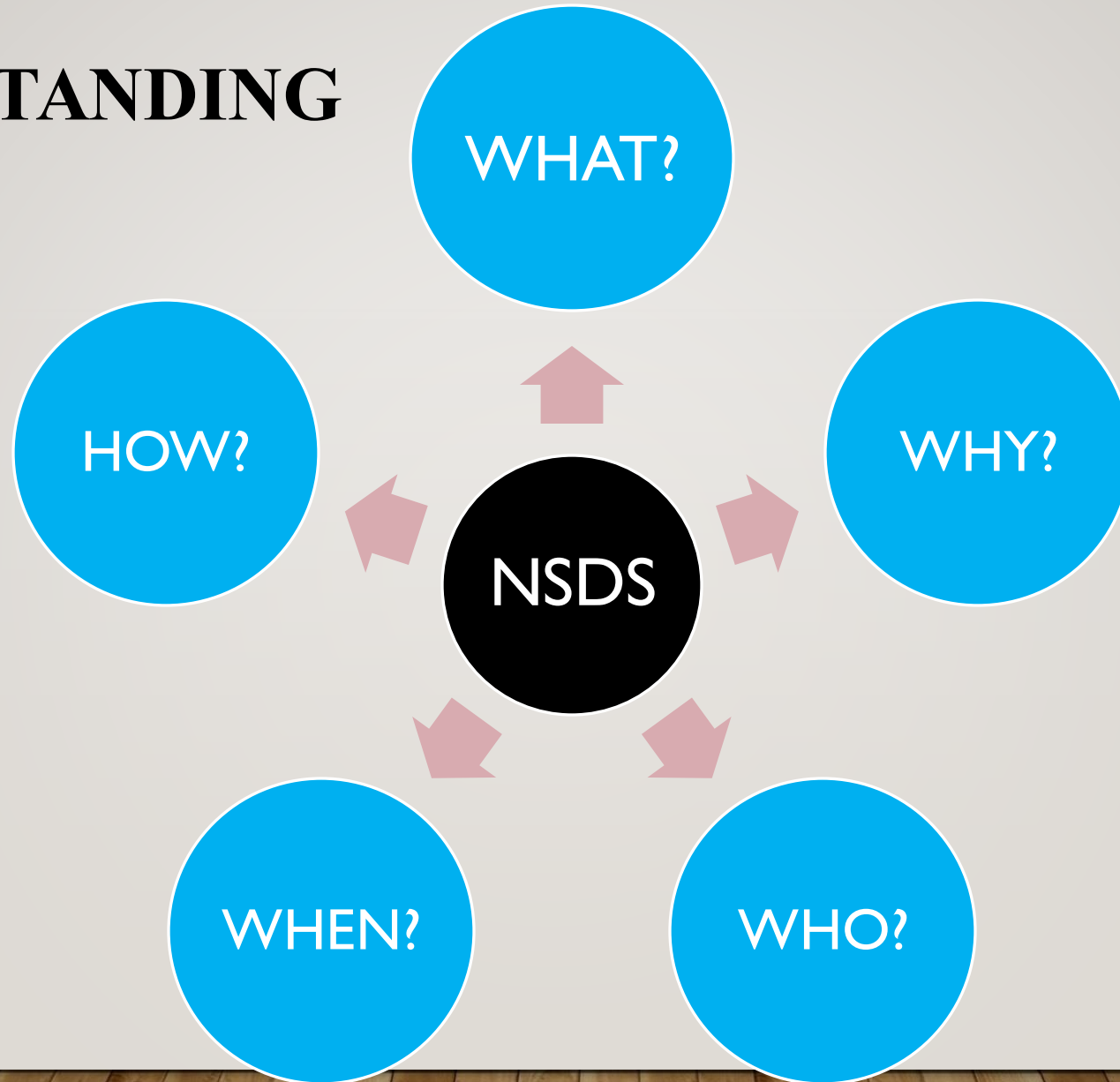




NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS (NSDS)

*Strengthening Evidence-Based Decision-
Making in Saint Lucia*

NSDS UNDERSTANDING



WHAT IS AN NSDS?

FRAMEWORK

- Allows statistical improvements to be well-planned
- Captures Activities, capacity development, and infrastructure
- RESULT ORIENTED

PROCESS

- Follows a phase and step process approach in designing a strategy;
- Enables coordination, ownership, leadership and participation between stakeholders.

