

A wide-angle photograph of the Caribbean Parliament building in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The building is a large, modern structure with a prominent glass facade and a central tower. In the foreground, a circular driveway is surrounded by numerous flagpoles, each flying the national flag of a Caribbean country. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A white text box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title of the committee.

The STANDING COMMITTEE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS

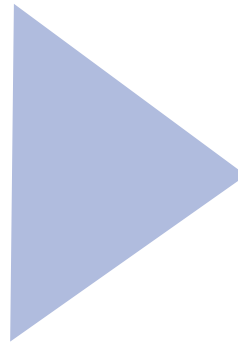


Overview of Presentation

- ❖ Background of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS)
- ❖ Mandate of the SCCS
- ❖ Overview of the CARICOM RSDS
- ❖ The SCCS :General Information, Function, Agenda
- ❖ Challenges for Statistical Development in CARICOM

Background of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians

The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians was established in accordance with Resolution No. 54/74/4 of the Fourth Meeting of the Common Market Council of Ministers in 1974 with the following aim:



“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, comparability and timeliness of statistics produced.”



Commitment made by CARICOM Head to Statistics Development

Eighth Meeting of the CARICOM Community Council (the Council) and its Resumed Session held in 2001:

Council noted the approach to **enable strategic direction for the development of statistics in CARICOM** including: efforts to harmonise statistics in the Region; to document statistical methodologies and the processes of data collection and compilation; and to enhance the ability to effectively depict the socio-economic status of CARICOM Member States through the establishment of a core set of socio-economic statistics.

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Council held in Guyana in 2005:

Recommended that **regional and national strategies** should be prepared with financial proposals to enable the implementation of the common **Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP)** which was approved by the Council in that year.



Commitment made by CARICOM Head to Statistics Development

The CARICOM Heads of Government of CARICOM (HGC) endorsed:

- ❖ Action Plan for Statistics (37th HGC, 2016);**
- ❖ The approval to advance the preparation of the CARICOM RSDS (38th HGC, 2017); and**
- ❖ The CARICOM RSDS at the 39th HGC in July, 2018.**

**Evidence of the Commitment of Heads of Governments to Statistics Development
from since 2001**



The Action Plan for Statistics

- Key elements of the Plan were that governments should
 - undertake the strengthening of the National Statistical Systems and Offices;
 - pursue the upgrading of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) base of the NSOs/NSSs;
 - promote careers in statistics;
 - endorse and promote the Caribbean Association of Professional Statisticians (CAPS);
 - support a regional approach to the development of statistics to optimise scarce resources.



Endorsement of the CARICOM RSDS

- The 39th Meeting of Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM Heads of Government Endorsed the Strategic Framework of the Regional Strategy at the 39th meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) **for strengthening and improving the availability of statistics for evidence-based decision-making.**
- The Conference of Heads of Government endorse the next steps:
 - a comprehensive Implementation Plan for the RSDS with costing,
 - a Resource Mobilisation Strategy,
 - a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
 - a Communication and Advocacy Strategy



OVERVIEW OF THE CARICOM RSDS

The overarching theme of the CARICOM RSDS is *“Building Resilience of the Caribbean Community”*.

The 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



OVERVIEW OF THE CARICOM RSDS

Vision:

