

Modernising
Statistics in Latin
and the Caribbean

Official
America

Presentation by

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Caribbean
Secretariat

Community

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Overview

- About CARICOM- the Community Strategic Plan 2015-2019, Key Priorities;
- Major Initiatives in Statistics;
- Highlights of the Caribbean Transformative Agenda
- Regional Strategy for the development of Statistics-
 - Vision, Mission, Strategic Objectives; highlights of NSO Modernisation
- Conclusions/Point for consideration.



CARICOM

- Caribbean Community and Common Market was established in 1973 by the Treaty of Chaguaramas;
- Membership:

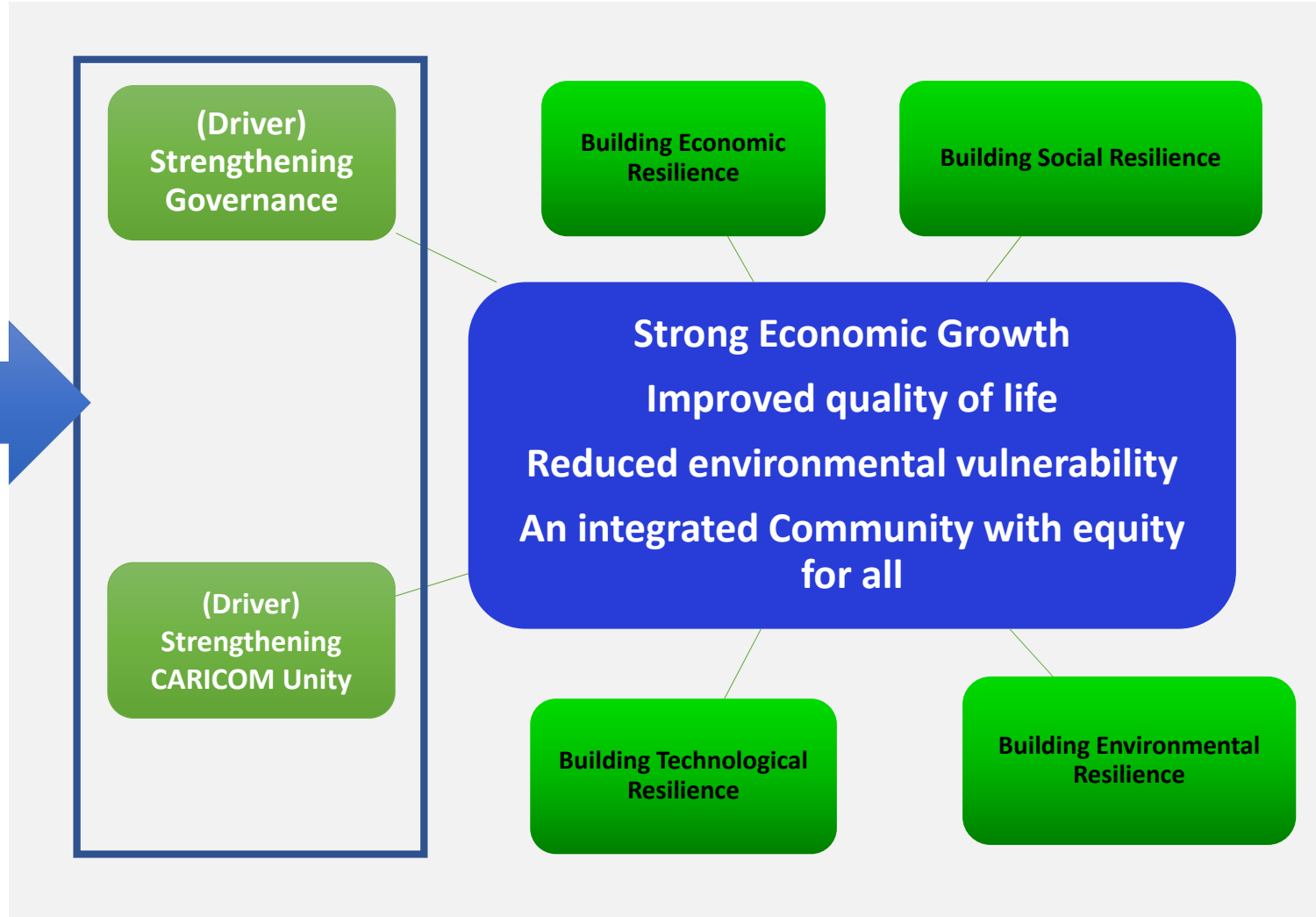
Member States

Antigua and Barbuda St Kitts and Nevis The Bahamas Saint
Lucia Barbados St Vincent and the Grenadines
Belize Dominica Grenada
Guyana Haiti Jamaica Montserrat
Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

Associate Members

Anguilla Bermuda British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands

**Integrated
Strategic
Priorities**



Top Priorities for Implementation

Accelerate implementation and use of the 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)

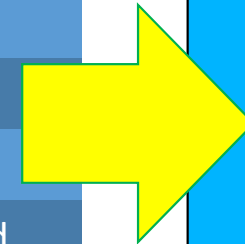
Climate Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Mitigation and Management (ENV 1 & ENV 2)

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 & GOV 3)



**SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT**



Major Initiatives in Statistics

- **Coordination for Modernisation and Innovation**
 - Creation of a *Regional Statistical Programme* at the CARICOM Secretariat to coordinate capacity building, intra-regional statistics production and dissemination on the Community
 - Establishment by the Common Market Council of Ministers of a *Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians* –development of range and quality-harmonization, cooperation,
 - *CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics*-advancing the regional statistics agenda of the SCCS –ensuring results are achieved;
 - *Technical Working Groups* e.g. Merchandise trade – IMTS2010, National Accounts/TIS-2008 SNA, Environment, SDGs



Major Initiatives in Statistics

- **Strengthening Statistical Capacity and Harmonisation**
 - Development of core data sets, strategies and guidelines:
 - CARICOM Minimum Data Set (MDS) ;
 - Core data sets Environment & Social/Gender, Caribbean Specific MDG Indicators; 2008 SNA Strategy, Guidelines, changes most relevant ; ,
 - Data collection templates/Data Submission Protocols;
