

**THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF
CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS**

SCCS/2013/38/8

Frigate Bay, St. Kitts and Nevis

28-30 October 2013

22 October 2013

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATISTICAL BUSINESS REGISTER (SBR)
MANUAL TO SUPPORT THE IMPROVEMENT OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS**

1. BACKGROUND

In 2007, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat executed the Caribbean Integration Support Programme (CISP) funded by the European Community under the Ninth European Development Fund (9th EDF). The Programme included in a statistical component aimed at '*Improved and Harmonised Economic Statistics Developed and Disseminated*' based on the importance of statistics to the process of implementing the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

To determine a course of action based on the statistical objective contained in the CISP, a strategising meeting was convened in Barbados in June 2008 where a proposal was tabled for the formation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) – National Accounts and International Trade in Services. This Group was developed to address technical issues surrounding the main targets identified from this meeting, which included the development and maintenance of Statistical Business Registers (SBR).

2. ACTION TAKEN – TWG and BEYOND

The meetings of the TWG determined that the best course of action, relative to the development and maintenance of SBR, would be:

- (i) develop a draft SBR manual based on the core areas identified by the Group. The TWG Member from Trinidad and Tobago was allocated this task;
- (ii) circulate the draft manual to Member States for their review and comments when completed.

Following the dispatch of the manual to Member States, two (2) countries provided comments which indicated that more work was required on the document. To this end, the Statistics Programme presented a revised framework for the development of this manual at a regional seminar on '*Developing a Programme for the Implementation of the 2008 SNA and Supporting Statistics in the CARICOM Region*' which was held in Jamaica during February 2013, and then to the Twelfth Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS). This revised framework included critical areas such as the role of SBR, conventional definitions, and issues for consideration (such as the definitions in the 2008 SNA, characteristics of the SBR, sources of data, and maintenance of the register).

A copy of the adjusted manual is at **Attachment I** to this paper. This manual is still a work in progress.

ACTION REQUIRED

The **Meeting** is **invited** to –

- (i) **consider** the status of the SBR manual relative to the work done by the Secretariat.
