

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS ON 3a

Item 3 (a) (ii). Emerging issues: the data revolution

The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- (i) While the High Level Panel addressed the issue of the revolution in information technology over the last decade which provides an opportunity to strengthen data and statistics for accountability and decision-making purposes, it also spoke to the absence of the most basic data on the social and economic circumstances in which people live and on the need to address the critical gaps.
- (ii) The data revolution may therefore mean different things to different countries from those with major data gaps and underdeveloped national statistical systems to those with well-developed national statistical systems
- (iii) The recommendations of the Expert Advisory Group (Annex III) specifically as it pertains to the need to ensure that there is investment in statistical capacity building is supported and the proposals in paragraphs 7 and 8.
- (iv) In the CARICOM Region consideration of interpreting the Data Revolution in a CARICOM context was deliberated upon at the Second High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics that was held in May 2014 in Grenada. For our countries a major issue in the context of the Data Revolution was bridging the gaps that exist in the basic data that countries need to produce. In this context, notwithstanding support of International Development Partners, a key role was seen for Governments which included investment in the following:
 - a. Staffing/human resources to ensure that there is core staff to undertake the work to be done in the National Statistical Systems;
 - b. Training as also highlighted at the seminar on Monday;
 - c. Statistics legislation updating for the modernization thrust that is required;
 - d. Championing of the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics;
 - e. Support to enable efficiency gains in the use of administrative data;
 - f. Information Technology networking/equipment;
 - g. Establishment of multi-purpose survey programme where these were required;
 - h. Encouraging youths to develop apps in statistics;
 - i. Support to the development of the Caribbean Association of Professional Statisticians (CAPS).
- (v) The UNSC should emphasise a key role for governments in the data revolution. Further the need for regional approaches including production of regional public goods; South-South co-operation and a Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) can fuel the data revolution and be cost effective particularly in the case of countries/regions like CARICOM SIDS.