**Caribbean Conference:**

**Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics**

**7-9 September 2016**

**Hotel Accra, Christ Church, Bridgetown, Barbados**

**Co-organized by:**

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Statistics Canada (StatCan)

Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC)

Barbados Statistical Service

**With the support of:**

Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat)

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

**Breakout Sessions:**

**Modalities and Questions**

**Modalities for the breakout sessions**

Sessions 1-4 are organised according to the 5 thematic areas of the Transformative Agenda, identified in the concept note of the regional conferences, as follows:

* For each session, 2 contributors will make a short presentation of 15-20 minutes in plenary on the respective thematic areas. These presentations are focusing on the major challenges, opportunities, issues, priorities and good practices identified at national, (sub-) regional and global level.

For the preparation of their presentations, the contributors are guided by the questions related to each of the thematic areas hereunder and the concept note.

* Presentations will be followed by 15 minutes of questions for clarification and answers by the contributors. These discussions will be moderated by a facilitator.
* After the questions and answers for clarification, participants will be split in 4 groups. These groups remain the same for the 4 breakout sessions (see table hereunder).
* For each breakout session, groups will have 45 minutes to discuss a specific set of 2 questions prepared in advance. Each group will nominate a rapporteur; preferably from a country that does not have a specific role otherwise. The rapporteur can be the same for the 4 breakout sessions or different but must be from a country.
* The rapporteur of each group will have 5-10 minutes to present back in plenary the outcome and conclusions of the discussions in the breakout sessions, followed by 30 minutes of general discussions. Presentations by the rapporteurs and the plenary discussion will be moderated by the facilitator.
* Participants from bilateral and multilateral partner organisations and other stakeholders may decide in which group they wish to participate.

The concluding session will start with the presentation of the *CARICOM Action Plan for the Improvement of Statistics*, followed by a broad discussion on the major outcome and conclusions of the Conference with contribution of panellists. The panel will be composed of representatives from Caribbean countries and from the co-organising institutions. The aim of the concluding session is to propose specific programmatic guidance and related actions for the implementation of the transformation of national statistical systems in Caribbean countries.

**Groups for the breakout sessions**

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| **Group 1** | **Group 2** | **Group 3** | **Group 4** |
| Grenada;  Jamaica;  Haiti;  Montserrat;  Turks and Caicos Islands | Bahamas;  Guyana;  Saint Lucia;  St. Vincent and the Grenadines;  Bermuda | Antigua and Barbuda  Barbados;  Dominica;  Trinidad and Tobago;  Anguilla | Belize;  St. Kitts and Nevis  Suriname;  British Virgin Islands;  Cayman Islands |

**Questions for the breakout sessions**

**Session 1: Coordination at and between the global, (sub-) regional and national statistical systems** *(Thematic 1)* **and Communication and advocacy** *(Thematic 2)*

**Group 1 Communication and advocacy** *(Thematic 2)*

* What are the characteristics of a successful and modern communication strategy that could convey statistical information to all users, decision makers and stakeholders in a timely and efficient way ensuring the correct and easy interpretation of the disseminated data? What concrete measures need to be implemented in the short and medium term that could efficiently communicate the value of official statistics and generate support?
* What are the key elements and themes to be advanced in the communication and advocacy strategy in the Caribbean to promote the transformation and modernization of the national statistics systems?

**Group 2 Drivers and challenges** *(Thematic 1 and 2)*

- What are the main drivers of the transformation and modernization of national statistical systems? Are there specific regional and national factors and circumstances in the Caribbean that require modernizing official statistics?

* How National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and other regional strategic development plans can/should address and sustain the transformation and modernisation of official statistics?

**Group 3 Partnerships** *(Thematic 1)*

* What partnership arrangements could be developed between statistical institutions at global, regional and national level to enable the review and assessment of institutional, organisational and financial frameworks; data assets and gaps; and production processes with the objective to support the transformation of official statistics in Caribbean countries?
* How can international and regional statistical agencies and development partners assist the national statistical institutions in developing road maps, tools, governance arrangements and other instruments of statistical modernization?

**Group 4 Coordination mechanisms** *(Thematic 1)*

- How could statistical institutions at the global, regional and national level address statistical programming issues in a coordinated and collaborative way to develop operational work plans for the transformation and modernization of statistics?

* How can an efficient coordination mechanism within the national statistical system contribute to the process of modernization of statistics? What kinds of interaction can be established with data providers, national planning and development authorities and other stakeholders to ensure optimal resource allocation for the transformation of official statistics?

