



**NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS  
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

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**REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY  
(CARICOM) COOPERATION ACTIVITIES  
IN STATISTICS**

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## **OVERVIEW**

- **Background - the Regional Integration Process and the Statistical Framework**
- **Section I: Cooperation Activities in Social and Environment Statistics and 2010 Population and Housing Census**
- **Section II: Cooperation Activities and Initiatives in Economic and ICT Statistics**
- **Section III: Cooperation Activities in Other General Areas related to Statistical Development**
- **Conclusions**



## BACKGROUND

### The Regional Integration Framework:

- The Caribbean Community and Common Market was established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas in 1973.
- It was preceded by the British West Indies Federation in 1958 which came to an end in 1962.
- **CARICOM Member States are:** Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- **CARICOM Associate Members are:** Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands.



## BACKGROUND

### The Regional Integration Framework (cont'd)

- In 1989, Member States reaffirmed and broadened the Community's core objectives to include the creation of a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).
- The deepening of the integration process and specifically the CSME critically depends on the production and dissemination of statistics across member states to guide and monitor the process.



## BACKGROUND

### The Critical Role of Statistics

- **Statistics:**
  - are useful in monitoring and evaluating the provisions of the CSME which include the rights of establishments, movement of services, capital and community nationals;
  - can help private sector and nationals of the community in general in participating in the CSME and in deriving the benefits of the provisions;
  - are needed to improve the living standards of people of CARICOM;
  - are needed to work towards achieving national, regional and international developmental goals such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



## BACKGROUND

### The Regional Statistics Unit:

- The overall goal of the programme of work in statistics at the CARICOM Secretariat is to provide the Community with high quality statistical products for decision-making and to monitor, guide and assess the impact of the development process.
- The key results areas to achieve the goal include:
  - Comprehensive and harmonised systems of statistics developed;
  - Statistical capacity in Member States and at the Secretariat strengthened and sustained through the implementation of appropriate mechanisms.



## BACKGROUND

### Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians - SCCS

- The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS), established in 1974 within the framework of the Treaty is a major institution in statistical development;
- Its objectives are:
  - to foster increased recognition of the importance of adequate statistical services to the countries of the Region;
  - widen the scope and coverage of statistical data collection; and
  - improve the quality inclusive of the comparability and timeliness of statistics produced.



## BACKGROUND

### Standing Committee of Caribbean Statistician – SCCS (cont'd)

- The SCCS comprises heads of statistical offices, international and regional organisations and meets annually;
- Its activities include:
  - Developing and harmonising statistical concepts and methodology;
  - Coordinating and initiating programmes for statistical training/technical assistance;
  - Recommending, approving and monitoring programmes in the field of statistics.



## BACKGROUND

### Common Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP)

- In 2005, the Community Council of Ministers of CARICOM approved a three-year RSWP and passed a Resolution calling on Governments to strengthen statistical capacity through increasing investment in Statistics as a priority.
- Partly, the background to the RSWP was a presentation by the CARICOM Secretariat to the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Community Council in The Bahamas on 7 July 2001 on the status and role of statistics in CARICOM and from the SCCS deliberations on the huge demands on statistics which led to the Resolution and the RSWP



## BACKGROUND

### The RSWP (cont'd)

- Council in its decisions mandated the CARICOM Secretariat in collaboration with the SCCS to prepare in its Work Programme, a 3-year Plan for the improvement of the quality and range of statistics available to the Region thereby giving political support to statistics.
- The objective of the RSWP is to focus on the statistical needs to establish, monitor and evaluate the CSME and also to make available statistical information for decision-making to keep pace with the changing socio-economic and global environment, as well as technological advances.



## BACKGROUND

### **CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS):**

- Efforts to implement the RSWP and to address the actions of the Resolution led to the establishment of a CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS).
- The AGS, which reports to the SCCS, is tasked with the responsibility of facilitating the improvement of statistics through the implementation of the programme areas of the RSWP.



## BACKGROUND

### **CARICOM ADVISORY GROUP ON STATISTICS**

- The SCCS approved the establishment of the AGS at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in 2007 in Suriname;
- The Objectives of the AGS are to:
  - Establish and develop a framework to achieve the implementation of the RSWP in CARICOM Member countries in a manner that will result in the production of a common core of harmonised, high quality Statistics; and
  - Facilitate the implementation of the Resolution on strengthening the National Statistical Systems.

