



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



IDB

Inter-American
Development Bank



ECS

Caribbean Thematic Conference:

Managing a statistical organization in times of change

Programme note and agenda

25 – 27 November 2019

Christ Church, Barbados

Draft Programme Note

- The Thematic Conference is to be held on 25-27 November 2019 in Christ Church, Barbados.
- The Conference is targeted at heads and/or senior managers of national, regional and international statistical agencies.
- The participation of 2 delegates from each CARICOM member state may be financed by the organisers. The possibility to finance CARICOM associated members is not guaranteed.
- Multilateral and bilateral donors active in the region are welcome to participate and contribute.

Purpose and background

The Caribbean Thematic Conference (25-27 November, Bridgetown, Barbados) is part of a series of regional conferences organised to further understand and prioritise the emerging needs of statistical organisations to adapt and develop, as stressed in the **Cape Town Global Action Plan**¹ (CTGAP) for Sustainable Development and in the final report of the series of conferences on a Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics². In particular, the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related regional and national development policies requires national statistical systems to grasp the potential of innovative technologies in a rapidly changing data ecosystem while reinforcing leadership, coordination, communication and dialogue through institutional and organizational reforms, in compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, endorsed by the General Assembly in 2014. Modernization, transformation and adaptation are crucial if official statistics are to meet the widening and increasing requirements of policymakers, researchers, the media and civil society for high-quality, timely and disaggregated statistics.

Supporting this process of adaptation and modernization, the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 49th session endorsed the proposed outline of the updated **Handbook of Statistical Organization**³ (the Handbook) aimed at guiding chief statisticians and senior managers of statistical organizations in developing and maintaining statistical capacity that is fit for purpose. An advisory group⁴ was established with the task of providing overall guidance to the drafting team at UNSD and of ensuring a link with the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and

¹ See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/cape-town-global-action-plan/>, and E/CN.3/2017/3 and E/CN.3/2018/4.

² See E/CN.3/2017/5.

³ See E/CN.3/2018/5.

⁴ Members of the Advisory Group are Brazil, Kenya, Mongolia, Palestine, Philippines, Poland, Suriname, United Kingdom, FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, Asian Development Bank, Eurostat, Open Data Watch, PARIS21, SESRIC, and the five UN Regional Commissions.

Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB) and other relevant bodies. The UNSC suggested this approach being complemented with this series of thematic conferences at the regional and sub-regional level, at which senior statisticians may address recent institutional, organizational and technical developments addressing prospective challenges and opportunities for the production of official statistics and indicators.

Objective of the Caribbean Thematic Conference and target audience

The main objective of the Caribbean Thematic Conference is to better understand and prioritise the emerging needs of statistical organisations to adapt and develop and exchange experiences and strategies of Member States in such processes. The regional approach will put emphasis on aspects of this process that are typical for the region and represent common challenges among members of that region. The workshop will also stimulate an exchange of information on national best practices as well as recent global and regional initiatives and programmes supporting the necessary transformation and modernisation of official statistics to address emerging user needs for high-quality and internationally comparable statistics and indicators.

The Conference will allow the organizers to collect additional information on practices and challenges that will contribute to an extended knowledge base related to the new Handbook whose purpose is to guide chief statisticians and senior managers in developing, adapting and maintaining statistical organisations that are fit for purpose. The Handbook itself will be based on the strategic development areas mentioned in the CTGAP and the outcome of the series of regional conferences on a transformative agenda for official statistics.

Structure of the Thematic Conference

The organizing committee⁵ of the Caribbean Thematic Conference suggested to structure the two and a half (2 ½) day event around 4 main sessions covering the 6 strategic areas of the CTGAP and 14 substantive chapters of the forthcoming Handbook identified as highly relevant for the Caribbean. The organizing committee also proposed to allocate enough time for discussions and interventions after each session and to organize 2 series of breakout sessions after session 2 and session 4. An initial outline of the draft agenda is attached to this document.

⁵ For the Caribbean Thematic Conference, the members of the organizing committee are Barbados, Suriname, CDB, CARICOM Secretariat, IDB, UN-ECLAC and UNSD.

Session 1: Supporting the transformation of statistical production processes from the data collection to dissemination in the context of the digital and technological revolution

This session will address the transformation and modernisation of the production architecture, processes and related technology, including the integration of innovative data sources for the compilation of official statistics and indicators. The session will also cover the development of innovative strategies and integrated platforms for data sharing and dissemination.

Recommended chapters for discussion⁶		<i>Also available for discussion</i>	
XIV	Information technology management	VIII	<i>Data sources, collection and processing</i>
XIII	Data, information and knowledge management	X	<i>Dissemination and user communications</i>
		XI	<i>Common statistical infrastructure</i>

Session 2: Strengthening the institutional and organisational frameworks of national statistical systems

This session will address how to strengthen the institutional and organisational frameworks of national statistical systems. Interventions and discussions will also cover the role of national statistical offices as leaders and coordinators of these systems, as well as their partnerships with non-traditional data providers and the data community at large.

