



# CARICOM

## Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)

**Caribbean Thematic Conference:  
Managing a statistical organization in times of change**

The Regional Statistics Programme,  
CARICOM Secretariat

25 - 27 November 2019  
BARBADOS

# Background to the Preparation of the RSDS

# OVERVIEW

- Background to RSDS:
  - Establishment Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians
  - Mandates from the in the Revised Strategy on Statistics
  - Decisions of Key Meetings of Council on Strategic Approach to Statistics
  - Advocacy Forum and key Regional Public Goods

## Fourth Meeting of the Common Market Council of Ministers -1974 Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS)

- In 1974, the Inaugural Meeting of the **Conference of Heads of Government (HGC)** of the Expanded Caribbean Community endorsed the decision of the Fourth Meeting of the Common Market Council to establish the SCCS
- SCCS was established , acting within the framework of the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community, in accordance with *Resolution No. 54/74/4* and subject to the general supervision of Council with the objective to:
  - *foster increased recognition of the importance of adequate statistical services to the countries of the Region;*
  - *to widen the scope and coverage of statistical data collection; and*
  - *to improve the quality and harmonization, of statistics produced."*

## Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) (cont'd)

### Functions and Scope of the SCCS:

- *Development and harmonisation* of statistical concepts and methodology;
- *Coordinating and initiating* programmes for statistical training;
- *Co-ordinating* programmes for technical assistance in the field of statistics;
- *Initiating and executing* statistical projects of a regional nature;
- *Advising and assisting* Member States in carrying out statistical projects, the organisation or re-organisation of their statistical services and in all other areas where such assistance is *requested*.

## Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) (cont'd)

- Terms of Reference of SCCS enabled it to form subsidiary groups and committees;
- In 2006, the SCCS formed the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) - the objectives include
  - *Enabling the implementation of the RSWP;*
  - *Advancing the decisions of the SCCS; and*
  - *To participate/develop initiatives aimed at improving and harmonising statistics relative to the overall SCCS objectives*
- SCCS has since updated its terms of Reference as well as of those of the AGS .
- Technical Working Groups have been established and they report to the AGS.



## Articles on Statistics in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy -2002

### Chapter 2, Article 25 (d): Functions of the Secretariat,

- *In addition to any functions that may be assigned to it by organs of the Community, the Secretariat shall:*
  - (d) collect, store, and disseminate to the Member States of the Community information relevant for the achievement of its objectives.*

### Chapter 4, Article 52, 7 (a) – Implementation of Community Industrial Policy

- *7. In order to facilitate the implementation of the Community Industrial Policy COTED shall in collaboration with competent organs and agencies:*
  - (a) develop strategies for the development and dissemination of market information and appropriate mechanisms to facilitate acquisition, storage and retrieval of such information;"*



## Resumed Session of the Eighth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers, Nassau, The Bahamas July 2001

### Early Reference to Strategic Approach

- A Paper on the Status and Role of Statistics in CARICOM was prepared and presented to Council by the Secretariat- Council in its decisions,
  - **Mandated** the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, in collaboration with the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians, to prepare in its Work Programme proposals for 2002-2003, **a three-year plan** for the improvement of the quality and range of statistics available in the Region.
  - **Recognised** the **elements of strategic direction** for the development of statistics including the identification of priority areas for statistics.

# Background

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers, January 2005,  
Georgetown, Guyana

## Early Reference to Strategic Approach

- The **common Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP)** was prepared and presented to Council and a Resolution on Statistical Development included in the decisions were:
  - Recommended the adoption of the common Regional Statistical Work Programme incorporating a three-year programme of work as prepared by the Secretariat and the SCCS, subject to other issues considered necessary for inclusion;
  - Also recommended that national and regional statistical development strategies with financial proposals be prepared to enable the implementation of the Regional Statistical Work Programme;

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers, January 2005,  
Georgetown, Guyana

## Resolution on Statistical Development

Decisions by Council on the Resolution:

- **urged** regional governments to give priority to investing in national statistical information systems in order to enable an appropriate level of resources to undertake the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics to support the CSME;
- **endorsed** the need to invest these resources in statistics on a sustained basis focusing particularly on the human and financial resource needs of national statistical offices;
- **recommended** the establishment of *an intensive sensitisation programme* to encourage participation and early response from all stakeholders - users, producers and suppliers – with respect to the production of relevant and timely statistics

**Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers in May 2016 endorsed the Action Plan for Statistics prior to the endorsement by the 37 HGC**

