CARIBBEAN **COMMUNITY** **SECRETARIAT**

THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF
CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS **SCCS/2014/39/7**

Georgetown, Guyana
27-29 October 2014 **26 October 2014**

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 was able to disseminate its first regional ICT publication titled "CARICOM ICT Statistics and Indicators 2000-2012" in April 2014. Data were compiled from twenty (20) countries for the period 2000-2012 and were sourced from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) ICT Indicator database, the 2000 and 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census, other surveys conducted by the National Statistical Offices, Surveys conducted by service providers and other Regional Statistical Databases such as the Merchandise trade database. The report was divided into six sections namely:-

- Caribbean Community , Aggregates (Section I),
- Caribbean Community, Summary (Section II)
- CARICOM Member States (Section III)
- Associate Members (Section IV).
- The Caribbean Community and the ITU Global Regions (Section V)
- Appendix

This report has been disseminated on the Secretariat's website. Member States were urged to review this report in order to clarify sources and/or other issues that they may have regarding the data for their countries.

2.2 DATABASES ON WEBSITE

Country profiles on selected ICT data were updated with available data up to 2013 as part of a Statistical Profile that was prepared for Caribbean Statistics Day. This data was sourced mainly from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) ICT Indicator database.

3. CARICOM WORKSHOP ON ICT

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat convened a Second CARICOM Workshop on the Development of Caribbean Specific Information and Communication Technologies (CSICT) Statistics and Indicators in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines on 9-11 April 2014. This Workshop was funded by the European Union (EU), CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Economic Integration Programme under the Tenth European Development Fund (EDF). The main objectives of this meeting were to continue the refinement of the Caribbean Specific ICT (CSICT) indicators where necessary, to review the draft metadata compiled by the Secretariat and to review the draft implementation plan developed at the first CARICOM Workshop on ICT in 2011.

During the Meeting, the representative from the programme area of Information and Communication Technologies for Development within the Secretariat provided the Meeting with an update on the role of statistics in the Regional Digital Development Strategy and ICT Workplan 2014-2015. Participants were also informed on the background to the development of statistics on ICT including an overview of the Caribbean Specific ICT Indicators and other related issues. The participants were also reminded of the nine (9) themes according to which the CSICT indicators are arranged namely:- Agriculture, Environment, Governance, Health, Information Literacy, Policy and Regulatory Framework, Poverty Alleviation, Security, Social Inclusion. Additionally, highlights from the first regional ICT publication were presented.

The Meeting also received reports from Member States relative to the status of their implementation of the ICT Statistics work plan developed during the first workshop in 2011. It was noted that most countries were still struggling with the pre-data collection issues in terms of the compilation of CSICT statistics and indicators. Mention was made of the work put in place by Bermuda for the progress made in terms of the implementation of their work plan. In this regard, it was especially noted that Bermuda had reviewed the entire list of the CSICT indicators and established a list of seventy–seven (77) priority indicators out of the one hundred and four (104) CSICT indicators and identified data sources for thirty-three of these indicators.

The main outputs of this workshop were:

(i)   Feedback was obtained on the CSICT indicators and corresponding metadata;
(ii)   Categorisation of the CSICT Indicators into Core Immediate, Core Not Immediate and Non-Core CSICT indicators;
(iii) A revised three-year Work Plan for the compilation of the new CSICT Statistics and Indicators and to obtain the corresponding metadata at the national level.

In relation to the above, the Meeting acknowledged the need for further dialogue at the national and regional levels with colleagues in the various thematic areas such as Environment, Social Development and Health etc. in order to further refine the list of core and non-core indicators.

4.   PROGRAMME OF WORK 2014/2015

4.1   CONTINUED COMPILATION OF DATA ON ICT FROM ALL SOURCES

The Secretariat will 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.

4.2   ADVANCEMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN SPECIFIC ICT INDICATORS

The Secretariat will continue to review the CSICT indicators identified as core immediate indicators, core not immediate indicators and non-core indicators out of the workshop as well as the prioritisation of these indicators by Bermuda. In this regard, the Secretariat will seek to examine the justification for classifying the indicators within these categories and try to further refine the indicators based as required relative to the feasibility of measurement and data collection.

Work will also continue on the refinement of the metadata for these indicators based on the feedback provided by countries during the 2014 workshop. The revised work plan and draft list of core and non-core indicators and corresponding meta data will be circulated to Member States before the end of this year for continued feedback.

ACTION REQUIRED

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

(i)　**consider** the progress of work on the compilation of ICT Statistics and on the dissemination of the first regional publication;

(ii)　**urge** countries to pay closer attention to the development of this area of statistics and specifically:

(a)　Refinement of CSICT indicators and corresponding metadata;

(b)　Prioritization of the list of core and non-core indicators;

(c)　The revised three-year work plan out of the Second workshop on on the development of CSICT Statistics and indicators.

(iii)　**support** the Work Programme 2014/2015.

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