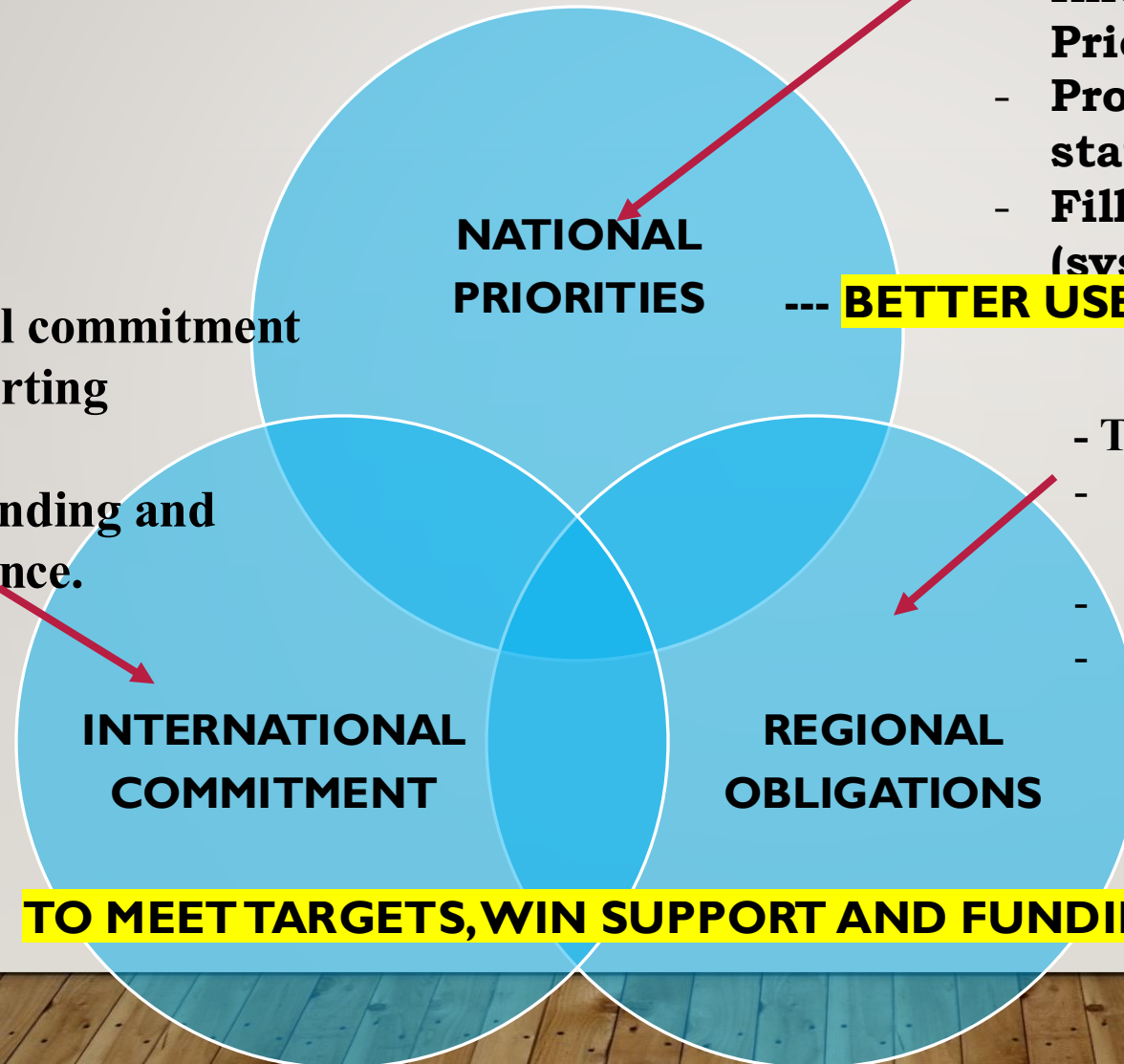
PRODUCT

- It provides the country with a clear vision and mission with a detailed, costed assessment aligned to multiple action plans for official statistics.

WHY DO WE NEED AN NSDS?

- Measured Targeted Goals to National Agenda.
- Informed Policy decisions tied to the Priorities.
- Promotes integration of stakeholders & statistics
- Fill and identify statistical gaps (systemic, organizational & individual).

BETTER USE OF RESOURCES !



**NATIONAL
PRIORITIES**

**INTERNATIONAL
COMMITMENT**

**REGIONAL
OBLIGATIONS**

TO MEET TARGETS, WIN SUPPORT AND FUNDING!

- Addresses global commitment
- Helps meet reporting obligations
- Access global funding and technical assistance.

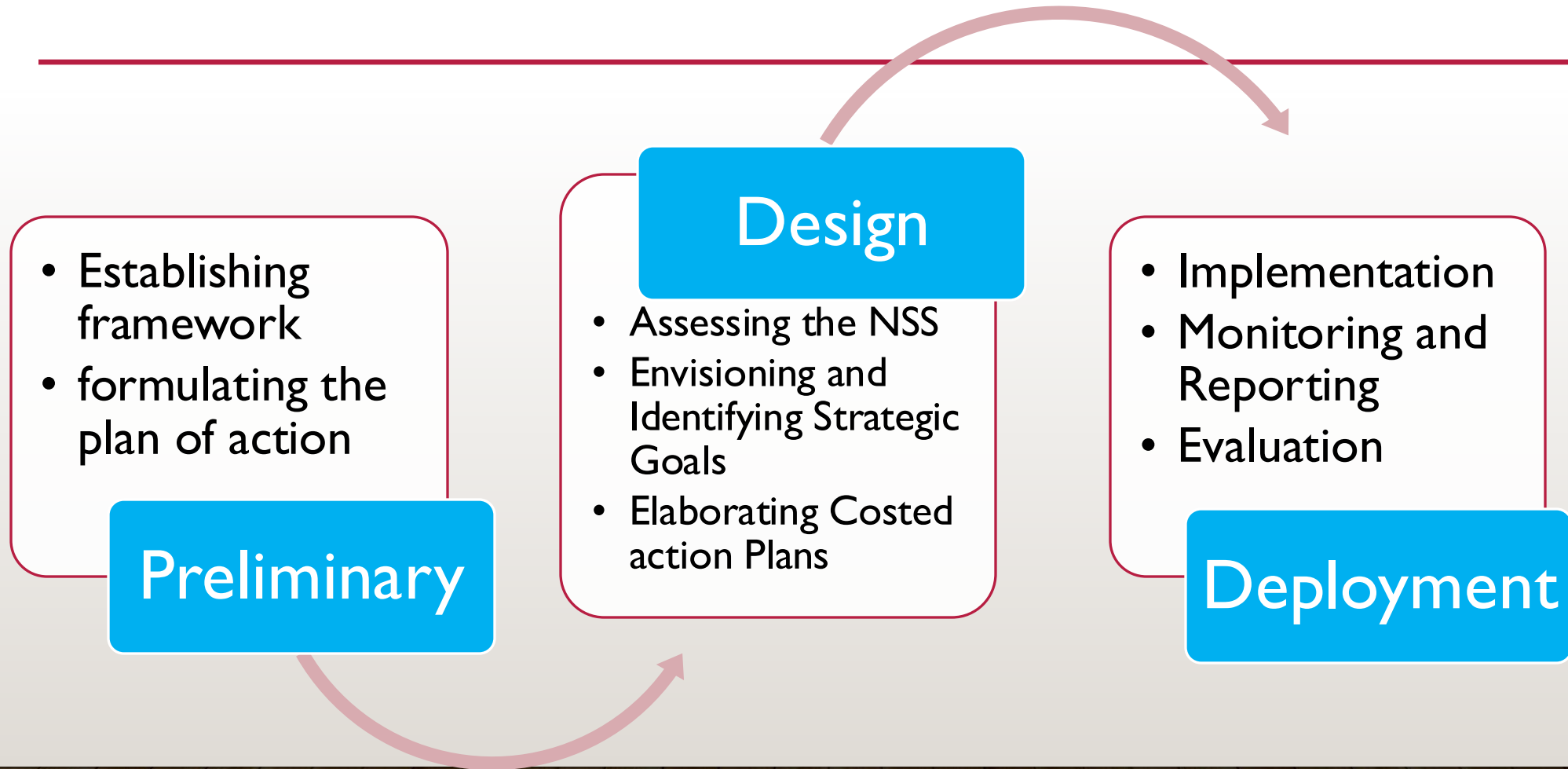
- Treaty to OECS and CARICOM (RSDS)
- Encourages harmonization of statistical methods
- Promotes regional comparability of data
- Collaboration on shared developmental goals

WHO IS PART OF THE NSDS?

