

## United Nations Statistical Commission

### Fifty-third session

Item 3 (w) of the provisional agenda

**Items for discussion and decision: open data**

### Document E/CN.3/2022/27 –Report of the Working Group on Open Data

*Statement provided by:*

Saint Lucia on behalf of CARICOM countries

*Statement:*

Madam Chair,

Saint Lucia, on behalf of CARICOM countries: Welcomes the Report and wishes to put on Record its appreciation for the work done thus far.

Open data cannot be considered without a proper functioning National Statistical System, hence we are going to take a little excursion which touches upon other items on the agenda, intrinsically linked to Open Data.

In Saint Lucia's case, there was and continues to be a strengthening of the CSO's role in a government wide approach to data stewardship and data management to ensure the availability of high-quality, insightful, accessible, relevant, timely and trusted data to inform government programs and services, safeguarding information and aiming to find the right balance between openness and transparency, while protecting privacy and confidentiality. Through assistance from Statistics Canada (STATCAN), the World Bank and CARICOM, the CSO has increased and continues its commitment to leading the integration of statistics and strengthening the National Statistical System (NSS) by enabling the strategic use of data and delivering data insights through innovative collaborations and partnerships, including the ongoing development of a National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) with support from PARIS21, the enactment of an Open data Policy and the launching of the Open Data portal.

The NSDS will provide St. Lucia with a vision of the development of statistics consistent with the national development plan (Medium Term Development Strategy 2020 - 2023) and beyond. The NSDS will facilitate the production, dissemination and analysis of data/information required to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Medium Term Development Strategy, which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Saint Lucia is currently receiving support from PARIS21 to help improve evidence-based decision making and to be better able to respond to demands to develop and produce quality timely statistics to inform policy. The National Statistical Systems are being audited in an effort to develop a strategy for the development of statistics demanded. The exercise will provide a perspective on the development map over time for Saint Lucia.

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have encountered great difficulty to strengthen their capacity to monitor and evaluate their national development goals. It is critical at this time for the CSO to ensure that this exercise is properly executed and the end result is achieved.

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CHAIR,

In 2014, Saint Lucia became the first country in the Caribbean to participate in an Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) as part of a World Bank Programme. This occurred within the context of a global open data movement; particularly within government. The ODRA found that Saint Lucia had the pre-existing conditions to support a successful open data initiative. Since then, a temporary open data portal, data.govt.lc was launched in 2018, and collaboration continues towards a more robust and well populated portal.

An internal task force was setup within the CSO to delegate responsibilities to various offers in gathering pertinent statistics and information from aligned agencies like the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Innovation, the Ministry of Gender relations etc. Officers with responsibility for MICS and SDG's were provided additional assistance to ensure that the relevant tables were generated. Officers also assisted in digitizing tables into open standards. There was no significant change in our IT architecture that resulted in a strategic edge or improvement in open data scores. The success in the implementation and adoption of the open data policy contributed to the increased results can mainly be attributed to the genuine and concerted effort by all stakeholders to ensure that data was disseminate in open standards.

Additionally, a website dissemination strategy was developed to systematize the operations of updating information on the main dissemination portal, and a designated webmaster was assigned the responsibility to ensure that the website is actualized and properly maintained.

In an effort to encourage the use of open data, some of our current and future plans include:

- Open Database of Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)
- Open Database and Application Programming Interface (API) of Business Register to enable interoperability with Labor Market Information System (LMIS).
- Open Database of Healthcare Facilities.
- The Open Database of Buildings.
- Implementation of a Gender Database and frontend Mobile application in collaboration with the Department of Gender Relations.
- We are actively collaborating with the regional agency CARICOM in the Implementation of an Integrated Statistical System for Administrative Registers (ISSAR) where Gender, Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development data will be stored.
- The Open Database of Educational Facilities
- The Open Database of Cultural and Art Facilities
- Open Database and API of 2022 Population and Housing Census
- Dissemination of Map shapefiles in open standards.
- Development and implementation of a Statistical Data Metadata Exchange Statistical
- Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) as part of the Regional Strategies for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) and National Statistical System (NSS)

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We are proud to share that St Lucia was the best performing CARICOM country in the 2020/2021 Open Data Initiative.

In consideration of the afore-mentioned,

Saint Lucia

Greatly appreciates:

all the outputs of the Working Group on Open Data

strongly supports:

The PROPOSAL to bring Open Data issues under the purview and mandate of the Working Group on Data Stewardship, once the work of the Open Data Working Group is considered Concluded by the Statistical Commission

*Submitted on:*

3/3/2022