- Endorsement of the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean as prepared by the AGS/SCCS.
- Presented in Paper No. HGC/2016/37/9 by the Member State of Grenada.
- The Action Plan consisted of actions recommended to be taken by Governments under five specific issues.- (i) Strengthening of the NSS, (ii) Upgrading of the ICT base (iii) Promoting of careers in statistics-embedding it as a data science in the school curriculum, (iv) Supporting a regional approach to the development of statistics (v) Promoting the CAPS.
- The Action Plan also included the preparation of RSDS/NSDS

**Thirty-Eighth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, July 2017 endorsed the preparation of the CARICOM RSDS**

*Fortieth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers in May 2017 endorsed the preparation of the RSDS*

- The RSDS having been prepared was taken to the **Forty-Second Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers in 2018.**
- Recommended to be endorsed by the **Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the HGC in July 2018**

## **First and Second High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics (2009, 2014)-Key recommendations:-**

- Monitoring Framework for the CSME
- Formation of a professional association of statisticians;
- Early Warning System
- Champion for statistics emerged at the highest level of the Community;
- Development of an Action Plan for Statistics - Preparation of the CARICOM RSDS;

## Key Regional Public Goods that can Inform RSDS

- RSWP/Resolution;
- CARICOM Model Statistics Bill;
- Common Census Framework;
- Capacity-building in Economic, Social/Gender, Environment Statistics
- CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices;
- CARICOM Core Data sets :–Caribbean Specific Millennium Development Goals (CSMDGs) Indicators, CARICOM Core SDG Indicators.
- CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework;



# **CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)**

## **– Review and Status**

## Objective

- The ultimate goal of the CSME is to provide the foundation for growth and development through the creation of a single economic space for the production of competitive goods and services.
- It's an enlarged market which offers: more and better opportunities to produce and sell goods and services and to attract investment; greater economies of scale; increased competitiveness; full employment and improved standards of living for the people of the Caribbean Community.
- It is at the heart of CARICOM's economic integration; and economic integration is one of four pillars on which CARICOM rests in pursuit of its objectives.

## Key elements of the Single Market and Economy include:

- **Free movement of goods and services** - through measures such as eliminating all barriers to intra-regional movement and harmonising standards to ensure acceptability of goods and services traded;
- **Rights of Establishment** - to permit the establishment of CARICOM owned businesses in any Member State without restrictions;
- **A Common External Tariff** - a rate of duty applied by all Members of the Market to a product imported from a country which is not a member of the market;
- **Free circulation** - free movement of goods imported from extra regional sources which would require collection of taxes at first point of entry into the Region and the provision for sharing of collected customs revenue;

## Key elements of the Single Market and Economy include (cont'd):

- **Free movement of Capital** - through measures such as eliminating foreign exchange controls, convertibility of currencies (or a common currency) and integrated capital market, such as a regional stock exchange;
- **A Common trade policy** - agreement among the members on matters related to internal and international trade and a coordinated external trade policy negotiated on a joint basis;
- **Free movement of labour** - through measures such as removing all obstacles to intra-regional movement of skills, labour and travel, harmonising social services (education, health, etc.), providing for the transfer of social security benefits and establishing common standards and measures for accreditation and equivalency

## Status to Date

Coming out of the 39<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of State, it was noted that:

- Significant progress was made towards establishing the CSME;
- **Heads of State mandated** that a Roadmap with timelines and associated costs be developed for the remaining actions necessary for the achievement of an effective CSME, taking note of the discussions coming out of the Special Meeting of the Conference in November 2018

## Status to Date

- Re: *Enabling Support Measures for a Competitive CSME*
  - That the Investment Policy and Investment Code and the CARICOM Financial Services Agreement by 31 December 2018 to enable finalisation by the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC) for adoption and signature by the Conference at its Thirtieth Inter-Sessional Meeting in February 2019
- RE: *Free Movement of Persons (Contingent Rights)*
  - That Member States to enact the necessary laws to give full effect to the ten (10) categories of Skilled Nationals by 31 December 2018 in accordance with the Implementation Plan 2017–2019 as agreed by the Conference at its Thirty-Eighth Meeting (July 2017);
- RE: *Free Movement of Persons (Harmonised and Simplified Administrative Procedures)*
  - That COTED to take the necessary steps to review and ensure that the procedures were simplified and harmonized, to the extent possible including that verification should not result in unnecessarily prolonging the period for finalising acceptance of the Skilled Community national

## Status to Date

- RE: *Free Movement of Persons (Harmonised and Simplified Administrative Procedures cont'd)*
- That the rights of spouses and dependants of a principal beneficiary conferred by virtue of provisions of the Treaty and decisions of the Organs were for all spouses and dependants, irrespective of their nationality;
- That a Member State shall accept a Skills Certificate issued by another Member State and that any verification of the issuance of a Skills Certificate and the underlying documentation shall only be done through checks with the issuing Competent Authority;