- The **Central Statistical Office (CSO)** in Saint Lucia is the lead agency.
- **FOR effective coordination** it requires a **broad governance structure**, which includes:
 1. A **high-level steering committee**
 2. **A Technical working groups** with internal and external stakeholders from ministries, departments, academia, private sector, and civil society,
 3. Ongoing guidance and collaboration with **regional (e.g., OECS, CARICOM)** and **international partners (e.g., PARIS21, Work Bank and UN Statistics Division)**.

HOW IS THE NSDS CREATED?

Following the PARIS 21 Guidelines there is an NSDS LIFECYCLE structured by; stages, places and steps.



IN SUMMARY

- A **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)** is a country-led, comprehensive framework designed to strengthen a nation's statistical system over a defined period, typically **5 to 10 years**. It outlines *what* statistical improvements are needed, *why* they matter, for informed decision-making, good governance, and monitoring progress on developmental goals like the SDGs, and *who* should be involved, led by the Central Statistical Office, with a need for *strong* political will and developmental partners which involves a participatory process of assessing current capacities, setting strategic goals, implementing actions, and monitoring progress to ensure a coordinated, sustainable, and user-focused statistical system.

NSDS ROAD MAP

FRAMEWORK

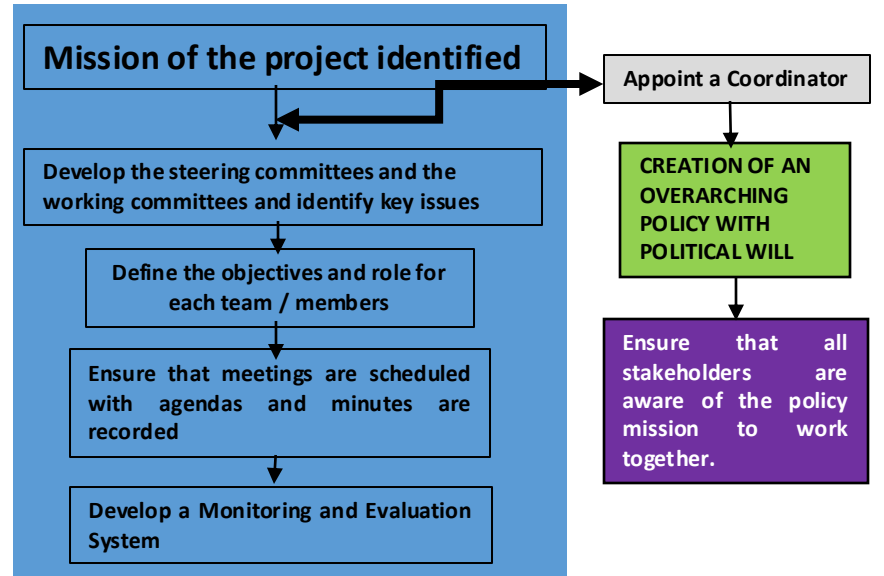
NSDS ROAD MAP

First and foremost, we will need to have at least one of the following:

- 1) **NSDS Roadmap.** This involves engaging with the stakeholders of statistics and preparing the institutional framework for the NSDS design and deployment. The roadmap must include all of the well-defined activities you plan to undertake when developing your NSDS.
- 2) **NSDS Action Plans.** A set of identifiable steps to produce an output or a group of related outputs (NSDS) that are expected to lead to strategic outcomes over a defined timeline. The action plan must include all of the well-defined activities you plan to undertake when implementing your NSDS.

PROJECT FRAMEWORK ROAD MAP

NSDS WORKFLOW CHART



REPORTS

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS

- STATUS PROGRESS REPORTS**
- Activities performed
 - Status of programme
 - Approvals
 - Disbursements
 - Constraints
 - Projections
 - Recommendations, Lessons Learnt

Identify Key Issues

- ### Steering Committee
1. Identify the overall timeline, define vision, mission and core principles.
 2. Assessment of the NSDS roadmap for strategic priorities.
 3. Identify Key Stakeholders
 4. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the NSS assessment findings.
 5. Cross reference current legislation, policies and PARIS21 rules for gap analysis.
 6. Identify Political medium and long term prioritization alignment.
 7. Updating of the draft Implementation Plan
 8. Completion of the NSDS Actions Plans with Resource mobilization and time.

- ### Working Committee
1. Appoint representative point persons to the working committee within each group of the stakeholder listings.
 2. Gather the relevant data for assessment of the project needs.
 3. Research and share all the applicable legislation, policies and PARIS 21 Rules.
 4. Keep track of the worksheet deliverables aligned to each member.
 5. Identify institutional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT).
 6. Develop clear goals, outcomes, and indicators to measure progress of each task.
 7. Coordinate all activities with the public and private sector



PHASE 1:**Multi-Stakeholder Engagement and Workshops**

Objective: Validate NSS assessment findings and collect input for the NSDS strategic document.

Steps:

- 1. Stakeholder Mapping**
- 2. Workshop Design**
- 3. Documentation**

PHASE 2:**Updating the NSDS Roadmap**

Objective: Revise the roadmap to guide the NSDS implementation process, including a detailed budget.