**Session 2: Integrated statistical systems: data collection, processing and dissemination of integrated statistics** *(Thematic 3)*

**Group 1 Use of administrative data**

- What is the current state of development and future possibilities of the use of administrative data for the production of official statistics? What are the primary challenges and major barriers of access to administrative data?

* What initiatives could be taken at the regional and sub-regional level to facilitate standardization and harmonization of administrative data and metadata, transmission protocols and nomenclatures in Caribbean countries (e.g. metadata registers and catalogues)?

**Group 2 Relationship with data communities**

- What role and responsibilities do national statistical institutions have towards establishing and maintaining partnerships with the data communities, users and other stakeholders to advance the modernisation and integration of official statistics? When it comes to alternative data sources for official statistics what are the specific challenges to Caribbean countries in terms of the use of big data?

* How could the data communities at regional, sub-regional and country level be mobilised to secure access to administrative and other secondary data sources for the production of official statistics and ultimately to promote the open data initiative?

**Group 3 Implementing integrated systems of statistics**

- How can the national statistical institutions in the Caribbean adapt their institutional arrangements, governance and management mechanism to further integrate statistical systems? What are the practices and experience of Caribbean countries?

* What are the specific characteristics of an action plan for achieving integration of the statistical production process that could be adopted in the context of the Caribbean? What benefits are expected from implementing integrated systems of statistics? How could integrated statistics contribute to the transformation of official statistics?

**Group 4 Statistical production process**

- What kind of institutional changes are needed to align statistical production processes and operations to support a more integrated national statistical system?

* What could be an adequate approach and mechanism that would ensure flexibility of production processes and operations to better align statistical deliveries with the evolving demand (i.e. in terms of disaggregation, coverage, timeliness) from the different communities of users, including the public at large?

**Session 3: Innovation and modernisation through standard-based statistical business architecture** *(Thematic 4)*

**Group 1 Common Statistical Production Architecture**

- What are the challenges in introducing common statistical production architecture to take forward the modernisation of official statistics in Caribbean countries and how does it depend on the level of maturity of the national statistical systems?

* What are the priorities for revamping methodological guidelines, classifications and standards for business, environmental, demographic and social statistics that could support the modernisation and integration of statistical business architecture? To what extent has geospatial information management been incorporated in the mandates of the national statistical offices?

**Group 2 Technology transfer**

- What kind of coordination/cooperation mechanism would be needed to foster development of standard IT architecture and technologies across the Caribbean?

* How could the transfer of innovative technologies and technical skills for the production of official statistics, including data collection and dissemination, be promoted and implemented at the sub-regional, regional and global level?

**Group 3 Standard based tools and applications**

- To what extent have Caribbean countries developed standard based tools and applications in their national statistical systems? What directions of future development are envisioned?

- How can the standard-based statistical business architecture enhance the capacity and efficiency of the national statistical institution to quickly adapt to the evolving demand for statistical information?

**Group 4 Innovative technology**

* Are there innovative technological tools and advancement in IT applications that are specific to national statistical systems in the Caribbean and could be promoted as good practices at the regional and sub-regional level?
* How does the wide access to the internet, mobile devices and cloud technology motivate investing in new online national data repository and innovative dissemination technologies such as social media or mobile applications? What is the experience of the Caribbean countries?

**Session 4: Capacity building** *(thematic 5a)* **and training** *(thematic 5b)*

**Group 1 Needs for training and capacity building** *(Thematic 5a/b)*

* What forms of training and technical capacity building are most relevant and could work best at the different levels of maturity of the statistical system? How could e-learning and other technology driven training programmes be incorporated?
* Is it possible to identify statistical domains for which substantial increase in capacity has been achieved as a result of training and why was such advancement possible? Could this experience be successfully applied to other statistical domains?

**Group 2 Skills development** *(Thematic 5b)*

- What are the characteristics of a highly qualified, efficient work force to support the modernization of the statistical system?

* How can national statistical offices motivate their employees to embrace institutional, organizational and technological changes that are necessary for the modernization of official statistics?

**Group 3 Partnership and cooperation in capacity building** *(Thematic 5a)*

* How could global, regional, sub-regional and national level cooperation support a demand driven and nationally owned capacity building programme? How would knowledge transfer and cooperation in technical capacity building work among Caribbean countries? Are there existing good practices to build on?
* What could be the role of a Caribbean statistical training institution in advancing technical, organisation and management skills?

**Group 4 Technical and management training** *(Thematic 5b)*

* What are the most pressing technical and management training needs in order to prepare national statistical institutions of Caribbean countries for the transformation of official statistics?
* Besides developing technical and managerial skills, what culture shifts are required within national statistical offices to implement the transformation, integration and modernization of the statistical production process?