



# Break-out session 3

Session 3: Discuss your national experience of securing quality of statistical information and improving data coherence through statistical analysis and analytical frameworks

Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Suriname, Turks and Caicos



**Q1 Are there any mechanisms in place to secure the quality and coherence of official statistics and indicators? Please explain.**

- The system of National Accounts
- The SUT
- Introduction of CAPI and Surveys Solution which allows to build evaluation checks immediately
- Internal Statistical Review Committee (Jamaica) to validate the trends in data
- The CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF)
- The Code of Good Statistical Practice



**Q1 Are there any mechanisms in place to secure the quality and coherence of official statistics and indicators? Please explain.**

- Recommendation is to save data both onsite and offsite locations
- However, countries raised the concern about the need of ICT Policy that speaks specifically about the protocols, data security, internal practises, data sharing protocols
- Cloud technology about where the data is stored and in Bermuda case the data storage must be in a secure location
- St. Kitts and Nevis (SKN): Most of the data are stored on desktop computers, Major data sets are stored on back-up on the Office's server. Surveys and tourism data is stored using the cloud services



### **Are there any mechanisms in place to secure the quality and coherence of official statistics and indicators? Please explain.**

- Bermuda: Data is saved on the government network outside of the Division managed by central IT and backed up on regular basis
- Suriname: Own server and daily back up
- St. Lucia: Priority to IT and data security – plans establish an IT unit
  - There are servers in the department, but poor data storage
  - Use Survey solutions, saved on WB servers and plans to save to own servers
- Turks and Caicos – Internal Server and back up off site
- Why not cloud computing? Bermuda used the cloud storage for Census 2016 on temporary basis
- Guyana: Statistics Unit in Education use cloud based secure server to save exams assessments



Are there any mechanisms in place to secure the quality and coherence of official statistics and indicators? Please explain.

- The Process of Peer Review
- Harmonisation of Classification Systems
- Statistical techniques to assess the quality of the output
- Published metadata
- Participation in IMF GDDS and SDDS
- Ensure that IT infrastructure is in place to improve data quality (EUROTRACE, ASECUDA)
-



**Q2 How are your main user groups, both inside and outside the government, consulted and engaged in your respective initiatives for securing the quality of official statistics? Please explain.**

- Having an advisory group with both internal and external stakeholders for different surveys
- Built-in meetings with main users to inform on revisions and trends



**How are your main user groups, both inside and outside the government, consulted and engaged in your respective initiatives for securing the quality of official statistics? Please explain.**

- St. Kitts and Nevis: They have a National Assessment Team approved by the Cabinet and is working group in regards to various statistical activities. The outputs are only accessible by approved individuals
- St. Kitts and Nevis there is collaboration with the ECCB in the review of economic indicators such as GDP
- Countries indicated that they do not meet regularly with data users to ascertain the relevance of our statistical products; but recognize the need for data users consultations.



**Q2 How are your main user groups, both inside and outside the government, consulted and engaged in your respective initiatives for securing the quality of official statistics? Please explain.**

- Countries indicated that the collaboration is project and activity driven. For example in Bermuda in the Census there was collaboration and discussion for the Census
- Suriname: MICS there was a steering committee, for regular surveys own team that review questionnaire; in the future to develop a ten year strategic plan and have users/producers dialogue
- Guyana: single age population data there is an issue in getting this information from the Census and the need to have this information





### **Q3 Can you provide us with any relevant success stories, new initiatives or best practices?**

- CARICOM Peer Review Process
- CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF)
- The development of the NSDS in member states
- The NSS Assessment in member states
- Modernisation of the NSOs to include the review of statistical acts
- Jamaica's launch of it's QAF
- Inter-Governmental Committee for the National Summary Data Page (NSDP) to ensure the timeliness and meets the quality requirements of the IMF . (Jamaica and Bahamas)
- Introduction of a generic business register (PRASC)



### **Can you provide us with any relevant success stories, new initiatives or best practices?**

- In the case of SKN the NAT is comprised of individuals inside and outside of government approved by Cabinet. They make decisions on surveys and data collection activities. The persons are paid and function as a working group
- The NAT coordinate the report writing and analysis for the Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment (E-CPA). The NAT are multi-discipline group that look at producing the various outputs from all censuses and surveys
- Issue of access of statistics to users and is the website user friendly; using the website to find users experience and there needs
- Suriname: There is a Advisory Board comprised of different stakeholders meet once a month, similar experience in Guyana. The group indicated there is the need to have Advisory Boards to reflect the diversity of users in the various countries



## **Q4 What additional support from bilateral and multilateral partners could support efforts for securing the quality of official statistics?**

- Need for additional resources
- Support for attachments and South-South cooperation
- In-house technical assistance
- Ensuring follow-up missions
- Advocacy to Government



## **What additional support from bilateral and multilateral partners could support efforts for securing the quality of official statistics?**

- Bermuda: As an associate member state seldom qualify for assistance; may impact efforts for ensuring quality of official statistics
- Guyana: An example of providing technical support in producing population projections. Geographical indices are limited for other member states other than Guyana and definition of rural and urban applicable to specific countries
- Antigua and Barbuda: Developing quality assurance framework, programme budgeting, developing and executing statistical plans in context of resource constraints and local context



## **What is missing from the discussion on this session that should be covered in the Handbook?**

- The Handbook reflects the context of Caribbean countries in regards to quality and coherence
- How much to invest in the quality assurance framework and quality monitoring given small sizes of the NSOs and resource constraints