Steps:

- 1. Review Current Roadmap**
- 2. Costing Coordination Activities**
- 3. Budget Development**
- 4. Validation**

PHASE 3:**Drafting and Finalisation of the NSDS and Action Plan**

Objective: Develop a comprehensive NSDS document and an actionable plan with costing and budgeting.

Steps:

- 1. Data Gathering**
- 2. Drafting the Strategic Document**
- 3. Action Plan Development**
- 4. Stakeholder Review**

PHASE 4:**Promotion of the NSDS**

Objective: Advocate for the NSDS at the highest political and institutional levels.

Steps:

- 1. Political Engagement**
- 2. Advocacy Materials**
- 3. Stakeholder Buy-in**

PHASE 5:**NSDS Launch and Public Engagement**

Objective: Support the successful launch of the NSDS to raise awareness and ensure stakeholder commitment.

Steps:

- 1. Coordination**
- 2. Publicity Materials**
- 3. Event Management**

STATISTICAL LEGISLATION



STATISTICAL LEGISLATION OVERVIEW

- An effective **Statistics Act** should align with **international standards and best practices** to ensure the production of *high-quality, reliable, and independent statistics*. These standards are largely guided by principles from organizations like the **UN, PARIS21, OECD, and IMF**.
 1. **UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**
 2. **OECD Recommendation on Good Statistical Practice**
 3. **PARIS21 NSDS Guidelines**
 4. **IMF's Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF)**

UN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES EIGHT CORE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS THE STATISTICS ACT SHOULD MEET

- Professional Independence
- Mandate for Data Collection
- Statistical Confidentiality
- Coordination of National Statistical System
- Quality Standards
- Data Access and Dissemination
- User engagement
- Sustainable Financing

STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT



OVERVIEW OF STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

- **Stakeholder mapping** is a systematic process of identifying, analyzing, and categorizing individuals, groups, or organizations that have a stake in a particular project or initiative. In the context of the NSDS, stakeholder mapping is crucial because it helps to clarify who is involved or affected, understand their interests and level of influence, and design engagement approaches that promote collaboration and mitigate conflicts. Also, the mapping process enables decision-makers to prioritize communication and allocate resources effectively.

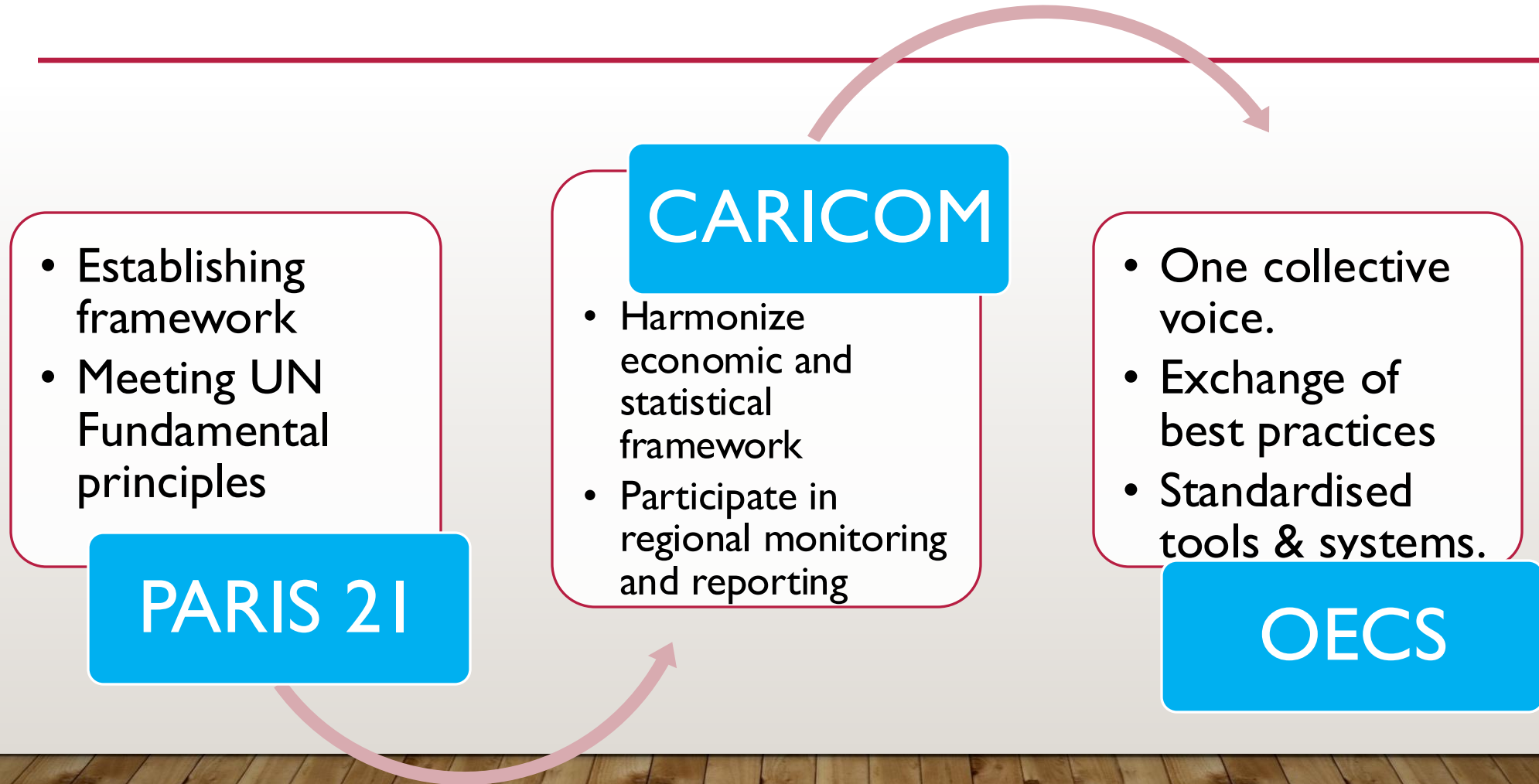
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