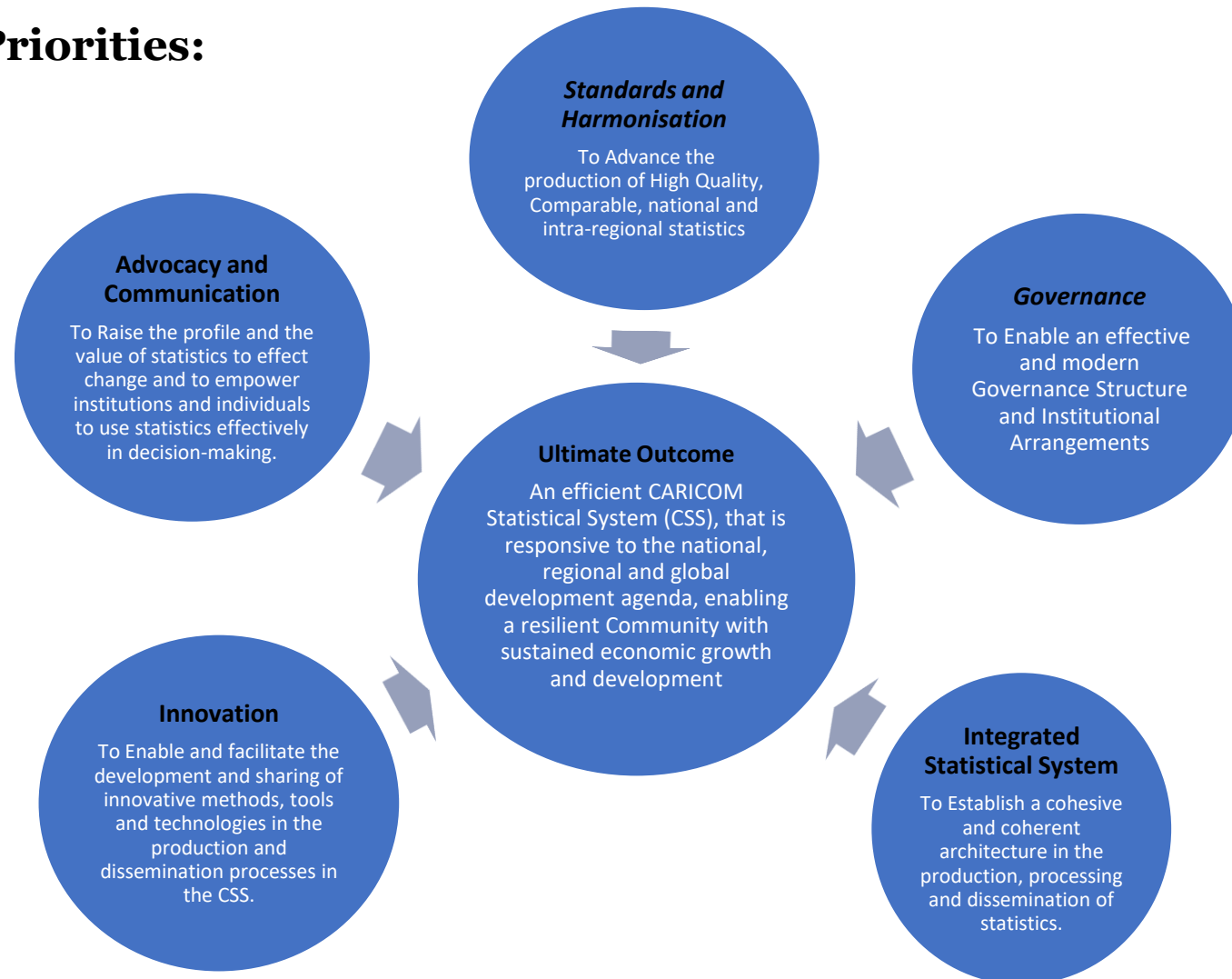
“A CARICOM Statistical System (CSS) that is recognised for professional excellence and is the premier source of high-quality, harmonised statistics on the Community”

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”

OVERVIEW OF THE CARICOM RSDS

Strategic Priorities:



OVERVIEW OF THE CARICOM RSDS

Strategic Drivers/Enablers:



IT Infrastructure

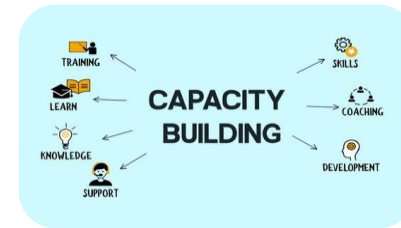
The engine for the data revolution to enable the production of statistics in the “post-2015 development agenda.

Transforming the national and regional Statistical Systems Significantly and enhancing efficiency in the production of data



Sustainable Development Goals/Samoa Pathway

Comprising 17 goals, 169 targets and 230 plus indicators that will drive the development of statistics to monitor development over the period of the RSDS. The SAMOA Pathway will also drive the production of statistics in the data eco-system of the CSS



Sustainable Capacity Building

Sustainable capacity building is a strategic driver in sustaining the production and dissemination of statistics in the CSS. A cross-cutting drivers for achieving the strategic objectives and ultimate outcome



Gender Mainstreaming

The 20-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action on gender equality and women’s empowerment (Regional Review Meeting, Geneva, November 2014) emphasised the importance of the production of Gender Statistics on pertinent Gender issues. A cross-cutting drivers for achieving the strategic objectives and ultimate outcome.



The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS): Composition

- Membership of the Committee (15 Members States)
 - Antigua and Barbuda,
 - The Bahamas,
 - Barbados,
 - Belize,
 - Dominica,
 - Grenada,
 - Guyana,
 - Haiti,
 - Jamaica,
 - Montserrat,
 - St. Kitts and Nevis,
 - Saint Lucia,
 - St. Vincent and the Grenadines,
 - Suriname,
 - Trinidad and Tobago
- Associate membership of the Committee shall be open to:
 - Anguilla,
 - Bermuda,
 - British Virgin Islands,
 - Cayman Islands,
 - Turks and Caicos Islands



The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians: General Information

SCCS Meets Once annually

Only Member States has voting rights

Representatives of Associate Members can participate without vote and shall be eligible to be appointed as Members of any sub-committee, or any other subsidiary body which may be set up by the Committee.