- RE: *Free Movement of Persons (Harmonised and Simplified Administrative Procedures cont'd)*
- *With respect to Police Certificate of Character,*
  - That a Police Certificate of Character would be required only if it could be shown that the Police Certificate of Character was a necessary measure for assessing threats to the maintenance of public order and safety and that the requirement where agreed not extend beyond a period of three years prior to the request for such certificates;

## Status to Date

- RE: *Free Movement of Persons (Harmonised and Simplified Administrative Procedures cont'd)*
- With respect to *Article 239 Undertaking - Government Procurement*,
  - That Member States to begin using their National Advertising Portals to advertise Public Procurement opportunities subject to their national laws, as soon as possible and to advise the COTED by 30 September 2018 that they had or were willing or prepared to so do;

# Highlights of the Assessment Report that informed the RSDS development

# OVERVIEW

- Assessment Process
- RSDS Process
- CARICOM RSDS Strategic Framework

# Assessment Process

- Proposal was prepared by the RSP that informed the Terms of Reference of the Consultant funded by PARIS21- RSDS/Assessment.
- Focus: National Statistical Systems-National Statistical Offices and the other statistical producing agencies in Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of Member States and Associate Members and the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) of the CARICOM Secretariat.
- Questionnaire was submitted to 20 countries, Visits to 6 and the CCS and remote consultations with 5. Diagnostic Assessment of 2011/12 provided baseline information.
- The membership of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) played a critical role in the Assessment.
- Presentations were made prior to at the following meetings:
  - 19<sup>th</sup> AGS/41 SCCS; 20<sup>th</sup> AGS; 21<sup>st</sup> AGS/42 SCCS, e-meeting in Sept 2017.

- *LEGISLATION:*
- Legislation in most countries are quite dated and are not grounded in many of the principles that should inform modern day statistics legislations such as the FPOS.
- Two exceptions were Belize (2006) and Antigua and Barbuda (2013), the latter of which was based on the CARICOM Model Statistics Bill;
- A key recommendation was that the legislation should seek to create autonomous/semi-autonomous statistical authorities as in Jamaica, Guyana, Belize and Suriname

- **ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE:**

- Most countries do not have a National Body Governing all statistical services of the National Statistical System which has implications for the **quality** of statistics coming out of the NSS as well as **coordination** and **availability of statistics from the producing units** in the Ministries and Departments and Agencies;
- In addition, the NSOs in the Caribbean are generally **divisions or departments within a Ministry**, *except for Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname where the NSOs have been established as semi-autonomous bodies managed by a Board of Management*. The importance of this is to safeguard the professional independence of the statistics produced and to ensure credibility and trust by users;
- Within the past three (3) years however, there has been a *marked improvement in the standard of accommodation for statistical offices*. Since 2015, seven (7) NSOs
  - *Barbados, The Bahamas; Cayman Islands; Grenada; Guyana; Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago* have been housed in new or refurbished accommodation, equipped with adequate facilities to perform the functions of a statistical office;
- Central Government is the main source for financing the NSS.



- **CAPACITY:**
- The ratio of Professional to Total staff is relatively low except for Barbados and the Cayman Islands which indicated 80 per cent and 70 per cent ratio of professional staff to total staff respectively. The NSOs in the region generally have a ratio of professional staff to total staff that falls between 20 to 40 per cent;
- The assessment revealed gaps in some key professional competencies. Most notable were the non-availability of Gender Statisticians, Demographers, Sampling experts.
- One country had a very large field Operations Division and for quite a few countries this field Operations Division appears to be the largest (2011/12);
- *For the smaller offices specialisation or allocation of staff by divisions is almost an impossible situation. These countries cannot afford or can barely afford to specialise (2011/12);*
- *Most countries do not have Environment Statistics and Statistical Research units and where these exist they are very small and may also be combined with other areas (2011/12).*

- *DATA DISSEMINATION:*
- Of the eleven (11) countries responding:
  - 3 countries indicated that they have an Advance Release Calendar to which they adhere.;
  - 3 countries indicated that selected products are released in accordance with an Advance Release Calendar and
  - 2 countries indicated that they have not been able to adhere to any prescribed timelines.
- Diagnostic Assessment of 2011/12, in answer to the question on whether or not the countries had an Advance Release Calendar, out of eighteen (18) countries that responded:
  - 6 countries responded in the affirmative, but a number of them qualified that response by indicating that the compliance with the release calendar was only partial