NSDS GUIDANCE

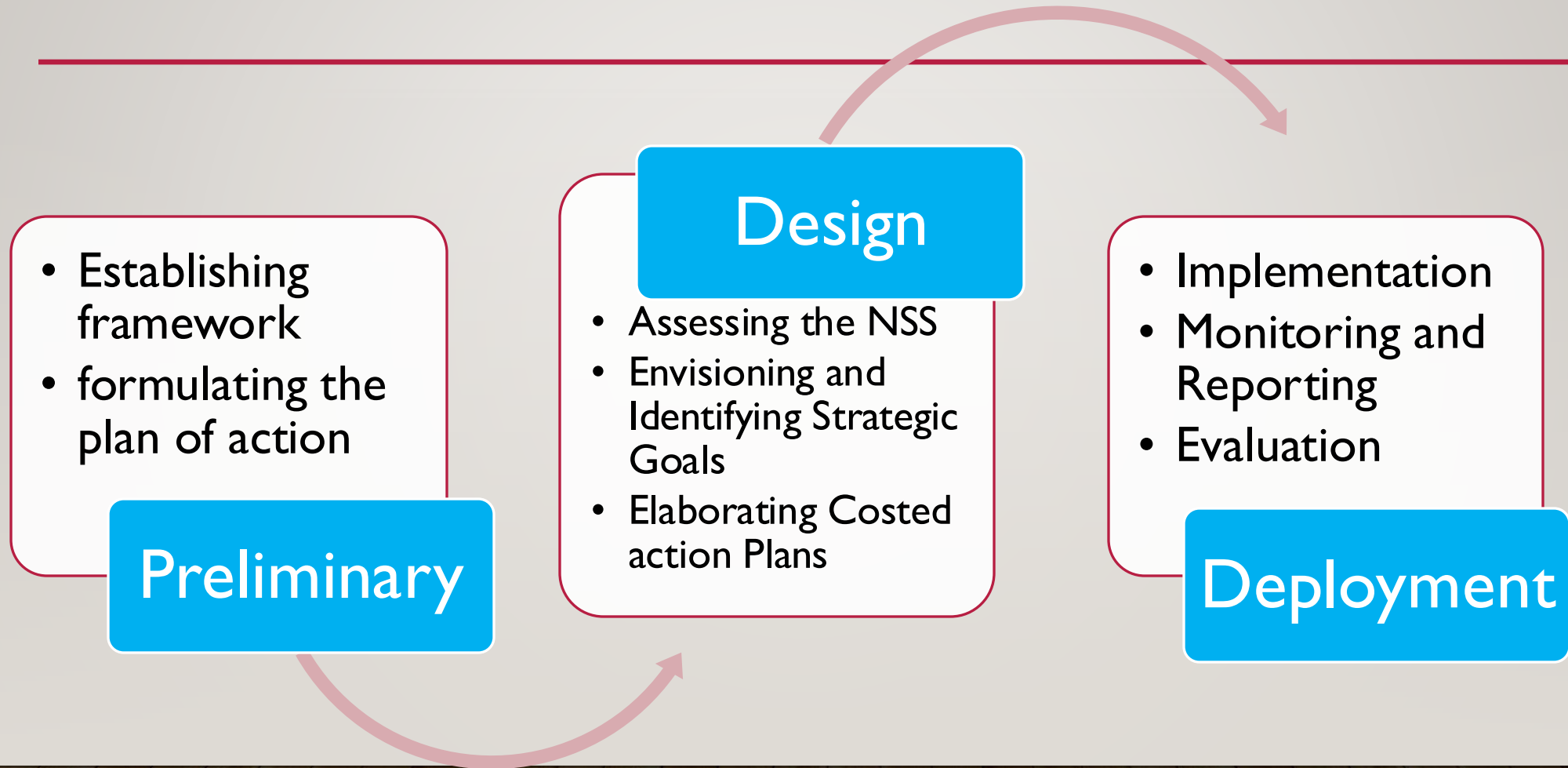


INTERNATIONAL NSDS GUIDANCE

Saint Lucia has three separate obligations due to its Regional Trading Bloc commitments and the International obligations.



FOLLOWING PARIS 21 LIFECYCLE



CARICOM COMMITMENT

- Within the framework of the Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community and in accordance with **Resolution No. 54/74/4** CARICOM established the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) in 1974, one year after the establishment of CARICOM.
- The objectives of the SCCS as given by Council in 1974 were, inter alia, *“to foster increased recognition of the importance of adequate statistical services to the countries of the region; to widen the scope and coverage of statistical data collection; and to improve the quality, comparability and timeliness of statistics produced.”*
- *IN 2016, the CARICOM agreed for the need of a Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)*

THE CARICOM RSDS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Responding to the statistical requirements of the regional development agenda;**
- **Assuring comparability of data in and across all Member States;**
- **Strengthening links and convergence between the regional and national levels;**
- **Pooling statistical skills, expertise and resources at the regional level;**
- **Enabling the development of statistical tools and services at the regional level;**
- **Facilitating, coordinating and strengthening representation with respect to external partners;**
- **Serving as a framework for the implementation and monitoring of the Agenda 2030 at the regional level;**
- **Adding value through the more efficient use of resources in the production of harmonised intra-regional statistics.**

OECS COMMITMENT

- The OECS RSDS exploits many successes and accolades. In particular, the CARICOM 2015-19 Strategic Plan recognises *“the need to take account of the accelerated integration among the OECS Members...”* (p. 11) and that *“... the OECS offers best practice examples for the wider CARICOM in a number of areas...”* (p.105).
- *The achievements also demonstrate Member States’ perseverance, encouraged and led by the OECS Commission, to pursue development objectives as **One Community, Working Together**, despite the odds against transitioning out of extreme data deprivation and pursuing an agenda for achieving full integration.*

OECS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The OECS RSDS is underpinned by four broad principles: **alignment, subsidiarity, shared-responsibility and mutual accountability and which must simultaneously oil the RSS machinery.**
1. **Alignment** involves a disciplined approach to managing the communication, coordination, and responsibility of the common boundaries among partners' agenda, project goals and objectives, contextual system processes and culture.
 2. **subsidiarity** seeks to respect the sovereignty of the Member States to take decisions and to take action to achieve national goals, and at the same time allow the institutions of the Economic Union to take action for reasons of scale and comparability which would satisfy the requirements for regional integration.
 3. **Shared responsibility** is expressed through participatory, inclusive consultative processes; a configuration that delineates roles and labour with respect to the development, production and dissemination of statistics;
 4. **“mutual accountability”** is a process by which two (or multiple) partners agree to be held responsible for the commitments that they have voluntarily made to each other.



