



The Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics (HLF) which is being hosted by the Government of Grenada will be held on 22 February 2019 under the theme *“Investing in Statistics to Build Resilience and to Achieve Sustainable Economic Growth and Development in the Caribbean Community.”* In addition to the HLF, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in collaboration with a number of Regional and International Organisations will also be convening a High Level Seminar on the 21 February as well as an ICT Fair during the two days of activities.

The Third HLF follows the endorsement of the Strategic Framework of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) at the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (HGC) of CARICOM which was held in Jamaica, July 2018.

It was accepted at this Meeting that the CARICOM RSDS was not only a planning process but also a strategic document that outlines regional plans to modernise and transform the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS) in alignment with each Member States' national and regional priorities. The CARICOM RSDS was viewed as being the *gateway to advancing development* through the regional integration

process, providing statistics that can guide and monitor the achievements. The overarching theme of the CARICOM RSDS is *“Building Resilience of the Caribbean Community”*.

The main objective of the Forum is to ensure that the decision of Heads of Government in endorsing the CARICOM RSDS becomes operational through, *inter alia*:

- ◆ Reinforcing the importance of statistics as a priority of the national, regional and international development agenda relative to attracting investment in this data sector;
- ◆ Realising high-level commitment by governments of CARICOM to investing in the strengthening of the national and regional statistical offices/systems as a key means of sustaining the development and availability of statistics;
- ◆ Obtaining high-level support from countries, economic integration areas, international agencies and other partners and statistical agencies in the Region and the world over for the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS.

CARICOM HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR ON STATISTICS 21 February 2019

The CARICOM High Level Seminar, which is being held prior to the Third HLF on the **21 February 2019**, would focus on the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) in CARICOM.

The following are some of the strategic issues to be addressed at the Seminar:



2020 Round of Population and Housing Census

The endorsement of the CARICOM RSDS also implies high-level commitment and endorsement by Member States to the conduct of Population and Housing Censuses across the region. The CARICOM RSDS with its strategic priorities, strategic objectives, corresponding strategies and enablers inclusive of the 2030 Agenda is well poised to enable the availability of data, to ensure that *no one is left behind*, and equitable development is achievable.

The CARICOM RSDS contains strategies that can ensure long-term growth of the national statistical systems, building on initiatives already in place with a central strategic initiative being data collection for the 2020 Census Round as a vital source of data across the entire national statistical system.

The Seminar would therefore seek to examine the role of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census in the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS. Specifically, issues pertaining to census management and planning, processing and data dissemination and the use of ICT in facilitating a paperless Census will be discussed.

Leadership and Management and the CARICOM RSDS

This topic will feature presentations on the key challenges and leadership responses in the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS). Presenters will consider leadership responses in light of challenges such as, outdated legislative frameworks and inadequate investment in statistics, concomitant with declining resources.

Statistical Standards and Harmonisation through the CARICOM RSDS

The approach taken to produce the CARICOM Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF) will be discussed under this Item. The CARICOM CQAF is being produced in two (2) phases, Phase I, which has been recently completed will soon be piloted in countries that have volunteered.

A presentation on the application of the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) international framework and how it can be used in standardising and modernising statistical processes in CARICOM will also be featured.

Promoting the Use of Statistics and Statistical Literacy through the CARICOM RSDS

This area will include presentations and discussions on approaches to Statistical Literacy in promoting the value and usefulness of Statistics in the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS as well as the use of communication in promoting and sustaining the Culture of Statistics in CARICOM.

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CARICOM HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR, 21 February 2019

Strengthening Administrative Data and Enabling the use of Non-Traditional Sources of Data

The Seminar will examine the types and sources of administrative and non-traditional data in the Region including Big Data. Additionally, ways in which these data sources can be strengthened will be explored with recommendations for the way forward.

Gender Mainstreaming and the CARICOM RSDS

Gender Mainstreaming is a key driver of the RSDS. Under this item, UN Women would be providing a brief update on the its contributions to the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS as well as an Overview of the proposed CARICOM and UN Women Project on Gender Statistics.

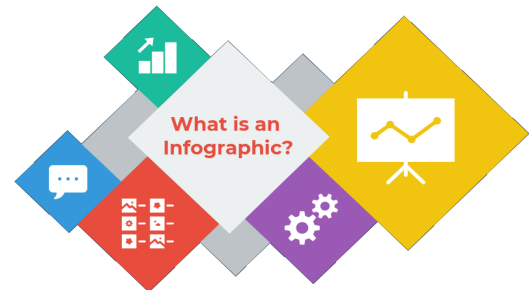


The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in collaboration with the Central Statistical Office of Grenada will be hosting an **ICT Fair** during the **Third High level Advocacy Forum on Statistics (HLF) Activities (21st to 22nd February 2019)**.

One of the key drivers of the CARICOM RSDS strategic priorities is ICT Infrastructure which has been identified as a critical and highly effective mechanism for helping the Region to move forward quickly and effectively in the design of strategies for development. ICT has great potential to be the engine of the data revolution needed to improve statistics.

In light of the great benefits to be gained from the use of ICT in statistics, an important event in the convening of the **HLF** will be an ICT Fair. The ICT Fair will recognise the importance of ICT in all phases of statistical production and dissemination. There have been significant initiatives in data collection, data capture, processing, cleaning, storage, analysis and dissemination as a result of improvements in technology. The ICT Fair will provide opportunities to demonstrate practical applications in the production and use of statistical data.

Given the focus, the ICT products on display will be



mainly of a statistical nature. It is hoped that the following ICT tools and software applications, which are currently being used in statistical production worldwide will be on display:-

- Scanners and Scanning software for data capture and processing;
- Mobile devices: Tablets and other mobile devices that can be used in data collection;
- Statistical Software for data analysis (e.g SPSS, Stata etc.);
- GIS (Geographic Information System) Devices and software for mapping (in surveys);
- Data storage and security devices: E.g SQL Servers, MySQL, Cloud Storage;
- Big Data Analytics; and
- Data services, data collection/ capture services.