- **OTHER KEY FINDINGS:**

- The *steady progress in terms of improvement of statistics has not gone unnoticed by International Development Partners, who have identified the RSP as a regional counterpart with whom they can partner for the delivery of projects.*
- This progress has led to increases in funding for statistics in CARICOM.
- The Directorates and Programme areas of the CARICOM Secretariat highlighted *their appreciation for the work of the RSP, the leadership provided and the collaboration and responsiveness of the RSP to their data requirements such as in the conduct of baseline studies to inform policies and strategic frameworks for good governance.*
- A fundamental issue identified is ***the lack of resources specifically staffing**, that hampers the full achievement of what the RSP can deliver.*
- The NSOs in Member States and Associate Members recognised the RSP for *the close relationship which have benefitted them in the production of statistics and specifically its persistent efforts in strengthening capacity.* The RSP is also recognised for *leading in the advocacy at the highest level of the Community.*
- Generally, given the limited resources, the need for all agencies engaged in supporting the development of statistics in the CSS to collaborate in the execution of the work to be done in the Region was expressed.

- **OTHER KEY FINDINGS:**

- *There were significant improvements in recent years in the range and data quality that was being produced by countries in CARICOM.*
- *They applauded the efforts in the areas of Labour Force Statistics and Retail Price Index which they stated were timely and relevant.*
- *They thought that the NSOs were falling behind in the timely release of National Accounts and Trade Statistics.*
- *The latter comment was surprising given that generally, trade continues to be a stellar area of statistics in CARICOM.*

# Highlights of Recommendations

- **STRATEGIC PLANNING, ADVOCACY and COMMUNICATION:**
- The Governments of all Member States and Associate Members should be encouraged to support the preparation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics that should be aligned with national development priorities and should take into consideration the regional and global development agenda, to allow for a more strategic approach to statistics development. In support of the implementation of the NSDS, domestic funding augmented by external funding should be used.

# Highlights of Recommendations

- **GOVERNANCE/COORDINATION:**
- Member States and Associate Members should revise their Statistics Acts along the guidelines of the CARICOM Model Statistics Bill, where such revision is not being done, to enable the establishment of professionally independent NSOs with clear responsibility for coordinating the National Statistics System.
- The role of other data producers in the National Statistical System should be recognised and emphasised particularly in the context of the SDGs.
- Arrangements should be put in place to give high status within the public service hierarchy to the Head of the statistical service

# Highlights of Recommendations

- **STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND CAPACITY BUILDING:**
- 
- The NSOs and other statistics producing agencies in Member States, Associate Members and the Regional Statistics Programme of the CARICOM Secretariat should be provided with adequate staff complement to deliver the programme of work in the face of ever increasing demand for statistics, such as for public, private/individual decision-making, to inform national plans and priorities, the monitoring of the CSME and the Community Strategic Plan, the 2030 Agenda and other national, regional and international initiatives.



# Highlights of Recommendations

- **STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND CAPACITY BUILDING:**
- Following on efforts made in the past (early years of the SCCS) to develop a *Caribbean Institute of Statistical Training and Research (CISTAR)* as a regional institution of statistical training and its incorporation as a mechanism to be pursued in the transformation and modernisation thrust of statistical organisations, the CSS, should continue the momentum of developing CISTAR *as a virtual (e-CISTAR)* NSO - knowledge base, training and statistical research institute, taking advantage of the advances in IT, for delivering self-paced, specialised e-learning courses in official statistics and for building statistical capacity across the region.

# Highlights of Recommendations

- **STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND CAPACITY BUILDING:**
- Continue the momentum already in train in the region relative to the development of Centres of Excellence (CoE) and permanent attachment programmes. Explore technical cooperation arrangements to provide the CoE with adequate resources for staff training and programme development.

- **SWOT Analysis**
- Among the main *Strengths* identified of the CARICOM Statistical System were:
- Basic institutional infrastructure is in place including business register, sampling frame of households and dwellings;
- A long and uninterrupted history of producing official statistics;
- Strong and innovative leadership of the heads of the statistical offices at the regional and national levels;
- A proactive Regional Statistics Programme coordinating the CARICOM Statistical System and supporting the regional integration agenda;
- Ongoing Modernisation Initiatives, including design and implementation of NSDS

- SWOT Analysis
- The main *Weaknesses* included:
- Inadequate budgetary allocations and financial resources for statistical operations and statistical development programmes;
- Inadequate human resources to deliver the work programme in the RSP, NSO and wider NSS;
- Weak and ineffective programmes for coordination of the National Statistical System;
- The majority of national statistical legislations in the region are outdated and certain provisions (such as penalties in the Statistics Acts) no longer correspond to modern-day statistical demands;
- Weak statistical systems and infrastructure among other producing agencies in the NSS.