Recommended chapters for discussion		<i>Also available for discussion</i>	
III	Basis of official statistics	<i>None</i>	
IV	National statistical system		
V	National statistical office		

Session 3: Securing quality of statistical information and improving data coherence through statistical analysis and analytical frameworks

This session will address the relevance and use of national quality assurance frameworks that secure the production of official statistics and indicators meeting the needs of the various user groups, and how to interact with them in order to identify their needs and priorities. The session will also consider how analysis and analytical frameworks, such as national accounts and other domain-specific accounting frameworks, can address data inconsistencies and eventually improve the coherence of official statistics and indicators across various domains.

Recommended chapters for discussion		<i>Also available for discussion</i>	
VII	Quality management	VI	<i>Users and their needs</i>
IX	Analysis and analytical frameworks		

⁶ These are chapters from the upcoming Handbook that have been identified by the organizing committee as highly relevant for the Caribbean.

--	--

Session 4: Mobilizing and securing adequate resources and infrastructure, and promoting regional and global cooperation for the development of national statistical capacity

This session will discuss how to ensure effective means of mobilizing and securing adequate national resources, including human resources, and infrastructure, as well as how to promote and coordinating efforts at regional and global levels to support the implementation of country-owned strategies and programmes for the development of official statistics and indicators.

Recommended chapters for discussion		<i>Also available for discussion</i>
XII	Human resources management and development	None
XV	Management of finance, buildings and physical space; in particular section E-Critical statistical infrastructure protection	
XVI	International activities and collaboration	

Breakout sessions:

The 2 breakout sessions will serve as an overview of the themes of the workshop and will broadly cover all themes presented and discussed respectively in sessions 1 and 2 for the first breakout session and sessions 3 and 4 for the second one. Participants, will be split into 3-4 groups, and will discuss a set of prepared questions. The objective of the breakout sessions are to identify and further discuss good practices, opportunities, lessons learned and challenges in Managing a statistical organization in times of change. Participants will also be invited to propose ways to embrace opportunities and address challenges including through specific programmes and actions supported by multilateral and bilateral donors. For each group, a designated speaker will deliver a short report in plenary on the main outcome of the discussions that will be commented by a small panel and eventually further discussed with all participants. It is expected that the reports and discussions in plenary will lead to the conclusions of the workshop including next steps/way forward and eventually proposals for future capacity building activities.

The outcome of the breakout sessions, allowing for the consolidation of knowledge and experiences shared, will significantly contribute to inform the upcoming Handbook.

Draft Agenda
Monday, 25th November

Registration (08:30 - 09:00)

Welcome and opening (09:00 - 09:45)

Chair: United Nations Statistics Division, Mr. Ralf Becker (Chief, Statistical Capacity Management Section)

- Opening remarks from the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Barbados & the OECS
Mr. Didier Trebucq
- *Brief opening remarks from the Inter-American Development Bank, Mr. Francisco Javier Urra / CARICOM Secretariat, Mr. Kevin Sears / OECS Commission, Ms. Gale Archibald / Caribbean Development Bank, Mr. Dindial Ramrattan*
- Address by the Minister of Economic Affairs and Investment of Barbados
Hon. Marsha Caddle, M.P.

Tea/coffee break and group photo (09:45 – 10:15)

Introduction (10:15-10:45)

- UN Statistics Division – Mr. Gabriel Gamez (Inter-regional Adviser, Organisation and management of NSS)
Including introduction to the work on the 4th edition of the Handbook on Statistical Organisation and priority themes for the conference (15')

General discussion (15')

Session 1: Supporting the transformation of statistical production processes from the data collection to dissemination in the context of the digital and technological revolution
10:45-12:30

Chair: The Bahamas, Ms. Nerissa Gibson (Deputy Director, Department of Statistics)

Presentations:

- UN Statistics Division – Mr. Trevor Fletcher (Consultant, Handbook on Statistical Organisation)
Statistical production infrastructure, data sources, information technology, dissemination and user support (15')
- CARICOM – Mr. Kevin Sears
Knowledge Management - The Case of the Population and Housing Census (15')
- Jamaica – Ms. Carol Coy (Director General, Statistics Institute of Jamaica)
Transforming Statistical Production Process - The Jamaican Experience (15')

- Saint Lucia – Mr. Sean Mathurin (Director of Statistics, Government of Saint Lucia)
The New Normal for Central Statistical Offices (15')
- Trinidad and Tobago – Mr. Sean O'Brien (Director of Statistics, Central Statistics Office)
The Evolution of Technology in the Central Statistical Office of Trinidad and Tobago (15')

General discussion (30')

Lunch break (12:30-13:30)

Session 2: Strengthening the institutional and organisational frameworks of national statistical systems
13:30-15:30

Chair: Suriname, Mr. Iwan Sno (Director, Foundation General Bureau of Statistics)

Presentations:

