

THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF
CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS (SCCS)

SCCS/2014/39/11

Georgetown, Guyana
27 – 29 October 2014

26 October 2014

SECOND HIGH LEVEL ADVOCACY FORUM ON STATISTICS –
ELEMENTS TO INFORM AN ACTION PLAN

Recognising that the Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. The Rt. Hon Keith Mitchell is the lead Head for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in CARICOM's Quasi Cabinet and that in the High Level Forum (HLF) held in St. George's Grenada he volunteered to be used as an advocate for Statistics;

Also recognizing the Rt. Honourable Prime Minister's emphasis that ICT has to be the tool that powers the data revolution that will be used for the sustainable development of regional economies and therefore statistics and ICT should not be isolated from each other.

Also recognizing the statement of the, Rt. Honourable Prime Minister that "ICT has great potential in transforming the national and regional statistical systems to inform solutions to the majority of the data challenges".

Further recognising, the importance of statistics in the implementation of the Community's Five-year Strategic Plan that was approved by the Conference of Heads of Government at their Thirty-Fifth meeting in Antigua and Barbuda in July 2014.

The SCCS is requested to endorse the following actions to develop more quickly and effectively the national statistical systems:

1. That the SCCS brings the findings of the HLF to the Prime Minister of Grenada to take forward to the CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting. Hence, a document will be prepared for him highlighting major priorities and those requiring high level interventions for the advancement of the data revolution required in statistics. Some of these include:
 - (i) Greater investment in statistics by Governments to fuel the data revolution;

- (ii) Ensuring the incorporation of ICT in the production and dissemination of statistics;
- (iii) Governments being champions of the NSDS process;
- (iv) Governments continued commitment to the revision and updating of statistical legislation and/or transforming statistical offices of CARICOM into autonomous bodies. This should take into consideration the United Nation's fundamental principles of official statistics;
- (v) Governments promotion of careers in statistics by offering scholarships to its citizens in this area and by making efforts to include statistics to a larger extent in the school curriculum;
- (vi) Governments endorsement and promotion of the Caribbean Association of Professional Statisticians (CAPS);
- (vii) Endorsement of the regional approach being pursued in the development of statistics to optimise scarce resources in the strengthening of the national statistical systems .

RECOMMEND THAT:

1. National Statistics Offices (NSOs) actively seek to promote the increased use of ICT in the acquisition and provision of statistical data via the increased use of databases, web and mobile technologies in the collection, processing, storage, archiving and dissemination of official statistics.
2. In those countries that are transitioning to Central Computer Services by Government, NSOs should ensure that they retain a high level of computing proficiency suited to the provision of high quality statistical services.
3. That statisticians be trained as data scientists to meet the demands of the data revolution.
4. Every effort be made to continue to improve and enhance the collaboration with public and private institutions holding administrative and/or "BIG" data well suited to enhancing the quality, extent and scope of official statistics produced by NSOs.
5. NSOs align the RSWP to their statistical work programme.
6. The Caribbean Association of Professional Statisticians (CAPS) be a key mechanism to professionalize statistical services in the Region and that the NSOs widely promote membership to this association.
7. Chief Statisticians actively champion the development of the NSDS that are aligned to their national development plans.
8. The International Development Partners (IDPs) continue investing in statistics in the Region while adhering to the fundamental principles of statistics
9. **Support the development of a Statistical Monitoring Framework.**

10. The IDPs collaborate relative to their interventions in the Region so as not to overburden the NSOs.