- **SWOT Analysis**
- Key *Opportunities* identified include:
- The Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean which was approved by Heads of Government provides an opportunity to advocate for greater Infrastructure and Human and Financial resources to be allocated to regional and national statistical systems;
- Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by Member States requires the production of statistical indicators for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the 17 Goals and the 169 targets and therefore presents an opportunity to lobby governments for the strengthening of the CSS.

- **SWOT Analysis**
- Key *Threats* identified are:
- Trend in centralisation of IT services in the public service can negatively impact independence of statistical services and timeliness of data delivery in the presence of competing priorities in the centralised units;
- Producers of Official Statistics are overwhelmed by simultaneous demands for statistics and indicators, for evidence-based policy and planning; for monitoring and evaluation of progress with regional integration initiatives; and for the statistical requirements associated with developmental frameworks to which regional governments are signatories such as the SAMOA Pathway and similar developmental agendas

# **CARICOM**

## **Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)**

# The Strategic Framework



# OVERVIEW

- What is an RSDS?
- RSDS Process
- CARICOM RSDS Strategic Framework

# What is an RSDS

## **Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics: -**

- A strategic regional master plan on statistics development prepared and agreed to by member countries/regional authorities.
- It is the application of strategic planning to a regional process that requires statistics.
- Applicable in regional integration processes –to guide development of the integration agenda/alignment of priorities of the Member States

# What is an RSDS

## Some Guiding Principles of the RSDS

- **Responding to the statistical requirements of the regional development agenda-** bridging the data gaps relative to informing the integration process/and strengthening the links and convergence among Member States;
- **Assuring comparability of data in all Member States-harmonizing of concepts-** methods and tools and also legislation;
- **Pooling of statistical skills, expertise, resources-** enabling statistical cooperation such as through South-South cooperation, Centres of Excellence and in general promoting regional solutions;
- **Serving as a framework for the use of the Agenda 2030 framework** to generate sustainable statistical capacity across all areas of statistics as a central framework of the statistics architecture.

# What is an RSDS

## Some Guiding Principles of the RSDS

- **Enabling the development of statistical tools and services at the regional level** that are more cost effective than at the national level. Likewise, it contributes to strengthening statistical capacities and promotes harmonization.
- **Adding value through the more efficient use of resources in the production of harmonized intra-regional statistics.**

An overarching framework for statistics development can enhance and promote regional solutions and approaches to statistics development, strengthen the weaker national statistical/offices and systems, and enable the achievement of economies of scale.

# What is an RSDS

**Regional Integration Mechanism- Priorities Informing the Community Strategic Plan and for which the RSDS is required to strategically provide statistics**

Accelerate implementation and use of CSME (ECN 1)

Introduce Measures for Macro-economic Stabilization (ECN 3)

Build Competitiveness and Unleash Key Economic drivers to Transition to Growth and Generate Employment (ECN 4)

Human Capital Development (SOC 1)

Advance Health and Wellness (SOC 3)

Enhancing Citizens Security and Justice (SOC 4)

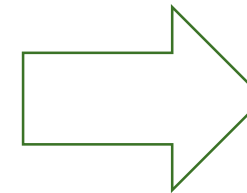
Climate Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Mitigation and Management (ENV 1)

Develop the Single ICT Space (TEC 1)

Deepen Foreign Policy Coordination (to support strategic repositioning of CARICOM and desired outcomes) (FOR 1)

Public Education, Public Information and Advocacy (UNY 1)

Reform the CARICOM Secretariat, the Organs, Bodies, Institution and Governance Arrangements (GOV 1 and GOV 3)



**SUSTAINABLE  
ECONOMIC  
GROWTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

# RSDS Process

Terms of reference developed for the hiring of a consultant that undertook an assessment of the CARICOM Statistical System and made presentations/presented findings at the SCCS/AGS and included the following key processes (PARIS21-funded):

- The Assessment Phase of the RSDS commenced in late 2016 and continued into 2017 with visits/remote meetings held with Member States, the Secretariat and other regional and international organisations and users of statistics;
- The presentation of the Preliminary Draft of the Assessment of the CSS was made to the Nineteenth Meeting of the AGS and the Forty-First Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) in October 2016 in Curacao;
- The First Draft of the Assessment of the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS) was presented to the Twentieth Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) in Suriname in July 2017;
- An e-meeting was convened by the Secretariat in September 2017 with the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to discuss the updated First Draft Assessment Report and the Preliminary Recommendations.