- UN Statistics Division – Mr. Gabriel Gamez (Inter-regional Adviser, Organisation and management of NSS)
Sound Institutional and Organizational Frameworks for Official Statistics (15')
- CARICOM – Mr. Kevin Sears
The CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics – strengthening the regional and National frameworks in the NSS - Alignment of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (15')
- OECS Commission – Ms. Gale Archibald (Head of the Statistical Services Unit, Economic Affairs and Regional Integration Division)
A Regional Statistical System in the context of a monetary and economic union (15')
- Barbados – Mr. Aubrey Browne (Director (ag), Barbados Statistical Service)
Barbados Experience in modernizing its National Statistical System (15')
- Grenada – Mr. Halim Brizan (Director of Statistics, Central Statistics Office)
Institutional Strengthening of the NSO to meet current statistics demands and to better coordinate the NSS (15')
- Guyana – Ms. Maxine Bentt (Deputy Chief Statistician, Guyana Bureau of Statistics)
Guyana Bureau of Statistics Coordination of the National Statistical System (15')

General discussion (30')

Tea/coffee break (15:30-16:00)

Breakout 1: Group discussion for sessions 1 and 2

16:00-17:15 (see document on conference modalities for questions and group compositions)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Group 1A & B | Set of suggested topics related to session 1 prepared in advance |
| Group 2A & B | Set of suggested topics related to session 2 prepared in advance |

Tuesday, 26th November

Breakout 1:
09:00-10:30 **Report in plenary and general discussion**

Facilitator: UNSD

Report back on outcome of breakout session (10' each group)

Tea/coffee break (10:30-11:00)

Session 3: **Securing quality of statistical information and improving data coherence through**
11:00-13:00 **statistical analysis and analytical frameworks**

Chair: Grenada, Mr. Halim Brizan (Director of Statistics, Central Statistics Office)

Presentations:

- UN Statistics Division – Mr. Trevor Fletcher (Consultant, Handbook on Statistical Organisation)
User needs, quality management and analytical requirements (15')
- OECS Commission – Ms. Sherma Beroo
Assuring data quality and comparability through international statistical classifications: the case of the OECS Member States (15')
- CARICOM Secretariat – Mr. Kevin Sears
Ensuring Quality in the Production and Dissemination of Statistics- Development and Implementation of a Quality Assurance Framework and harmonization of Core Areas of Statistics (15')
- Jamaica – Ms. Carol Coy (Director General, Statistics Institute of Jamaica)
Development of the Statistical Quality Assurance Framework for Jamaica (15')
- Saint Kitts and Nevis – Ms. Elreter Simpson-Browne (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sustainable Development)
Addressing the Needs of Data Users through a process of Quality Management (15')
- Suriname – Mr. Iwan Sno (Director, Foundation General Bureau of Statistics) and Ms. Fallon Lambert (Research Planning and Devt, General Bureau of Statistics)
Securing Quality AND Quantity of Statistical Information in Suriname: Where do we stand? (15')

General discussion (30')

Lunch break (13:00-14:00)

Session 4: **Mobilizing and securing adequate resources and infrastructure, and promoting**
14:00-16:00 **regional and global cooperation for the development of national statistical**
 capacity

Chair: Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Sean O'Brien (Director of Statistics, Central Statistics Office)

Presentations:

- Mr. Ralf Becker (Chief, Statistical Capacity Management Section)
Securing and Developing Statistical Capacity: specific programmes and tools in the SDG era (15')
- CARICOM Secretariat – Mr. Kevin Sears
Statistical Capacity-Building - Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships (15')
- Inter-American Development Bank – Mr. Francisco Javier Urra (Chief of Operations, Barbados Country Office)
Past is prologue: working together to improve statistical capacity in the Caribbean (15')
- Anguilla – Ms. Lori-Rae Alleyne (Chief Statistician, Government of Anguilla)
Statistical Capacity Development – Human Resources, Statistical Infrastructure and Mobilizing Funds – The Anguilla Experience (15')
- Dominica – Ms. Lorna Prevost-Stephens (Chief Statistician, Central Statistics Office)
Management and Protection of Statistical Systems in the Presence of Climate Change (15')
- Turks and Caicos – Mr. Shirlen Forbes (Chief Statistician, Department of Economic Planning and Statistics)
Statistical Capacity-Building and Resource Mobilization: “A Turks and Caicos Islands Perspective” (15')

General discussion (30')

Wednesday, 27th November

Session 3 & 4:

09:00-09:15 Recap from Day 2

- Presentation by Saint Kitts and Nevis (15')

Breakout 2: Group discussion for sessions 3 and 4

09:15-10:30 (see document on conference modalities for questions and group compositions)

Group 3A & B Set of suggested topics related to session 3 prepared in advance

Group 4A & B Set of suggested topics related to session 4 prepared in advance

Tea/coffee break (10:30-11:00)

Breakout 2:

11:00-12:30 Report in plenary and general discussion

Facilitator: UNSD

Report back on outcome of breakout session (10' each group)

Break (12:30-12:45)

Closing – Conclusions of the Conference (12:45 – 13:30)

- Co-organisers (UNSD/ CARICOM/ OECS/ IDB/ CDB) final conclusions (15')
- Final discussion (30')