



ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE STATISTICAL CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAS OF ECLAC

**AGENDA ITEM 2B: REPORT ON THE STATUS OF
REGIONAL PROJECTS IN THE CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

**Quito, Ecuador
2-4 July 2012**

OVERVIEW

- ❖ Background - the Regional Integration Process
- ❖ Progress of Work
 - ❖ Key Activities to Strengthen the Collection and Harmonisation of Statistics
 - ❖ Training, attachments
- ❖ Issues on the Agenda of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics



BACKGROUND

The Regional Integration Process:

- ❖ The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Common Market was established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas in 1973 and comprises:

15 Member States:

- ❖ 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.

5 Associate Members:

- ❖ Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Role of Statistics:

- ❖ The deepening of the integration process and specifically the CSME critically depends on the production and dissemination of statistics to guide and monitor the CSME;

Articulation of Statistics in the Revised Treaty

- ❖ **Article 25** – where it is stated that the CARICOM Secretariat shall:
 - ❖ “*collect store and disseminate to the Member States of the Community information relevant for the achievement of its objectives*”;

The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians - SCCS

- ❖ The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS), established by the Common Market Council in 1974 within the framework of the original Treaty is a major institution in statistical development;
- ❖ Terms of Reference (TORs) and Rules of Procedures exist that serve to make operational this forum.
- ❖ These TORs and Rules were reviewed to enable a more effective decision-making body.

The SCCS (cont'd):

- ❖ The SCCS comprises heads of statistical offices, international and regional organisations ;
- ❖ Some activities in pursuit of its objectives 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.

CARICOM ADVISORY GROUP ON STATISTICS (AGS)

- ❖ The SCCS approved the establishment of the AGS at its at its 32nd 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.;
- ❖ The AGS Reports to the SCCS

Common Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP)

- ❖ Updating of the RSWP that was approved by the Community Council of Ministers of CARICOM in 2005 was undertaken together with a diagnostic assessment;
- ❖ Work Programme was updated through two complimentary consultancies:
- ❖ the European Union, Ninth European Development Fund (9th EDF) and
- ❖ an IDB-funded RPG project on *Common Framework for Statistics Production- Component I* and is to be presented to the Community Council of Ministers.

Revision of Terms of Reference (TORs) of the SCCS:

- ❖ The AGS was tasked by the SCCS with the undertaking of the revision of the Terms of Reference of the SCCS to improve its functioning as a decision-making body;
- ❖ Supported by EU funding relative to the participation of heads of statistical offices in meetings of the AGS;
- ❖ TORs have been updated and is to be presented to Council

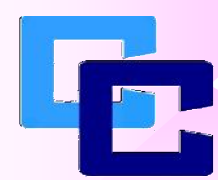


CARICOM

PROGRESS OF WORK

Preparation of a Model Statistics Bill

- ❖ The preparation of a Model Statistics Bill was funded under the IDB Regional Public Good Project- *Common Framework for Statistics Production- Component II*;
- ❖ Model Bill has been prepared and has been circulated to countries for use in updating their statistics legislation;
- ❖ Model Bill is supposed to contribute to the updating of statistics legislation in the region, facilitating the collection of harmonised high quality data.



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PROGRESS OF WORK

Framework for Data Warehousing, Management, Archiving/Storage

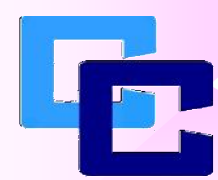
- ❖ This activity is in progress and is being funded under the IDB Regional Public Good Project- *Common Framework for Statistics Production- Component III*;
- ❖ It is anticipated that it will provide manuals, guidelines and training on the establishment of Data Warehousing facilities at the national and regional levels;
- ❖ Enable effective data management and the production of a data policy.



PROGRESS OF WORK

Common Framework for Literacy Surveys in CARICOM

- ❖ This activity is in progress and is being funded under the IDB Regional Public Good Project- of the same name;
- ❖ The option to be used in executing the surveys has been identified by the AGS entails a web-based approach ;
- ❖ Two technical workshops of statisticians and personnel from the Ministry of Education have been convened;
- ❖ Framework to be documented by the AGS and other activities to commence, manuals etc.