# RSDS Process

A Strategic Planning Workshop was conducted during the Twenty-First Meeting of the CARICOM AGS Meeting in October 2017, Cayman Islands - this served to review and validate the findings of the Second Draft of the Assessment report and to commence the development of the Strategic Framework of the RSDS. The AGS plus an extended group of Chief Statisticians and Directors of Statistics attended this Strategic Planning Workshop;

- The updated Second Draft of the Assessment Report and the Preliminary Strategic Framework of the RSDS were presented at the Forty-Second Meeting of the SCCS in Cayman Islands in October 2017;
- Subsequently, the First Draft of the RSDS, including a Preamble, the Vision and Mission Statements, the Core Values of the CSS, the Strategic Priorities, Strategic Objectives, Actions and Strategic Drivers/Enablers was distributed for feedback in February 2018 to Member States, Associate Members, the Staff of the CARICOM Secretariat and representatives from regional and international organisations.
- Final Draft of the Assessment Report and RSDS framework with feedback incorporated and circulated in April 2018.



# Strategic Framework

Overarching theme

**Building Resilience of the Caribbean Community**

Ultimate Outcome:

**An efficient CARICOM Statistical System (CSS), that is responsive to the national, regional and global development agenda, enabling a resilient Community with sustained economic growth and development**





# Vision

A CARICOM Statistical System (CSS) that is recognised for professional excellence and is the premier source of high-quality, harmonised statistics on the Community.



# Mission

To provide CARICOM and the Global Community with high quality, harmonised, national and regional statistics for evidence-based decision-making, research, the empowerment of the people and for the achievement of sustainable economic growth and development.

- Professional Independence:
- We commit to producing and disseminating official statistics that respect and adhere to professional independence through the preconditions of scientific principles, competence and impartiality of the staff of the CSS.
- We also commit to ensuring that the use and benefit of official statistics are dependent on their credibility and on the confidence that users would have in these statistics and will make every effort to ensure that official statistics are free from political and other biases.

- **Transparency:** We commit to make available to all staff and users, statistical standards, policies and compilation practices that are clear, understandable and accessible. We will ensure equity in availability of official statistics to all categories of users;
- **Integrity:** We strive to produce results that reflect observed phenomena in an impartial manner and present data and analyses honestly and openly. We practice truthfulness and honesty and are accountable for our actions. We ensure that official statistics provide objective criteria to make individual, private and public decisions.

# Core Values

- Confidentiality:
- We guarantee absolutely, the privacy of data providers- households, individuals, enterprises, administrations and other respondents. We firmly commit to the confidentiality of the information they provide and the use of this information only for statistical purposes. In cases when data points might allow for uniquely identifying individuals, we commit to using anonymisation techniques to ensure full confidentiality.

# Core Values

## • Quality

We commit to ensuring a high level of quality in the production and dissemination of official statistics in the CSS. We emphasise the pivotal role for the CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF) and the CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practices (CGSP) that can serve to systematically and consistently assess, compare and improve the quality of the statistics produced across the CSS, through improvement in the institutional environment, statistical processes and outputs. We commit to ensuring trust and confidence in the quality of the official statistics of the CSS through the **branding** of official statistics that are produced and disseminated such that they are distinguishable, based on their high quality, from other statistics produced outside of the CSS.

# Core Values

## Accessibility:

- We practice the presentation of official statistics in a clear and understandable form, its dissemination in a suitable, timely and convenient method and its availability and accessibility in an equitable manner to all users
- **User Orientation/Customer Focus:**
  - We commit to building a culture in the statistical organisations of the CSS that is demand-driven, based on customer focus/user orientation. We practice continuous engagement with our customers/users and employees. We undertake to use feedback from the customers and the employees of the CSS as a basis to review and develop the values of the CSS and to link these values so developed to the brand of official statistics. We encourage the employees of the CSS to align their behavior with and to live the brand based on user orientation/customer focus and to reward them for the same.