 - Sustaining the functioning of the Technical Working Groups for harmonisation, increased networking, sharing of best practices;
 - Regional Training workshops / Technical Assistance;



Major Initiatives in Statistics

- **Other Key Initiatives**

- Developed a Position on Access to Microdata that sought to promote its use while allowing for the adherence to the confidentiality at the individual- person or firm level, position statements on defining a core set of SDG Indicators for CARICOM SIDS;
- Caribbean Association for Professional Statisticians (CAPS);
- Statistical Advocacy increased focus at the highest level of CARICOM– High Level Advocacy Forum and follow-up and commemoration of Caribbean Statistics Day with outreach to schools and other citizens in Member States/regionally;
- Strategic Planning in Statistics – Training in NSDS and support at the national level as well as regional;



Major Initiatives in Statistics

Key Regional Public Goods:

- Common *Regional Statistical Work Programme* (RSWP)-approved by the Community Council of Ministers of CARICOM ;
- *CARICOM Model Statistics Bill* – to establish an integrated national statistical system and enable the establishment of an autonomous/semi body corporate to modernise and transform the statistical infrastructure;
- IT frameworks -Data Management Framework, Data Warehousing and a Data Policy ;
- *Common Census Framework* – to further augment longstanding regionally coordinated census strategy to support countries – mapping templates and guidelines, to common questionnaire and common methodologies/ guidelines
- *Online facilities for statistics and documents*– Help Desk, Trade Information System, Census e-portal and CaricomInfo/DevInfo in countries;
- Creation of a “*Permanent*” *Attachment Programme / Centres of Excellence*.



Major Initiatives in Statistics

- Preparation of the Action Plan for Statistics out of Second High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics 2014 by the SCCS/CCS in 2015-comprises 5 elements including on ICT, regional approach and on the strengthening of the NSS;
- Endorsement by the 37th Conference of Heads of Government of the Action Plan for Statistics in July 2016;
- Action Plan elements have been embedded in the Transformative Agenda for official Statistics and therefore is linked to the Global Action Plan
- Action Plan also includes the preparation of the CARICOM RSDS- a comprehensive and strategic process which is being funded by PARIS21;
- Endorsement of the preparation of the CARICOM RSDS in July 2017 at the 38th Conference of Heads of Government in July 2017.