WHAT ARE THE KEY NATIONAL MEDIUM TERM DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND POLICY GOALS FOR ST. LUCIA (REFERENCING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS, SDG PRIORITIES)?

SUB-ISSUE I





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A.R.I.S.E.

GLOBAL COMMITMENT

17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



USING THE LATEST PUBLISHED MTDS 2020 - 2023

Key Result Area Overarching Goal	
 Agriculture	To increase improve agricultural output by 36 percent and export
 Tourism	To increase tourism arrivals and receipts
 Infrastructure	To provide resilient infrastructure to support socio-economic development
 Health	Increase the provision of affordable and quality health care
 Education	To improve the quality of education and improve the education pathways
 Citizen Security	To reduce the crime rate and improve the judicial system

USING THE LATEST PUBLISHED MTDS 2020 - 2023

Seven Strategic Development Pillars



Building Productive Capacity and Expanding Growth Opportunities



Building Strong Institutions that are a platform for growth and development



Infrastructure, Connectivity, Energy - Key for Growth and Competitiveness



Adaptation for Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change & Disaster Vulnerability



Social Transformation, Building Social Resilience and Social Capital



Enhancing Labour Force through Education, Training and Workforce Development



Health and Wellness

IN ST. LUCIA'S MTDS ROAD MAP 7 SDG GOALS ARE ALIGNED TO THE SDG

SDG 3

• Good Health and Well-Being

SDG 4

• Quality Education

SDG 7

• Affordable and Clean Energy

SDG 8

• Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 13

• Climate Action

SDG 16

• Peace, Justice and Strong Institution

SDG 17

• Partnerships for the Goals

FLOW OF INFORMATION



WHAT DATA IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO
MONITOR THESE PRIORITIES?

SUB-ISSUE 2



DATA CONCERNS

- Taken from the Voluntary National Review Report 2019 - *Currently not all of the SDG indicators are available and measurable in Saint Lucia. Therefore the following relevant general indicators have been substituted to track progress:*
 - ❑ {1} denotes national strategy indicators
 - ❑ {2} denotes CARICOM Core Indicators
 - ❑ {3} denotes SDG indicators from the 2030 Agenda.

WHAT DATA GAPS EXIST?

SUB-ISSUE 3

WHAT DATA GAPS EXIST?

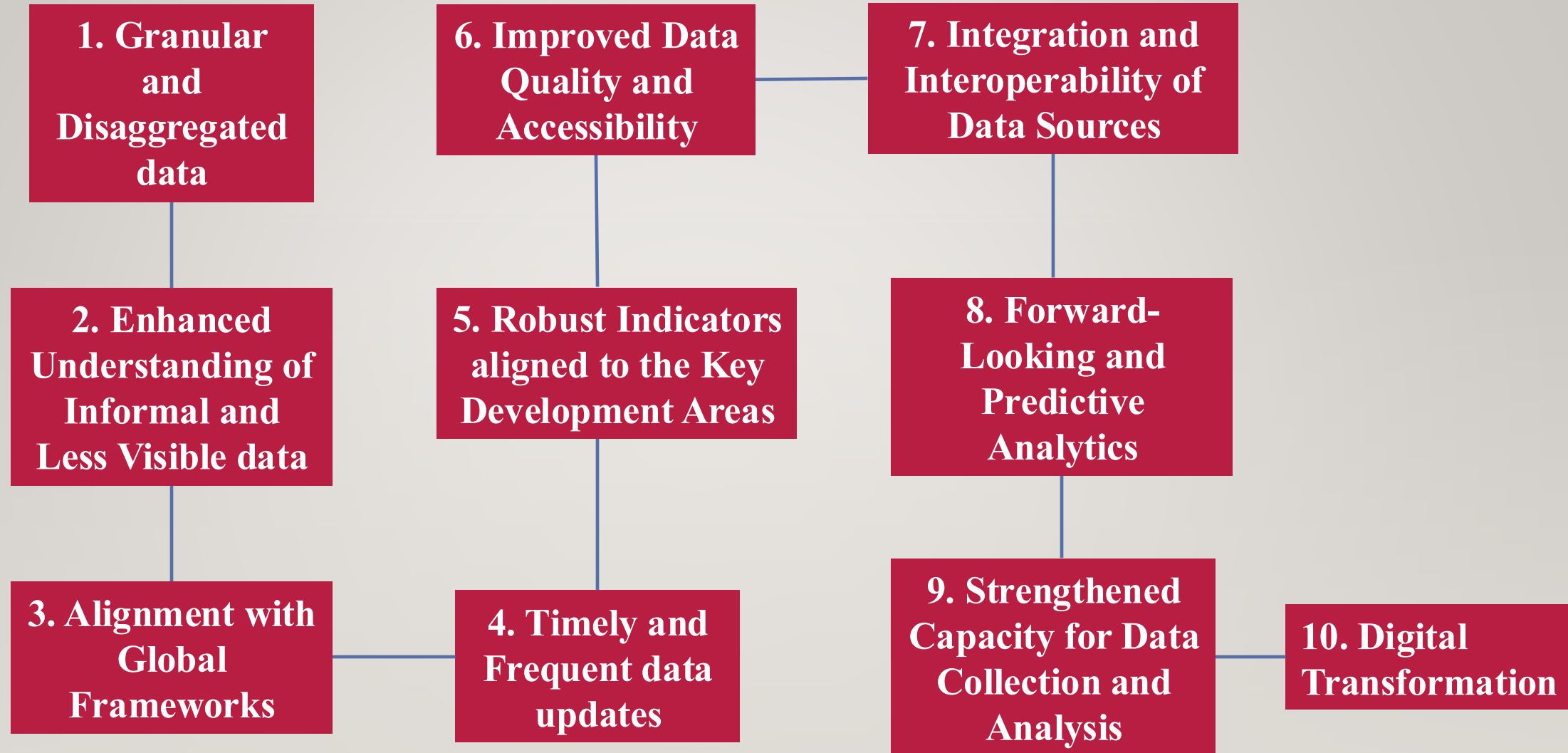
1. Lack of reliable statistical data.
2. There are many agencies within the statistical system collecting data on their own without supervision from CSO.
3. The CSO is also not involved in the choice of statistical methods.
4. Nor does the CSO monitor the quality of data generated by these agencies.
5. Different agencies collect different types of data
6. There are no mechanisms in place to ensure that there are synergies in the data collection.
7. There is also no single proforma for data collection in Saint Lucia.
8. Challenges also persist in the collection, analysis and dissemination of linked economic, social and environmental data.
9. The lack of structured data collection and analysis processes,
10. Data is collected in a piecemeal fashion by various agencies, usually only when funding is available.
11. Data is not analyzed beyond the purpose for which it was collected; it is not validated, and not systematically updated.