# Strategic Priorities

Five (5) Strategic Priorities have been identified:

- Standards and Harmonisation;
- Governance;
- Integrated Statistical Systems;
- Innovation; and
- Advocacy and Communication



## 5) Strategic Priorities :

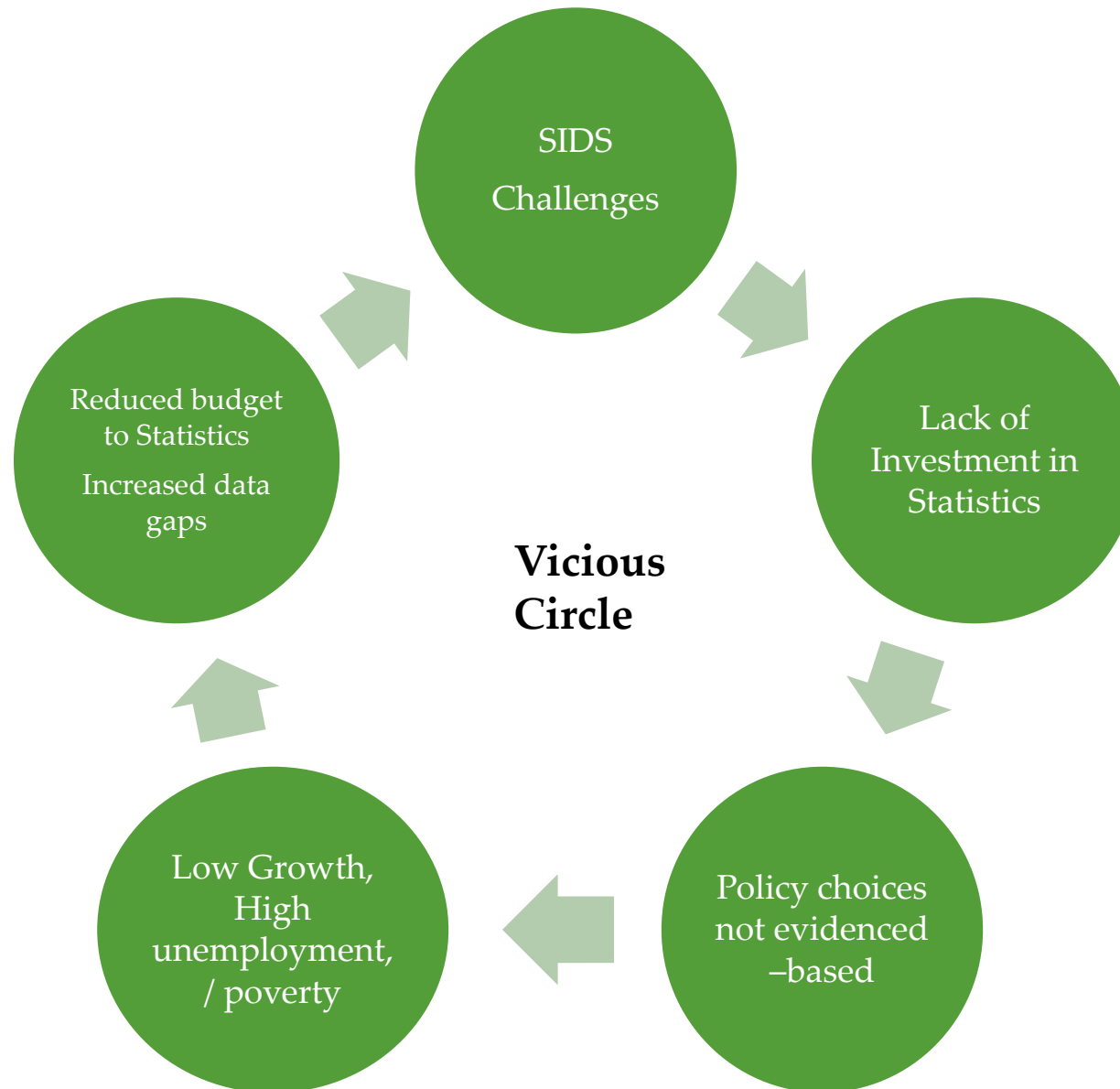
- **Standards and Harmonisation- SH**
  - To Advance the production of High Quality, Comparable, national and intra-regional statistics.
- **Governance- GOV**
  - To Enable effective and modern Governance Structure and Institutional Arrangements.
- **Integrated Statistical System-ISS**
  - To Establish a cohesive and coherent architecture in the production, processing and dissemination of statistics.

# Strategic Priorities

## Five (5) Strategic Priorities :

- **Innovation - INV**
  - To Enable and facilitate the development and sharing of innovative methods, tools and technologies in the production and dissemination processes in the CSS.
- **Advocacy and Communication - AC**
  - To Raise the profile and the value of statistics to effect change and to empower institutions and individuals to use statistics effectively in decision-making.