Highlights of the Caribbean-Transformation Agenda

- **Coordination at and between global, regional and national statistical systems**
- Continue the momentum of the high-level political endorsement and commitment for data-driven decision-making of the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean; and by deepening the integration of the SDG framework in regional and national development priorities,
- Strengthen the National Statistical Systems (NSS) and enhance the key coordinating and leadership role of the NSOs in the NSS- NSDS implementation
- Establish new institutional mechanisms and initiatives as well as make use of existing forum/models (such as SCCS/AGS/SCA) for facilitating, monitoring and reporting on the modernization and transformation processes at global, regional and national levels
- **Build collaborative partnerships with data communities**, users and other stakeholders to ensure harmonization of methodologies, efficiency gains and the avoidance of duplication



Highlights of the Caribbean-Transformation Agenda

Innovation and modernization through standard-based statistical business architecture

- Promote the standardization of production processes aimed at sharing and re-using innovative tools and technologies (interoperability) within and across national and regional statistical systems including adaptations of existing processes **for SDG production**.
- Support the development and application of the Common Statistical Production Architecture (CSPA).
- Promote the establishment of **common national/regional data and metadata portals, open standards** based web portals and mainstream SDMX and related standards functionality across countries/regionally.
- Harness the **innovative and transformational power of ICT and mobile devices for geo-referenced data collection and data visualization**.
- Implement the open data concept and explore practices of cloud computing for official statistics and the dissemination of micro data for research purposes.
- Implement an interoperable network of national, regional and global platforms of data, services and applications through public-private partnerships making use of key tools (Jamaica-eDacs/survey solutions).



Highlights of the Caribbean-Transformation Agenda

Capacity building and resource mobilization

- Identify and coordinate domestic and external resources to strategically address the capacity needs, identify resource gaps and to set priorities.
- Create opportunities for participation of non-state actors in funding statistical activities through innovative financing mechanisms using means consistent with the FPOS.
- Implement the recommendations on training incorporated in the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean as endorsed by the 37th HGC including: Training in statistics for staff of the NSOs and NSS; priority in the award of scholarships by Governments/IDPs; enabling the training of statisticians as data scientists to make more effective use of IT and Statistics (issue of centralisation of IT services impacting NSOs).
- Enable a strategic programme on training and capacity building for successful transformation of NSOs/NSS and which should have a clear and direct link to succession planning.
- Undertake a gap analysis to determine the skills and competencies that are required to sustain the current and planned programs.
- Develop closer collaboration with regional universities to enable short-term training in statistics



Highlights of the Caribbean-Transformation Agenda

Capacity building and resource mobilization

- Assess the institutional, organizational and technical readiness of national statistical systems to move to the next level of maturity in regards to modernization making use of available assessment tools.
- Provide recommendations in national strategies (e.g. NSDS) for the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems and prepare national statistical plans to assist countries in their implementations.
- Complement traditional technical training methods at national, regional and global levels by *leveraging existing and establishing new e-learning platforms*.
- Undertake training programs in non-technical areas such as on change management and innovative technology and enable standards for collection, processing and dissemination.
- Explore opportunities *for pooling human resources and information technology within and across national statistical systems* including South-South Cooperation and Centres of Excellence in NSOs/Regional Office.
- Provide special attention to the needs for building up sound and resilient NSSs in SIDS, LDCs, land locked countries and fragile states.



Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics

Preparation of RSDS approved at 38th Meeting of Conference of Heads of Government: -

- As a strategic regional master plan on statistics development prepared and agreed to by CARICOM-organisations/countries.
- To be the overarching strategic framework for the modernisation and innovation thrust;
- To be responsive to the development / integration agenda

Key objective of the RSDS:-

- Provides a framework for ensuring relevant, timely, reliable official statistics are produced within the national statistical systems (NSS) i.e. the National Statistical Office and Other producing agencies.



Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics

Phases of CARICOM RSDS

- **Phase 1 – Assessment of the CARICOM statistical system**
 - ✓ Conduct of comprehensive assessment
 - ✓ Validation workshop to present results of the assessment and identify key priorities in the region

- **Phase 2 – Preparation of the CARICOM RSDS**
 - ✓ Follow-up strategic planning exercises and consultations with member countries on statistical development priorities
 - ✓ Preparation of RSDS action plan and costing
 - ✓ Endorsement of RSDS in the SCCS for approval

- **Phase 3 – Publication and dissemination of RSDS**
 - ✓ Publication of the RSDS document of advocacy materials
 - ✓ Conduct of dissemination and advocacy activities



Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics

Purpose of the RSDS: -

- To create an efficient **Regional Statistical System** to respond to statistical needs of the regional development agenda

Key Outcomes:-

- Coordinated national and regional statistical programmes (e.g. a common statistical programme, data collection activities are harmonized, a common system for monitoring quality)
- Harmonised conceptual frameworks and methods that correspond to international statistical standards
- Strengthened national and regional statistical systems
- Regional/ National statistical offices/agencies serving as statistical centres of excellence in the region;
- Better integration and use of resources in statistics development – better outcomes/successes
- ICT infusion in the collection, processing and sourcing and dissemination of statistics-greater use of GIS, CAPI, offsite/cloud storage and dissemination software.



Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics

- **Vision- Suggested Ideas**

- The CARICOM Regional Statistics System is the premier source of high-quality, harmonised statistics for the Caribbean Community .

A continuous learning "organisation" that strives towards professional excellence and is the premier source of high quality harmonised, official statistics on the Caribbean Community.



Regional Strategy for the Development of **StatisticS**

- **Mission - Suggested Ideas**

- To provide high quality and harmonised regional statistics and indicators *on the Caribbean Community*, for evidence-based decision making *towards sustainable development* in the region.
- To support the National, Regional and International Development Agenda.
- To build statistical capacity of the RSS
- To advocate that Policy-makers use of high quality statistics



Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics

- **Core Values- Suggestions**

1. Professional Independence
2. Transparency
3. Integrity
4. Confidentiality
5. Quality
6. Accessibility
7. User Orientation/Customer Focus



Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics

KEY STRATEGIC AREAS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
1. Standards and Harmonisation	<i>To develop high-quality harmonised national and intra-regional statistics</i>
2. Governance and Institutional Arrangements	<i>To ensure effective and modern Governance Structure and Institutional Arrangements are in Place</i>
3. Developing Sustainable Statistical Capacity	<i>To enhance the region's capability to produce quality official statistics on a sustainable basis.</i>
4. Integrated Statistical Systems for Data Production and Dissemination	<i>To collect, produce and disseminate high quality statistics to satisfy user needs</i>
5. Advocacy and Communications	<i>To raise the profile of statistics, effect change and effectively inform all stakeholders.</i>
6. Sustainable Agenda 2030	<i>To exploit opportunities to mobilise resources for statistics development.</i>
7. IT Infrastructure and Systems	<i>Harness the innovative and transformational power of ICT, particularly mobile devices, geo-referenced data collection and data visualisation CAPI data collection, enabling access to Big Data for Caribbean countries; Given recent natural disasters, offsite data storage, cloud computing options Use of satellite imagery to identify the most vulnerable</i>