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PROGRESS OF WORK

Capacity-building activities funded by the EU 2011/12:

- ❖ Technical Assistance Projects were completed in 2011 in a number of areas including:
 - ❖ **Assessment of Statistical Systems** of Dominican Republic and Haiti;
 - ❖ Support to the roll-out of the **Online Help Desk** (on www.caricomstats.org);
 - ❖ Establishment of **web-based communication infrastructure** for data submission and **Organisation of databases**;
 - ❖ Updating of the Common RSWP;
 - ❖ Assistance with the development of **NSDS** frameworks,
 - ❖ Merchandise Trade data processing and supporting modules;



PROGRESS OF WORK

Training, attachments, and other support 2011/12:

- ❖ **Leadership and Management** Training of heads of Statistical Offices(June/July 2011);
- ❖ Support to a **Public Sector Consultation on Statistics** in Jamaica re the elaboration of the National Statistical System strengthening **PARIS21** also supported (Feb2011);
- ❖ Launch of the **NSDS process** in Grenada- **PARIS21** supported (April 2012);
- ❖ Support to **Caribbean Statistics Day** (October 15 2011)



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PROGRESS OF WORK

Training, attachments, and other support 2011/12:

- ❖ Training workshop on **Merchandise Trade New Eurotrace** Software:
- ❖ Data processing – data quality (February 2011);
- ❖ Trade Indices Module (May 2011);
- ❖ Comext Data Dissemination and Mirror Statistics (June 2011);

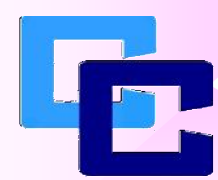
Training, attachments, and other support 2011/12:

- ❖ Two-week training workshop in **National Accounts** –compilation/data sources under TA component (February 2011);
- ❖ Workshop on the **Implementation of the 2008 SNA** in collaboration with Eurostat- 2008 SNA Implementation Plan was produced (Oct-Nov 2011);
- ❖ Support provided to a 2-week IMF/CARTAC Training Workshop on the **2008 SNA** -16 participants funded (February 2012);

PROGRESS OF WORK

Training, attachments, and other support 2011/12:

- ❖ Support to World Trade Organisation Workshop on **International Trade in Services and Creative Industries Statistics**(March 2012);
- ❖ Workshop on **Environment Statistics** –inter-agency collaboration, training in data collection (September 2011);
- ❖ Workshop on **Social/Gender Statistics** (November 2011);
- ❖ Census Training Workshop on **Advanced Data Editing focusing on CSPro** (Nov 2011)



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PROGRESS OF WORK

Training, attachments, and other support 2011/12:

- ❖ Support to First Technical Workshop on the **Common Literacy Framework** (December 2011);
- ❖ Workshop on **ICT Statistics** (December 2011;
- ❖ Support to training workshop convened by Grenada in the use of the **SPSS** software (February 2012);
- ❖ One week **South-South Attachment** Trinidad to Grenada on **Business Register** Development(Nov 2011);
- ❖ Workshop on **Eurotrace follow-up training** (June 2012).

CARICOM AGS



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Some Issues on the Agenda of the AGS:

- Establishment of a **Professional Association of Statisticians** in the CARICOM;
- Establishment of a **Database of Experts on Statistics**;
- **Code of Ethics for Statisticians** in CARICOM has been developed;
- **Model Bill, Updating of the RSWP, Data warehousing framework and the Common Literacy Framework** - all pertinent to the production of official statistics.



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CARICOM AGS

Some Issues on the Agenda of the AGS:

- Consideration of the Global **High Frequency Indicators** in the CARICOM Minimum Data Set for the monitoring of the CSME and also for the early detection of changes in economic trends;
- **Monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the recommendations** emanating from the **High Level Forum on Statistics**, which was convened in Trinidad and Tobago in July, 2009; and
- Perspective on **Regional Coordination** in the development of statistics by agencies has been developed and circulated;

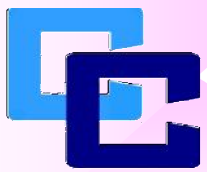


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Some Issues on the Agenda of the AGS:

- Monitoring of the 2011 Round –**International Comparison Programme (ICP)** in CARICOM ;
- Efforts at **Modernisation of Statistics** in National Statistical Offices;
- Monitoring of **Social/Gender, Environment, Economic and ICT Statistics** and the **2010 Census Round**;
- Proposed theme and activities for **Caribbean Statistics Day 2012**;
- Representation and **Regional and International Meetings** of countries of the CARICOM;
- Monitoring of the **Ninth EDF** and Update of the forthcoming **Tenth EDF**.



CARICOM

END