

**THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF  
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF  
CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS****SCCS/2013/38/7 Rev. 1****Frigate Bay, St. Kitts and Nevis  
28-30 October 2013****6 November 2013**

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**STATUS REPORT ON STATISTICS ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGIES AND PROGRAMME OF WORK – 2014/2015****1. INTRODUCTION**

This paper provides an overview of the ongoing development work in the area of statistics on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) including efforts to compile and disseminate available ICT statistics and indicators collected from countries and the Programme of Work for 2014/2015.

**2. STATUS OF WORK ON THE COMPILATION AND DISSEMINATION OF ICT  
STATISTICS AND INDICATORS****2.1 FIRST REGIONAL PUBLICATION ON ICT STATISTICS AND INDICATORS**

The Regional Statistics Sub-Programme continued its data collection efforts during 2013 in an effort to disseminate its regional publication “ICT Statistics and Indicators 2000-2012” which is now scheduled to be published in December 2013. Data were compiled from nineteen (19) countries for the period 2000-2012 and were sourced mainly from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) ICT Indicator database, the 2000 and 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census, National Statistical Offices, data collected as a result of the conduct of the ICT Statistics workshop of 2011

and data which were either submitted or compiled by the Secretariat on Production and Trade in ICT Goods, Services and on the contribution of the ICT sector to GDP..

Data compiled on *Infrastructure and Access, Quality and Usage* from the ITU were circulated to countries for verification. The sources of this data were mixed, international as well as countries. Efforts were made to collect data from the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census on the following indicators:

The proportion of households having access to a

- television set;
- fixed line telephone;
- mobile cellular phone;
- internet access;
- computer and electricity;

The actual data available for each country from the 2010 Census Round were based on the information included on the census questionnaires. Four countries, Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and the Cayman Islands were able to provide data on most of the indicators on ICT access and use by households from the 2010 Census.

Efforts were also made to compile data on the Economic Contribution of the ICT Sector including Imports and Exports of ICT Goods; Imports and Exports of ICT Services and on the contribution of the ICT sector to GDP at the country level.

## **2.2 LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES IN THE DATA**

In the compilation of the data for this report, several limitations surfaced. These are as follows:

- (i) The population data used by ITU in the calculation of the various rates differed from the country's data that were submitted to the CARICOM Secretariat;

- (ii) The method of computation used in deriving the number of internet users seemed to have been equated to the number of internet subscribers ;
- (iii) For data on International Trade in Services the data that are currently available are at the level of the Extended Balance of Payments Services Classifications (EBOPS). In the latest international standard, the Manual of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010) the category Telecommunications, Computer and Information services reflects trade in ICT-related services. Disaggregation of this category is not available for most countries;
- (iv) For production data there are differences in the version of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) that are used across countries resulting in different categorizations for production data relative to the definition of the ICT Sector. It should be noted that the latest version of the ISIC (Rev4) provides improved categorization of the ICT Sector as compared to its predecessors. Efforts should be made to move to the ISIC Rev. 4 classification

### **2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF FRAMEWORK FOR THE CARIBBEAN SPECIFIC ICT INDICATORS**

Work continued on the development of the Caribbean Specific ICT (CSICT) indicators. This work focused on further refinement of the indicators to ensure clarity and feasibility of measurement. This resulted in the removal of those indicators that were thought to be impractical as well as those that were duplicated across thematic areas. The finalized list of indicators was submitted to countries along with a template to assist in the prioritisation of the indicators after consultation with the respective stakeholders.

Currently work on the metadata on the CSICT indicators has commenced at the Secretariat. To date progress has been made with respect to the documentation of the metadata for the following themes: Information Literacy, Policy & Regulatory Framework, Social Inclusion and Agriculture.

## **2.2 PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

A key result out of the workshop that was convened in 2011 in Antigua and Barbuda on ICT Statistics was the development of an Implementation Plan by countries to guide and monitor progress on compilation of these statistics by countries.

The Secretariat has attempted to follow-up progress by countries on the activities of the implementation plan. With the exception of Bermuda responses from countries were not forthcoming.

The Secretariat would like to encourage countries to pay close attention to this area of statistics. The data obtained on ICT Statistics are useful in informing policies to enable increased competitiveness of countries enabling them to compete internationally with other countries in production and human resource development.

## **3. PROGRAMME OF WORK 2014/2015**

### **3.1 CONTINUED COMPILATION OF DATA ON ICT FROM ALL SOURCES**

The Secretariat would continue to compile data on ICT from all available sources and countries are encouraged to submit data that may be available at the national level including from special surveys that may be undertaken as well as to support the updating of the economic contribution of the ICT Sector. Data on employment in ICT Occupations and Industries will also be addressed.

### **3.2 ADVANCEMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN SPECIFIC ICT INDICATORS**

Work will continue on the development of the Caribbean Specific ICT (CSICT) indicators which will following-up on the feedback requested from countries on the finalized list of indicators that were submitted for prioritization/ consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Work would continue on the documentation of the metadata for all themes. It is envisioned that a draft document with the proposed metadata for these and the other themes will be disseminated during the first quarter of 2014.

### 3.3 SUPPORT TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ICT STATISTICS

A workshop is intended to be convened during the first quarter of 2014 supported by the European Union under the Tenth European Development fund to continue to strengthen this area of statistics. The Secretariat will continue to follow-up on the Implementation Plan that was developed by countries during the workshop that was held in 2011 in Antigua and Barbuda and on progress on the adoption of the ISIC Rev 4 classification and in improving the coverage and details of the EBOPS.

#### ACTION REQUIRED

The **Meeting** is **invited** to:

- (i) **consider** the progress of work on the compilation of ICT Statistics and on the preparation of the first regional publication;
- (ii) **urge** countries to pay closer attention to the development of this area of statistics and specifically:
  - (a) The implementation plan out of the 2011 workshop;
  - (b) Prioritization of the list of core indicators that have been submitted to countries;
  - (c) Movement to the ISIC Rev. 4 relative to improved categorisation of ICT;
  - (d) Improved coverage of the EBOPS as it pertains to ICT Services
  - (e) Employment in ICT occupations/industries;
- (iii) **support** the Work Programme 2014/2015.

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