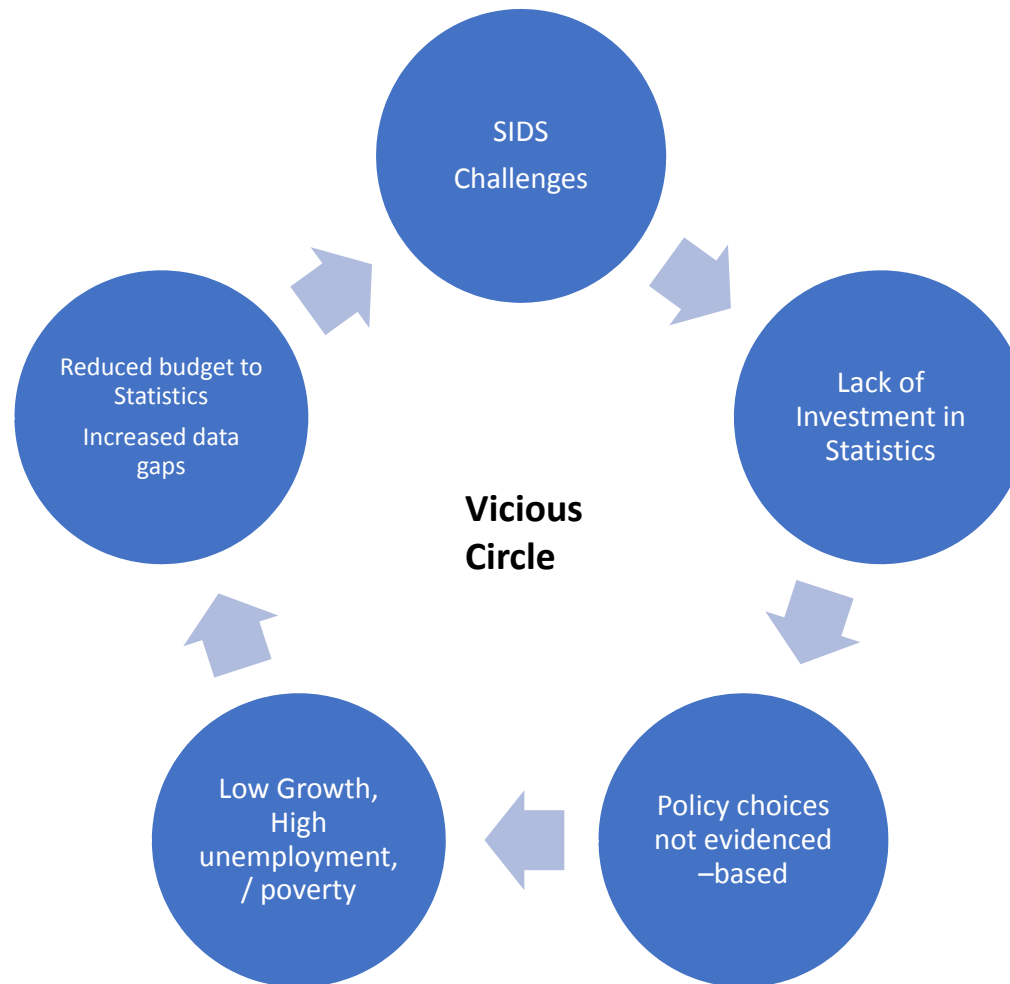


Regional Strategy for the Development of **Statistics**

Work already in Progress in countries:

- Trinidad and Tobago - Task Force established for restructuring of the CSO and drafting of new legislation; proposed legislation includes the proposal for a semi-autonomous body with executive agency status.
- Grenada is also involved in a process of modernization of its legislation and has engaged a consultant to assist the process.
- Belize is also engaged in developing its National Statistical System,
- Barbados has undertaken modernization thrust;
- Work is also in progress in The Bahamas;
- Other NSOs have expressed a commitment to the modernization of their legislation and are prepared to take into consideration the CARICOM Model Statistics Bill.

Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics





Conclusions/Points for Consideration

- Capacity-building in statistics is a complex task and therefore comes with risks
- These risks/challenges are more severe in countries such as CARICOM SIDs - susceptible to natural disasters and external shocks that impact the availability of domestic resources for statistics, approaches from IDPs must be coordinated and relevant;
- Increasing demand for statistics- need to continue the strengthening of survey and administrative sources of information – while exploiting the innovations of Big Data, use of Satellite imagery, other innovations – must be complementary;
- Ensuring that Data are in fact treated as the new oil – a core asset and is fully incorporated in the development discourse
- Enabling Environment must be in place Institutional/Organisational/Physical /ICT Infrastructure, Quality Assurance etc.
- Training/skill set of statisticians/knowledge base CoE attachments-use of regional approach

The End