



SAVINGRAM

FROM: Secretary-General, Caribbean Community

TO: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda
Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Bahamas
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Barbados
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Belize
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dominica
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Grenada
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Haiti
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica
Hon. Chief Minister, Montserrat
Minister of Foreign Affairs, St Kitts and Nevis
Minister of External Affairs, Saint Lucia
Minister of Foreign Affairs, St Vincent and the Grenadines
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Suriname
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago

COPIED: Hon. Chief Minister, Anguilla
Hon. Premier, Bermuda
Hon. Premier, British Virgin Islands
Hon. Leader of Government Business, Cayman Islands
Hon. Premier, Turks and Caicos Islands
Heads of Statistics Division
Ministers with responsibility for CARICOM Affairs
Ambassadors of Member States accredited to CARICOM
High Commissioner for Jamaica to Trinidad and Tobago,
Barbados, Guyana and the Eastern Caribbean States
and Ambassador to Suriname
High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica
Director-General, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

No. 524/2009

15 June 2009

**THIRTY- FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF
CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS (SCCS), 26-28 OCTOBER 2009**

**SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL CENSUS COORDINATING
COMMITTEE (RCCC), 29 OCTOBER, 2009**

AND

**SECOND REGIONAL STATISTICS SEMINAR, 30 OCTOBER 2009
CASTRIES, SAINT LUCIA**

(CONVENING)

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1. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat wishes to advise Member States that it proposes to convene the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) in Castries, Saint Lucia on **26-28 October 2009**. The SCCS Meeting will be followed by the Seventeenth Meeting of the Regional Census Coordinating Committee (RCCC) Meeting on **29 October 2009** and by the Second Regional Statistics Seminar. The venue for these Meetings is the **Royal St Lucian Hotel, Castries, Saint Lucia**.
2. The theme suggested for the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the SCCS is: *Enabling Development and Greater Visibility of the National Statistical Offices – Caribbean Statistics Day 2009*. Statistical Offices of the CARICOM have been making efforts to improve the quality and comparability of the statistics produced in the region. These efforts have been supported by the European Union under the Caribbean Integration Support Programme (CISP) Agreement focusing on improving and harmonising Economic Statistics; by the IDB in facilitating the development of Common frameworks, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the World Bank, the United Nations (UN) system, PARIS21 and several other development partners.
3. Statisticians of the CARICOM Region have designated **15 October 2009** as **Caribbean Statistics Day** in order to draw attention to the central role of statistics in national and regional development, to enable a greater understanding of the statistics by the people of the region and to promote a culture of statistics in terms of provision of information by respondents and the promotion of the use of statistics. The Thirty-Fourth Meeting would be the culmination of activities to profile statistics in the Region that includes the proposed High-level Forum on Statistics that takes place on 30 July, a regional workshop on National Strategies for Statistical Development from 27-29 July and selected interventions in the area of strategic planning at the national level.
4. Critical analysis of progress made across various areas of statistics will be undertaken during the meeting and decisions would be taken on a number of projects and activities, including the status on the CISP Statistical Component in Economic Statistics in National Accounts, International Trade in Services and Merchandise Trade in Statistics. Focus would also be on Social/Gender, Environmental and Information and Communication Technology Statistics and the Progress on projects that seek to facilitate the implementation of the Regional Statistical Work Programme and the compilation of indicators to monitor the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would also be discussed.

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5. The **Seventeenth Meeting of the RCCC** will monitor and assess progress of countries preparing for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census. As for the areas of statistics efforts are being made in the Region to enable the production of comparable data from the Censuses. Discussions would focus on activities that have been implemented to facilitate the development of a Common Census approach and recommendations to ensure that countries are able to advance their preparations would be considered.
6. The **Second Regional Seminar on Statistics**, following the format of the first seminar would serve as a mechanism to encourage the use of statistics, promote research into statistical methods and applications and provide a forum for statisticians to present their findings from the research for review by the Meeting. In particular, graduates from the training workshops and participants who have attended other meetings and workshops are especially invited to present papers on topics that may interest them at this seminar.
7. The Provisional Agenda for both Meetings are **attached**. The Call for Papers for this Seminar would be provided in a subsequent communiqué.
8. The Secretariat would be grateful to receive by **1 September 2009**, any additional item(s) which Member States may wish to have included on the Agenda of the above-captioned Meetings. This information should be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum on the proposed item(s). Member States are also requested to inform the Secretariat of papers related to the Items on the proposed agenda that they wish to present at these Meetings.
9. Further, Member States will also be requested to report on any achievements or initiatives already in progress, or proposed, to restructure their respective National Statistical Offices/Systems using the required format.
10. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving electronic copies of papers which Member States wish to present to the Meetings **by 12 September 2009** for posting on its Website. Information about the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the SCCS and the Seventeenth Meeting of the RCCC will be made available and updated on www.caricomstats.org on a continuing basis.
11. Details regarding accommodation would be provided under separate cover. Contact information for the person in Saint Lucia would also be sent under separate cover.

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12. Member States are requested to forward to the Secretariat, the name(s) and designation(s) of the members of their respective delegations no later than **12 September 2009** to:

The Secretary-General
Caribbean Community

for the attention of -

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***Original signed by:
Desmond Alfred
Executive Director, Finance
/s/ SECRETARY-GENERAL***