## BACKGROUND

### CARICOM ADVISORY GROUP ON STATISTICS (Cont'd)

- Membership of the AGS is open to Heads of Statistical Offices of all Member States but currently consists of The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, with an observer country, Bermuda.



## BACKGROUND

### Approach to Cooperation Activities in Statistics in CARICOM

- The regionally coordinated approach to the execution of cooperation activities is a well-established and proven strategy in the Region and was first used to assist countries in census-taking.
- This approach utilises uniform concepts and definitions and a common core of region-specific relevant issues/questions to support the collection of policy-relevant data.



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section I**

**Social, Gender, Environment and Census:**

#### **1. UNSD/CARICOM Project- Social/Gender and Environment Statistics:**

- **Objectives :**
  - **Strengthen Capacity for Conference Follow-up, providing data to support policy.**
  - **Provide Capacity building through regional training workshops in data compilation; training/technical assistance in IT/database management; equipment software and institutional support etc.**



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section I**

**Social, Gender, Environment and Census:**

#### **1. UNSD/CARICOM Project- Social/Gender Environment Statistics:**

- **Main Outputs & Achievements include :**
  - **Core Social Gender and Environmental Indicators of relevance to CARICOM identified.**
  - **Trained Personnel with increased sensitisation of gender social and environmental issues;**
  - **Increased networking of statisticians with their counterparts in gender, the environment and social spheres;**
  - **Fundamentally laid the foundation for the development in a structured way of these areas.**



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section I**

**Social, Gender, Environment and Census:**

#### **1. UNSD/CARICOM Project- Social/Gender Environment Statistics:**

- **Main Outputs & Achievements (cont'd) :**
  - **Two Regional Publications in Social Gender and Environment Statistics resulted.**
  - **A report on Decision-Making;**
  - **Several countries produced Women and Men and Environment Statistics Compendia;**
  - **CARICOM Advisory Group on Social/Gender and Environment Statistics preceded current AGS whose mandate is broader.**



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section I**

#### **1. UNSD/CARICOM Project (cont'd):**

- **Post Project achievements include :**
  - **Functioning of the CARICOM Advisory Group to sustain the data compilation**
  - **Four countries have produced 3+ Environment Statistics Report- Suriname, Dominica, Belize and Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago (2)**
  - **Gender focus in Social Statistics;**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Environment Statistics Report and Chapters on Population, Health, Education, Labour;**
    - **Follow-up Support from World Bank TFSCB, UNFPA UNDP.**



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section I**

**Social, Gender, Environment and Census:**

#### **2. CCDP and CDB Demographic Analysis Training:**

- **Objectives:**
  - **Strengthen Census Data Analysis and Demographic Data Collection for integration into national planning frameworks and the reports on the MDGs.**
- **Main Outputs & Achievements:**
  - **Trained/retrained approximately 90 persons in Demographic Analysis including the retraining of some senior personnel**



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section I**

**Social, Gender, Environment and Census:**

#### **3. Common Census Framework Support- IDB, UNFPA, DFID,UNSD, UNICEF, UNECLAC etc.:**

- **Objectives:**
  - **Development and adoption in CARICOM of a CARICOM-wide framework for Population and Housing Census.**
  - **Production of Harmonised Statistics.**
  - **Promoting synergies and cost-effectiveness and avoiding duplication of effort;**
  - **Networking, South-South Cooperation and online follow-up, linking into online resources.**



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section I**

**Social, Gender, Environment and Census:**

#### **3. Common Census Framework Support- IDB, UNFPA, DFID,UNSD, UNICEF, UNECLAC etc.:**

- **Main Outputs & Achievements include:**
  - Development of standardised methodologies- common core questions with supporting metadata, common training and dissemination tools (forthcoming).
  - Training in Census Organisation and Administration, CensusInfo, Census editing etc.;
  - Technical Assistance/training in Mapping/GIS.
  - Should lead to the Production of more Harmonised Census Data for regional/national policy inputs.



