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ICP 2011 – DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Please find attached Paper entitled "ICP 2011 – Developments in the Caribbean"
submitted by UNECLAC.

ICP 2011 – DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CARIBBEN

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ICP 2011 – DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CARIBBEN

I. Background and Objectives

Since this short paper is directed at practicing statisticians there is no need to address definitional issues relating to the ICP or to dwell on its purpose. It is assumed that all are reasonably conversant with these issues. The paper will instead address the current status of affairs with respect to the administrative issues relating to the implementation of the ICP in the Dutch and English speaking countries of the Caribbean. However, I would like to quote the objectives of the program as captured in this presentation of the Global Coordinator:

“the objectives of ICP are

- ▶ **Implement UNSC Recommendations**
- ▶ **Meet Users’ Needs**
- ▶ **Reach out to Users**
- ▶ **Meet Global Demand for PPP-adjusted Statistics**

And the expected results of the program are:

Main results:

- ▶ **PPP results at regional level for 2011**
- ▶ **PPP results at global level for 2011**
- ▶ **Poverty PPPs**

Other results:

- ▶ **Improved GDP expenditures statistics**
- ▶ **Improved methodologies**
- ▶ **Learning material**
- ▶ **ICP book**
- ▶ **ICP Data Quality Framework**
- ▶ **ICP software suite**
- ▶ **ICP databases and metadata repositories**

II. Status of Preparations for ICP in the Caribbean

In late 2008, realizing the imminence of the conduct of another round of the ICP, a project concept note/project proposal with budget for the Caribbean was prepared by ECLAC and in early 2009, was circulated to possible funding agencies operating in the region. Following the request by the Statistical Commission held in New York in April 2009, that the World Bank again coordinates the 2011 round of ICP, a Global Coordinator was appointed. Shortly thereafter, he in turn appointed Regional Coordinators. For the Latin America and Caribbean region the Director of Statistics at ECLAC's headquarters was appointed as Regional Coordinator for the LAC for the 2011 round of ICP.

With respect to the project proposal that includes a request for funding for the various activities of the project response from funding agencies has been lukewarm. The proposal was circulated to the CDB, IDB, DFID, CIDA as well as the appropriate UN organizations and thus far, positive responses have been received from the CDB who pledged to support the funding of 20% of the budget. Of course the CDB has emphasized the fact that their funding can only be used to support their borrowing Member States. On a happier note however, I am happy to report that just a week ago, the UNDESA approved funding to the amount of USD400,000 to the Caribbean for the ICP activities. This means that we need to find another USD400,000 to adequately fund the project. We are actively seeking these remaining funds through the various agencies but welcome any suggestions.

The official launch of the ICP 2011 round occurred in Washington DC earlier this year at a meeting for Regional Coordinators. At this forum, several key decisions were taken with respect to the implementation of ICP 2011. Prevalent among these were the following:

- This round of ICP will emphasize capacity building among the various countries
- Hence, as far as possible, countries will be supported to fully participate as far as they can
- In terms of fundamental preparations, it is desirable that participating countries' National Income be estimated using the Expenditure approach
- It is also desirable that countries have a supply and use table
- Countries will be required to generate national price estimates
- Countries will also be required to share these prices at the regional level

III. The Way Forward

Considerable work remains to be done to get the Caribbean on board. Firstly, the RC expects to hold a one-day meeting with the authorities of CARICOM, by early December, with the objective of getting CARICOM fully involved with the activities of ICP. Secondly, all Member States will be officially approached to find out about their interest in participating in this round of ICP. Countries who agree to take part will have to formally sign a Letter of Agreement or MOU accepting the stated conditions. While all of this is happening, funding has to be simultaneously and vigorously pursued. Next, a technical sub-regional coordinator will have to be recruited quickly. This person will be the main technical focal point with respect to the implementation of ICP. A sub-regional timetable will have to be prepared for Caribbean activities. Finally, let us take a look at the global timetable.