WHAT NEW OR IMPROVED STATISTICS ARE NEEDED TO BETTER INFORM POLICY DECISIONS AND TRACK PROGRESS?

SUB-ISSUE 4



ALIGNED TO THE STATISTICAL CHALLENGES



WHAT ARE THE EXISTING STATISTICAL PLANS OR STRATEGIES IN ST. LUCIA?

SUB-ISSUE 5



BASED ON: SAINT LUCIA'S VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. The Mainstreaming and nationalizing of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 goals
2. The strengthening of the entire National Statistical System
3. The expansion and enhancement of the National Coordination Mechanism for the 2030 Agenda
4. A comprehensive national assessment of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda
5. The strengthening and diversification of international development partnerships
6. The establishment of an effective communication and advocacy mechanism

NSDS SEVEN (7) OVERARCHING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**STATISTICAL
GOVERNANCE AND
COORDINATION**

**DATA QUALITY AND
STANDARDISATION**

**STATISTICAL
CAPACITY
DEVELOPMENT**

**DATA ACCESS, USE
AND INNOVATION**

**RESOURCE
MOBILISATION AND
SUSTAINABILITY**

**OUTREACH
SENSITISATION
AND
COMMUNICATION**

**MONITORING,
EVALUATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION**

BEST PRACTICES TO A NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM



SUMMARY TABLE BEST PRACTICES NATIONAL STATISTICS SYSTEM

Dimension	Focus	Key Tools / Practices
Policy	Political commitment, planning	NSDS, SDG alignment, budget integration
Institutional	Coordination, roles, partnerships	National Council, CSO lead, inter-agency committees
Legal	Statutory authority, data protection	Updated Statistics Act, data confidentiality clauses
Regulatory	Standards and enforceable rules	MoUs, QAF, classification systems, data protocols
Operational	Day-to-day functionality and output	Training, data portals, quality reviews, innovation

IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY DATA



ENHANCING DATA QUALITY AND METHODOLOGICAL SOUNDNESS

Overview

1. Why data quality matters in official statistics
2. Introduction to **UN National Quality Assurance Framework (UN NQAF)**
3. Key quality dimensions
4. Strategies for quality improvement across the data lifecycle
5. Role of international standards
6. Discussion on the practicality of data process and enhancements

WHY DATA QUALITY MATTERS

- 1. Policy Impact:** Poor-quality data leads to misinformed decisions.
- 2. Public Trust:** Quality fosters credibility and use.
- 3. International Reporting:** SDGs, IMF, CARICOM & OECS rely on accurate national data.
- 4. Efficient Resource Use:** Good quality avoids costly rework

INTRODUCTION TO UN NATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK (UN NQAF)

UN NQAF: IS a Toolkit and a Manual for National Statistical Systems.

It provides:

- **A standardised, yet flexible and practical framework** for assessing and improving statistical quality,
- **Transparency, trust, and credibility** in data,
- **Institutional quality culture within the jurisdiction,**
- **Quality indicators, principles, and documentation templates to building data, and**
- **International comparability** and adherence to best practices.

KEY DIMENSIONS OF DATA QUALITY

(BASED ON UN NQAF AND OTHER GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS)

Dimension	Description
1. Relevance	Does the data meet user needs?
2. Accuracy	How close is the data to the true value?
3. Timeliness	Is the data available when needed?
4. Punctuality	Was the data released on time as scheduled?
5. Accessibility	Can users easily find and use the data?
6. Clarity	Are concepts, definitions, and metadata clearly explained?
7. Coherence	Is the data internally consistent and comparable over time/space?
8. Comparability	Can the data be compared across countries or sectors?

Strategies for Improvement across the data lifecycle

A. Institutional & Governance Level

- Establish a **national quality assurance policy**
- Form **quality committees** within CSO and line ministries
- Integrate **quality planning into NSDS**

B. Survey & Data Collection Design

- Pre-test questionnaires (pilot testing)
- Use **internationally accepted data classifications.**
- Standardize definitions across sectors

C. Data Processing & Validation

- Implement **automated data checks** and validation rules
- Introduce **double-entry or review protocols**
- Maintain **audit trails and documentation**

D. Capacity Building & Tools

- Train staff in **quality management, sampling, and data ethics**
- Use standardised software tools for statistical processing.

TO ENSURE THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF THE NSDS, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ADOPT A HOLISTIC SUSTAINABILITY APPROACH.

- This involves securing **stable financial resources** through national budgets and donor support, building strong partnerships, and investing in the development of skilled human resources and modern infrastructure. A culture of data use and statistical awareness must also be fostered across government, civil society, and the private sector. Critically, continuous monitoring and evaluation of the NSDS are vital to track progress, adapt to emerging challenges, and maintain the relevance and effectiveness of the strategy over time.

Resource Mobilization

- Integrate NSDS funding needs into the national budget process.
- Identify and engage development partners early.

