriate reorganization strategy based on a corporate business architecture initiative to implement sound organizational and management restructuring processes (quality assurance, code of good statistical practices- FPOS based, Model Bill) for the NSO

Considerations for key actions for strategic area 3:

Integrated statistical systems for data collection, processing and dissemination

Statistical operations

- ▶ Strengthen and expand regionally and internationally supported basic data programmes like the household survey programmes, business and other economic survey program, population and housing census programme, civil registration and vital statistics program and the International Comparison Program.
- ▶ Undertake assessments, mapping and streamlining of statistical production processes aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness
- ▶ Strengthen the registers of businesses, and the use of and micro data linking of administrative records, negotiating access to and building strategic relationships with Big data and enabling the incorporation of geospatial data in the multi-source and multi-mode production processes

Standards and methods

- ▶ Implement standards methods including the 2008 SNA, the BPM6, ISIC Rev 4, GSBPM - Generalised Statistical Business Process Model; and Quality Assurance frameworks

Considerations for key actions for strategic area 4:

Innovation and modernization through standard-based statistical business architecture

- ▶ Promote the standardization of production processes aiming at sharing and re-using innovative tools and technologies (interoperability) within and across national and regional statistical systems including adaptations of existing processes for SDG production
- ▶ Support the development and application of the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA)
- ▶ Promote the establishment of common national data and metadata portals, open standards based web portals and mainstream SDMX and related standards functionality across countries/regionally
- ▶ Harness the innovative and transformational power of ICT and mobile devices for georeferenced data collection and data visualization
- ▶ Implement the open data concept and explore practices of cloud computing for official statistics and research purposes
- ▶ Implement an interoperable network of national, regional and global platforms of data, services and applications through public-private partnerships making use of key tools (Jamaica-eDacs/survey solutions)

Considerations for key actions for strategic area 5: Capacity building and resource mobilization

- ▶ Identify and coordinate domestic and external resources to strategically address the capacity needs, identify resource gaps and to set priorities
- ▶ Create opportunities for participation of non-state actors in funding statistical activities through innovative financing mechanisms using means consistent with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- ▶ Implement the recommendations on training incorporated in the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean as endorsed by the 37th HGC including: Identification of training in statistics for staff of the NSO and NSS with priority given to the award of scholarships by Governments/IDPs and to enable the training of statisticians as data scientists to make more effective use of IT and Statistics
- ▶ Enable a strategic programme on training and capacity building for successful transformation of NSOs/NSS and which should have a clear and direct link to succession planning
- ▶ Undertake a gap analysis to determine the skills and competencies that are required to sustain the current and planned programs
- ▶ Develop closer collaboration with regional universities to enable short-term training in statistics

Considerations for key actions for strategic area 5:

Capacity building and resource mobilization

- ▶ Assess the institutional, organizational and technical readiness of national statistical systems to move to the next level of maturity in regards to modernization
- ▶ Provide recommendations in national strategies (e.g. NSDS) for the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems and prepare national statistical plans to assist countries in their implementations
- ▶ Complement traditional technical training methods at national, regional and global levels by leveraging existing and establishing new e-learning platforms
- ▶ Undertake training programs in non-technical areas such as on change management and innovative technology and enable standards for collection, processing and dissemination
- ▶ Explore opportunities for pooling human resources and information technology within and across national statistical systems including South-South Cooperation and Centres of Excellence in NSOs
- ▶ Provide special attention to the needs for building up sound and resilient national statistical systems in SIDS, LDCs, land locked countries and fragile states

Points for Consideration/Opportunities

▶ Undertaking some stocktaking/assessment/answering some questions:

- ▶ *What processes have occurred, regional public goods upon which modernisation/transformation of the NSS can build?*
- ▶ *What have been the results achieved?*
- ▶ *What have been some of the challenges experienced?*
- ▶ *What are the lessons learnt and best practices?*
- ▶ *What is the current status of the NSOs/NSS?*
- ▶ *Is part of the change required cultural change?*
- ▶ *And how do we do what we need to do more ²⁷ of to improve/modernise, transform in a sustainable manner?*

Linking Transformative Agenda to Action Plan for Statistics

Action Plan For Statistics	Transformation Agenda Themes
<p>Issue 1: Governments should undertake the strengthening of the National Statistical Systems (NSS) and specifically the National Statistical Offices (NSO):</p>	<p>Integrated Statistical systems: Data collection, Processing and Dissemination of Integrated Statistics</p> <p>Coordination of statistical systems</p> <p>Communication and Advocacy</p> <p>Training and Capacity Building</p> <p>Innovation and Modernization through Standards-Based Statistical Business Architecture</p>
<p>Issue 2: Governments should pursue the upgrading of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) base</p>	<p>Innovation and Modernization through Standards-Based Statistical Business Architecture</p> <p>Training and Capacity Building</p> <p>Communication and Advocacy</p>

Linking Transformative Agenda to Action Plan for Statistics

Action Plan For Statistics	Transformation Agenda Themes
<p>Issue 3: Promoting of careers in Statistics should be undertaken by Governments - embedding statistics as a [data] science in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools and enabling scholarships at the tertiary level</p>	<p>Training and Capacity Building</p>
<p>Issue 4: Governments should endorse and promote the Caribbean Association of Professional Statisticians (CAPS)</p>	<p>Communication and Advocacy</p>
<p>Issue 5: Governments should support a regional approach to the development of statistics to optimise scarce resources in the strengthening of the NSS</p>	<p>Coordination at and between the Global and Regional Statistical System</p>
	<p>Training and Capacity Building</p>
	<p>Communication and Advocacy</p>



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Thank you for your attention