# Transformation through the RSDS



# Current Status

- Implementation Plan has been developed and approved by the SCCS
- Communication and Advocacy Strategy also developed and in use
- Resource Mobilisation Strategy development Concept Note presented to 44<sup>th</sup> SCCS - in progress based on Implementation Plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with Scorecard – developed and drafted, and presented at the 44<sup>th</sup> SCCS.
- Mid-Term Review Process - this will occur sometime during 2022 – 2023. This should coincide with another High Level Forum.



WHAT'S NEW

September 2014

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## Statisticians Pursue their Dream of Making the CARICOM RSDS a Reality



Celia Powell

In pursuit of the process to realize the possibility of high quality – sound, reliable and timely statistics for decision-making in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Statisticians of CARICOM expressed their desire to implement the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) at the Thematic-Panel Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) that took place at the Tropical Institute of Statistics, Trinidad and Tobago in late July 2014. The CARICOM RSDS was endorsed at the Thematic-Panel Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM (CHO) in April 2014 and among the first steps that were recommended for approval was a Regional Mechanism Strategy that is to realize the implementation of the RSDS. The AGS is a voluntary group of the Statistician-General of Caribbean Communities (SGCC).

At the Thematic-Panel AGS, Heads of Statistical agencies or their designated representatives, continued to reference the CARICOM RSDS (see website) “agreed in principle decision” of Heads of Government to realize the implementation of the RSDS applying to the words of Celia Powell that,

“A dream doesn’t become reality through magic; it takes many, determined, and hard work”

Indeedly, CARICOM Statisticians with the support of the Economic Mobilization and Technical Assistance (EMTA) and the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) of the CARICOM Secretariat, are working continuously to show that the CARICOM RSDS can be achieved by taking appropriate measures to increase through building a Economic Mobilization Strategy (EMS) for the RSDS.

### Statistical Issues

- Implementation Plan for the Caribbean RSDS (Proposed) [Pg. 1-4](#)
- Assessment of the CARICOM RSDS: Considerations and Advisory Plan [Pg. 1](#)
- The Role of the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) – Coordination and Linkages to Agencies of the CARICOM RSDS [Pg. 2](#)
- Plans from Staff of the RSP under RSDS [Pg. 3](#)
- Current Progress Implementation of the CARICOM RSDS in Trinidad (Status of January 2014) [Pg. 4-13](#)
- One Report for RSDS Format [Pg. 13](#)

While the CARICOM RSDS was endorsed in 2014 by the CHO, Statisticians have already initiated high engagement in the regional integration agenda. In 1974, the Expanded Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Associated Community, endorsed the decision of the Fourth Meeting of the Economic Union Committee to establish the RSDS.

With the advent of strategic planning frameworks, the RSDS initiates voluntary group (now expanded to the call of the the Expanded Council of the Fifth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers (CCM) which was held in Guyana, The Bahamas in July 2014, was,

“...the advent of strategic planning for the development of regions including the development of policy environments for enhancing trade in services, manufacturing”

# Status/Next Steps

- Enabling the RSDS: Includes reformatting governance/oversight approach to better reflect the implementation of the RSDS – at the Annual SCCS Meetings.
- Example: Area of National Accounts- Status provided at 44th SCCS on relative to:
- **Standards and Harmonisation:**
  - Monitoring of National Accounts Questionnaires (NAQ) Submissions with National Accounts data - administered jointly with the UNSD
  - Compliance with the MRDS- Minimum Required Data Sets of the 2008 SNA assessed;
  - Status of Implementation of the CARICOM Core SNA 2008 Recommendations;
  - Up dating of Classification System in use to the latest international Standard

# Status/Next Steps

## Enabling the RSDS cont'd:

- Notwithstanding the recent of the CARICOM RSDS by Heads of Government in 2018, a number of Regional Public Goods have been produced that will promote the implementation of the RSDS – such as, the Regional Statistical Work Programme, the CARICOM Model Statistics Bill, the CARICOM CGSP, the CARICOM Quality Assurance Quality, CARICOM Data Warehousing Framework, CARICOM Data Policy, of course Common Census Framework.
- Critical issue still to be addressed is Resource Mobilisation for the RSDS implementation – activities are currently place that are being supported through direct funding to the Secretariat or by virtue of work being put in place by IDPs that may or may not be in collaboration with the Secretariat.-e.g
  - .Training in SDMX by the Government of Italy/IDB/UNSD, ECLAC,
  - implementation of the common census framework (IDB);
  - Capacity building on Gender –UnWomen/CCS/Italy.
  - Environment (CCS/UNSD. Italy, ECLAC);
  - Use of CAPI-IDB; Training in GIS/Mapping (IDB)
- Alignment of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics with the CARICOM RSDS – PARIS 21 training is taking place during the first week in December.

THANK YOU!!!