National Budget Allocation

- Ensure recurrent and capital statistical expenditures are reflected in annual budgeting cycles.
- Advocate for a dedicated budget line for statistics

Donor Support

- Align donor priorities with national statistical development goals.
- Establish data partnerships with regional and global organizations (e.g., CARICOM, OECS, UN, World Bank, PARIS21).

Partnerships & Collaboration

- Strengthen collaboration between the Central Statistical Office, line ministries, civil society, and private sector.
- Leverage regional statistical networks.

Fostering a Culture of Statistics

- Promote data use in policymaking through awareness campaigns.
- Conduct regular data literacy workshops for public servants and the media.

Infrastructure Investment

- Improve ICT infrastructure to support data collection, storage, and dissemination.
- Adopt modern tools and technologies.

Human Resource Development

- Invest in continuous capacity building of CSO staff and sectoral statisticians.
- Partner with academic institutions for training and internships

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

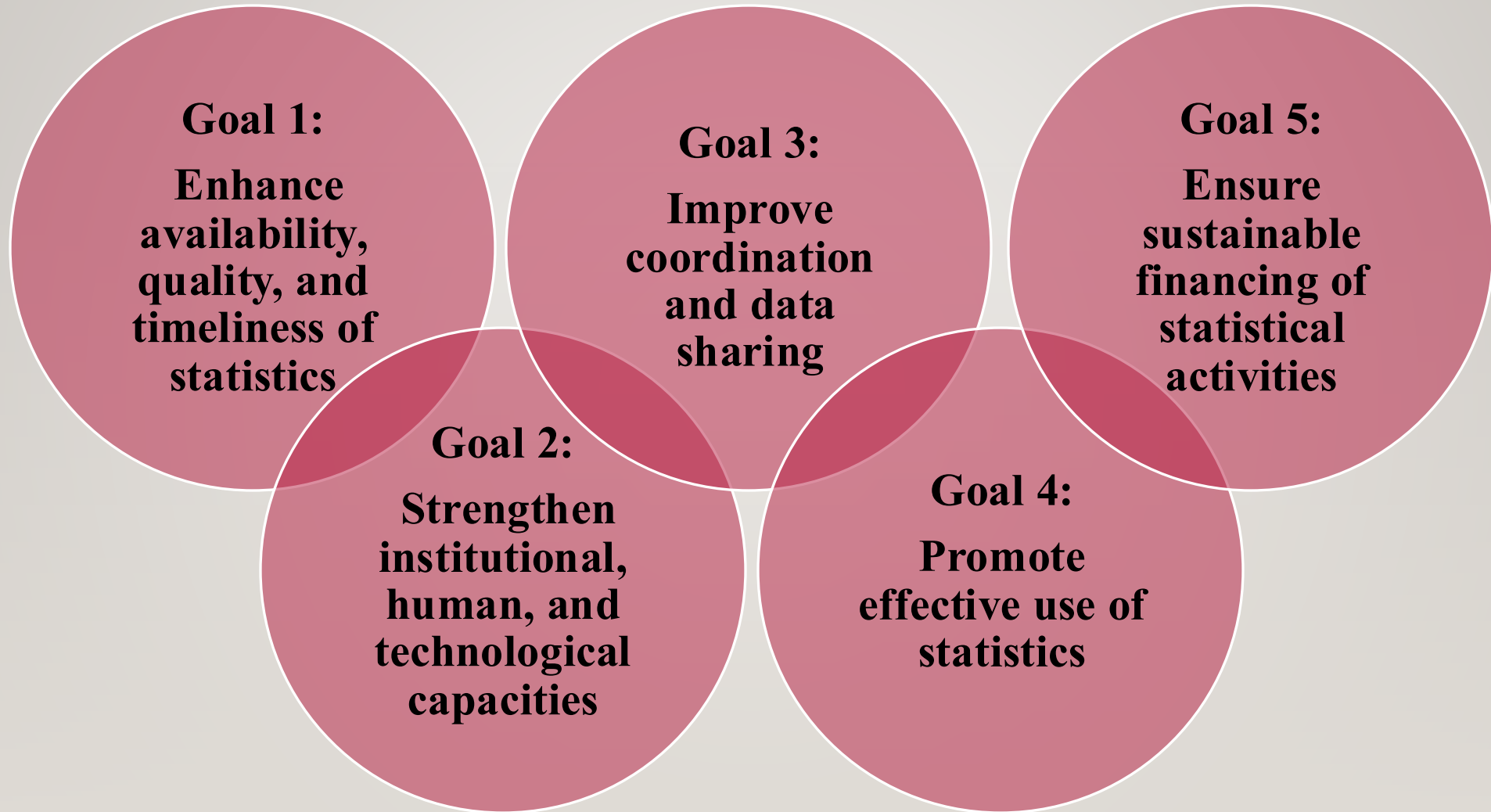
- Embed a results-based M&E framework in the NSDS.
- Conduct annual reviews and a mid-term evaluation.- Use performance indicators to track implementation progress.

PARIS21 Position on Data Dissemination Responsibilities

“The coordination of statistical dissemination should not be the sole responsibility of the NSO but involve all producers of official statistics under the NSS to ensure coherence, completeness, and accessibility.”

Aspect	PARIS21 Guidance
Primary Role of NSO	The NSO is usually the lead agency for statistical coordination and should ensure quality, standardization, and dissemination planning.
Inclusive Approach	Data dissemination should be a shared responsibility across the NSS — including ministries, departments, agencies, and sometimes non-government actors (e.g., academia, civil society).
Coordination is Key	NSOs should coordinate dissemination activities, offer guidance, and ensure that data from all official producers follows agreed standards.
Open Data Ecosystem	PARIS21 encourages multi-stakeholder collaboration, where various institutions contribute to and use shared dissemination platforms.

NSDS FIVE (5) STRATEGIC GOALS



VISION

A modern, innovative, and trusted National Statistical System that delivers timely, high-quality, and inclusive data to power sustainable development, informed decision-making, and national resilience in Saint Lucia.

MISSION

To lead the transformation of Saint Lucia's statistical system through strategic coordination, robust legal and policy frameworks, capacity strengthening, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring that official statistics are relevant, accessible, and aligned with national, regional, and international development priorities.

THANK YOU!

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