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section II**

**Economic Statistics :**

#### **4. Framework for National Accounts, Trade in Services etc – European Community- Ninth EDF,UNSD, etc.:**

- **Objectives:**
  - Provision of decision-makers of CARICOM with the information required to monitor and guide progress in the establishment of the CSME through the overall Result:
  - Improved and Harmonised Economic Statistics Developed and Disseminated.



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section II**

#### **4. Framework for National Accounts, Trade in Services etc – European Community- Ninth EDF,UNSD, etc.:**

- **Objectives (continued):**
- **Three Key Results:**
  - Harmonising the regional statistical infrastructure;
  - Improving statistical programming, production and dissemination of key economic statistics; and
  - Training of Staff and Enabling the Use of Economic Statistics for Monitoring the Regional Integration Process.



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section II**

#### **4. Framework for National Accounts, Trade in Services etc – European Community- Ninth EDF, Eurostat, UNSD, etc.:**

- **Main Outputs & Achievements:**
- **Production of the Barbados Action Plan on Economic Statistics (Strategising for Economic Statistics);**
- **Consultancy in Economic Statistics served to develop the Action Plan creating a CARICOM Economic Statistics Action Plan:**
  - Assessment Conducted/Technical Assistance delivered



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section II**

#### **4. Framework for National Accounts, Trade in Services etc – European Community- Ninth EDF, Eurostat, UNSD, etc.:**

- **Main Outputs & Achievements:**
- **Training in Classifications;**
- **Activation of a Technical Working Group;**
- **Developing common Integrated questionnaires;**
- **Merchandise Trade data enhancement technical assistance;**
- **Defining the Scope of ICT Statistics,**



## **Co-operation Activities**

### **Section II**

#### **4. Framework for National Accounts, Trade in Services etc – European Community- Ninth EDF, Eurostat, UNSD, etc.:**

- **Main Outputs & Achievements:**
- **Training Workshop in New Eurotrace (trade data processing) & Follow-up workshop to discuss, treat with implementation challenges;**
- **Establishment of a Help-desk facility;**
- **Consultancy in Trade in Services Statistics;**
- **Initial work on Data Quality framework introduction.**



## **Co-operation Activities Section III**

### **5. General areas related to statistical development (European Community, IDB, PARIS21, UNSD, etc.)**

#### **Objective:**

- **Production of a Common Framework for Statistics Production to facilitate harmonised statistics production and dissemination.**



## **Co-operation Activities Section III**

### **5. General areas related to statistical development (European Community, IDB, PARIS21, UNSD, etc.)**

#### **Main Outputs & Achievements:**

- **Development of a Strategic Framework for Statistics based on the NSDS;**
  - Training Workshop on NSDS;
  - Undertaking of a consultancy in statistical programming incorporating NSDS design in-country (forthcoming);
  - Developing/refining a Common Regional Statistical Work Programme (in progress by AGS).



## **Co-operation Activities Section III**

**5. General areas related to statistical development (European Community, IDB, PARIS21, UNSD, etc.)**

**Main Outputs & Achievements:**

- **Support/refinement of the SCCS as a decision-making forum (in progress);**
- **Support the functioning of the Advisory Group on Statistics;**
- **High level Advocacy Forum in Statistics;**
- **Support to National level Advocacy in Statistics.**



## **Co-operation Activities Section III**

**5. General areas related to statistical development (European Community, IDB, PARIS21, UNSD, etc.)**

**Main Outputs & Achievements (proposed):**

- **Conducting of an assessment of Statistical Offices including DR and Haiti**
- **Design of a 5-year Implementation Plan re the RSWP;**
- **Development of Model Statistics Bill;**
- **Develop a Common System for Data Warehousing, Storage Archiving;**
- **Develop a data dissemination Policy.**



## Co-operation Activities Section IV

### CONCLUSIONS:

- Major areas of Cooperation Activities;
- CARICOM Secretariat collaborates with other agencies in efforts to improve Statistics in its member countries e.g. UNECLAC, ILO, CARTAC;
- Fundamentally the approach is to:
  - develop a Strategic Framework for Statistics within which all the current and future initiatives can be located; and
  - enable the Use of Statistics in the deepening of the integration process and by policy-makers and other users.



END