Caribbean countries who are not Members or Associate Members may be invited to attend meetings of the Committee and participate as observers without vote.



The SCCS: General Information

- Sub-Committee and Subsidiary body includes
 - Regional Census Coordinating Committee (to ensure regional approach to census taking)
 - Meets once annual but twice closer to the dates of the region as well as during census period
 - Advisory Group on Statistics (Sub-group of the SCCS)
 - instated to enable the implementation of the approved RSWP and the Resolution on the Strengthening of Statistical Capacity (2005) in the Region as well as makes recommendations for endorsement by the SCCS; Coordination of RSDS Implementation
 - Meets twice annually
 - Technical Working Groups



The SCCS: Functions

- Develop and harmonise statistical concepts and methodologies;
- Promote the institutional strengthening of all statistical agencies in the National Statistical Systems and assist with the development and implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS);
- Promote the implementation of a Quality Assurance Framework in accordance with current International and Regional statistical standards and best practices;
- Develop and monitor, regional statistical projects engaging with International Development Partners in the Strengthening of Statistical Capacity in the region;
- Co-ordinate and monitor programmes for statistical training and technical assistance
- Promote South-South co-operation and attachment programmes;
- Encourage statistical advocacy and promote the importance of statistics as a discipline within the Community
- Promote the establishment and functioning of a Professional Association of Statisticians in CARICOM;

The SCCS: Functions

- Advise and assist Member States and Associate Members at their request in carrying out statistical projects, in the organization or reorganisation of their statistical services, and in all other areas where such assistance is required;
- Encourage regional and international organizations to collaborate and integrate their statistical activities in order to avoid and/or reduce duplication as well as assist with the process of harmonization of concepts and methodologies;
- Promote the pursuit of the implementation of effective leadership and management in the mandate of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs);
- Encourage the use of appropriate and up-to-date technology in the proper management and archiving of data;
- Promote and assist with the development of a dissemination policy;
- Encourage the review of statistical legislation to allow for emerging techniques and methodologies;

Main Items on the current SCCS and AGS Agenda to promote Regional Statistics Development



Advancing the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (Governance)

Advancing the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics

- The implementation of RSDS Resource Mobilisation Strategy
 - Using the costed implementation Plan to develop project proposals for statistics development.
- Advancing the draft Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and Compliance scorecard
- Promoting the development of NSDS and its alignment with the CARICOM RSDS



The Review of the CARICOM Statistics Model Bill (Governance)

- Minor revisions proposed to make the Bill more current and stronger
 - Redefining official statistics to ensure no political interference
 - To include definition of big data and administrative data
 - To include definition of anonymized and microdata
- One of Member State agreeing for legal consultant under project to review CARICOM Model bill in light of new development in statistics and along with minor recommendations proposed by SCCS.
- Office of the General Counsel (OGC) of the CARICOM Secretariat will conduct final review of Bill.



Technical Working Groups (Governance)

- The reconstitution and reactivation of technical working groups (TWG). Existing TWG:
 - (1) National Accounts and International Trade in Services,
 - (2) Merchandise Trade,
 - (3) SDGs,
 - (4) Environment Statistics,
 - (5) Classifications
- Launching of two additional technical working groups
 - (1) Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information
 - (2) Communications, Dissemination and Website Management



Report on work being put in place in the First 3 domains of Statistics in the Regional Statistics Work Programme (Standards and Harmonisation)

- Countries and the Caribbean Secretariat report on progress, best practices and challenges in the following domains:
- Economic Statistics:
 - National Accounts Merchandise Trade Statistics
 - International Trade in Services Statistics
 - Sectoral Statistics
 - Development of Agricultural Statistics in the Caribbean Community
 - Other Areas of Economic Statistics
- Demographic and Social Statistics and Programme of Work
- Environment and Multi-Domain Statistics:
 - Environment Statistics
 - Information and Communication Technology Statistics
 - Gender Statistics



CARICOM Code of Good Statistical Practice (CGSP) and Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF)

- CARICOM Code of Good Statistical practices (CGSP)- Scheduling of the Implementation of the system of peer review (S&H)
- **The CQAF Phase I and Phase 2 have been completed. Circulation of the CQAF Phase 2 report was done in 2022;**
 - Countries that volunteered to pilot the CQAF
 - Generic Work Plan for initial process of implementation was developed which countries were expected to adapt;



Capacity Building Initiatives (Sustainable Capacity Building Driver)

