

**United Nations Statistical Commission**

**Fifty-second session**

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Information items 3(b) and 4 (a) – 4 (k)

<b>Statement provided by:</b> Suriname	
<b>Agenda item</b>	Item 4(e) International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2021/22)
<b>Statement:</b>	
<p>Suriname and Barbados on behalf of CARICOM:</p> <p>The CARICOM Region</p> <p>Notes the conclusion of the 2017 cycle and the future planning for the International Comparison Programme (ICP), with the postponement of the 2020 cycle to 2021 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on data collections;</p> <p>Emphasises that the CARICOM region is committed to participating in the continued ICP cycles and is appreciative for all the technical assistance provided;</p> <p>Requests that continuous capacity building should always be provided for in the programme, especially with the development of the more technical areas of the ICP which are of utmost importance;</p> <p>Also requests that financial support be provided as needed to CARICOM countries, as low-lying and small-island developing states (SIDS), to assist them in the incorporation of the ICP into their regular statistical work programme.</p> <p>Wishes to place on record that while flexibility and agility is expected of National Statistical Offices and National Statistical Systems, the same does not hold for acquiring the necessary funding, as application processes are often very cumbersome and lengthy and urges that significant improvement be made in this area.</p> <p>Also wishes to indicate that with the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Caribbean region, during the initial months of 2021, the start of price data collections may be delayed in some member countries.</p>	
Submitted on:	2/19/2021