- The development of online learning through the Electronic CARICOM Institute for Statistical Training and Research (E-CISTAR)
 - Knowledge base
 - E-learning Platform
 - Research platform
 - A Regional Database of experts.
- Development of Centres of Excellence and a system of south-south collaboration through a formalised structure of attachments and exchange visits among countries
 - Core Areas include Prices, Merchandis trade , Labour Force Surveys, Sampling and ICT and CAPI Surveys
- Collaboration with Regional and International Development Partners



Collaboration with IDPs and Regional Organisations on Capacity Building Initiatives in Statistics Development both at the Regional and National level

- CDB
- OECS
- ECCB
- PRASC/ STATSCAN
- CARTAC/ IMF
- EU
- IDB
- PARIS21
- ESRI
- EUROSTAT
- ISTAT
- UNSD
- UN Women
- UN ECLAC
- UNFPA
- UNDP
- ILO
- FAO
- UNICEF
- World Bank
- US Census Bureau



11th EDF Projects

:

- Ongoing Consultancies:
 - Reinforce the capacity of the National Statistical Office in National Accounts in producing the MRDS, TSA and Creative Economy
 - Develop and strengthen the capacity of NSS to produce & disseminate harmonised statistics on Trade in Services.
 - The Establishment of a Central Repository for Statistics at the CARICOM Secretariat building on the SDMX platform
 - The Development of the ECISTAR an e-learning, online knowledge base and research platform
 - zthe Central Repository
- Consultancy to commence:
 - Strengthen capacity in the conduct of Census data analysis and dissemination and in promoting the use of census data including the use of Geographic Information System and CAPI /data processing
 - Consultancy to be undertaken on modernizing of the statistical production processes-implementation of a statistical business process model [GSBPM -Generic Statistical Business Process Model]
 - To commence on improving the quality of Statistics in CARICOM [- implementation of a peer-review system of the Code of Good Statistical Practices and the CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework]



Regional Spotlight Initiative (UN WOMEN MCO)

- UN Women Multi-country Office for the Caribbean
 - Regional Spotlight Initiative and National Spotlight Initiatives in 5 Member States
 - Collaboration on the Capacity building in the production of VAWG data from Administrative sources and the development of Minimum standards and ethical guidelines in the collection, compilation and production of VAWG data
 - Collaborative with ECLAC and UN Women on Training in gender statistics



Assessment of the Optimal Future State for the Coordination of CARICOM Statistical System (CDB)

- To improve the quality, comparability and timeliness of statistics produced across the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS) .
- The project aims to strengthen RSP as a focal point for regional statistics and enhance regional coordination of the development and harmonisation of statistics produced by NSOs which will include
- (a) coordinating the statistical system; (b) strengthening the capacity of NSOs; (c) mobilising financing; and (d) improving statistical infrastructure



Other agenda items

- **The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development:**
- Reporting on Engagements at the Regional and National Level on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - Regional Initiatives- 11th EDF supported training workshop and support available on the Global Partnership Initiative
 - Reports on Voluntary National Reviews
- **Report on the representatives serving IAEG-SDG and the HLG-PCCB**
- **Matters related to the Caribbean Association of Professional Statisticians (CAPS)**
- **Introducing Ecosystems Accounting sharing experience and best practices of its implementation in 1 Member states and 4 Associate Member States.**
- **Endorsement of CARICOM Agreed Minimum Standards for the Management of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Administrative Data**
- **Fifteenth observance of Caribbean Statistics Day**



Challenge for Statistical Development in CARICOM

- Inadequate staffing at National and Regional Statistics Offices to meet the increasing demand for statistics
- Timeliness of data production which is also linked to the availability of resources
- Limited source of funding for statistics development causing challenges with resource Mobilisation for Statistics Projects/ activities under the Implementation Plan for CARICOM RSDS as well as Member countries NSDS Implementation plan and statistical work programme.
- Challenge in achieving the production of CARICOM Core SDG indicators which is a subset of 125 indicators of the SDG Global list of indicators
- The implementation and completion of the 2020 round of Population and Housing Census
- Outdated Statistical legislation: Current legislation does not fully promote fundamental principles of official statistics especially as it relates to autonomy and professional independence
- Uncoordinated National Statistical System rendering it difficult to access data in a timely manner
- Weak data producing agencies within the National Statistical System
- Challenges with data sharing and anonymization of micro data due to the small size of most CARICOM countries



Challenge for Statistical Development in CARICOM

- Data Dissemination Challenges
- Lack of statistical literacy impacts use and misuse of data
- Lack of Statistical Advocacy that will engender Public Trust in the NSO and NSS
- Leveraging of big data and unconventional sources of data in the production of official statistics
- Moving beyond GDP



*Thank
you*

A close-up illustration of a fountain pen nib, showing the gold-colored tip and the black barrel, positioned as if it has just finished writing the word 'you'.