



REGIONAL STATISTICS



– A CATALYST FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)



CARICOM

BACKGROUND

THE ORIGINS OF THE INTEGRATION PROCESS – MOVEMENT TO A SINGLE ECONOMIC SPACE

The establishment of the **Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)** by the Treaty of Chaguaramas in 1973 was the result of a 15-year effort to fulfill the Caribbean people's aspirations of regional integration which was born with the establishment of the British West Indies Federation in 1958. The West Indies Federation came to an end in 1962 but its end may be regarded as the real beginning of what is now the Caribbean Community. In 1989, Member States reaffirmed and broadened the Community's core objectives to include the creation of a **CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)**, setting new strides for the regional integration process, as one aspect of its response to the challenges and opportunities presented by the changes in the global economy. The Single Market was established in 2006.





THE COMMUNITY OF MEMBER STATES AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The CARICOM Member States are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

CARICOM also comprises Associate Members which are: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands. The CSME comprises the CARICOM Member States excluding The Bahamas and Montserrat.

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE CSME

The fundamental objective of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) is to achieve a single economic space that will foster growth and will result in sustained development of the standard of living of all Caribbean peoples. The key elements of the CSME are: **Free Movement of Capital**, which includes establishing an integrated capital market, such as a regional



stock exchange; **Free Movement of Labour**, through removing all obstacles to intra-regional movement of skills, labour and travel, harmonizing social services (education, health, etc.), providing for the transfer of social security benefits and establishing common standards and measures for accreditation; and **Free Movement of Goods and Services** by harmonising standards to ensure acceptability of goods and services traded; **Right of Establishment** – to permit the establishment of CARICOM-owned businesses in any Member State without restrictions; **A Common External Tariff** – a common rate of duty applied by all Members of the Market to a product imported from a country which is not a member of the market.





THE VITAL ROLE OF STATISTICS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

Underscoring the functioning of the CSME and the improving of the standard of living of the peoples of the Community is the vital role of statistical information in guiding and monitoring the progress of the integration movement, in assessing the impact of the regional integration thrust on the population and critically creating evidence-based policies that will maximize efficiency in the use of resources available for the development of the Community.



REGIONAL STATISTICS SYSTEMS – MAIN REQUIREMENTS

PRESENCE OF A REGIONAL STATISTICS PROGRAMME TO COMPILE REGIONAL STATISTICAL DATABASES

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat has a Regional Statistics Programme with its mission being: to develop a sustainable statistical infrastructure within the CARICOM Secretariat providing accurate, timely and reliable statistical information of a high quality and broad scope, facilitating analysis and dissemination of these data, promoting their use in effective and efficient decision making and simultaneously, fostering a similar enabling environment for statistical development among Member States of the Caribbean Community (see page 22 for the SCCS).

DEPENDENCE ON NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES AND SYSTEMS

The Regional Statistics Programme does not collect primary data in member countries but relies on the data that are collected by countries. These data are submitted to the Secretariat, either by the National Statistical Offices or the Central Banks, depending on the nature of the data. These data are then compiled to produce regional statistical databases in a number of areas. Occasionally, in the absence of data from the Member States staff of the Regional Statistics Programme may search for data on the websites of the Member States and in publications that are available. Among the statistics currently compiled are National Accounts, Trade in Services/Investment statistics, Environment statistics, Social statistics, etc.

HARMONISATION OF STATISTICS IN THE REGION IS CRITICAL TO THE REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS

In order to effectively guide and monitor the regional integration process, harmonisation of statistics across member countries is of vital importance. Harmonisation demands, or necessitates that we have data that are based on harmonised methodologies that can be reliably compared across all Member States. It is important therefore, that the key social, economic, environmental and other statistical systems and frameworks be harmonized across countries. Critical aspects of harmonisation are the need for a quality framework in accordance with international and regional statistical standards, the production of core high-quality statistics and indicators in all Member States and mechanisms to monitor the adherence to the common statistical standards.

DATA DISSEMINATION SYSTEMS – MAKING DATA AVAILABLE TO USERS

Core, high quality, comparable and timely regional statistics and indicators are crucial to monitoring the performance of the CSME. These indicators are also useful in providing policy





makers and analysts, with an information base to enable research and analysis leading to effective decision-making, thereby facilitating the monitoring, guiding and assessment of the impact of the development process. The outcome of the use of statistics, among other things, can lead to good governance as well as to an improved quality of life for all the people of the Community. It is vital that the regional statistics that are compiled are made available in a timely manner to users. The Regional Statistics Programme disseminates data on its website, www.caricomstats.org. An adaptation of the Devinfo software, CARICOMInfo is also used to disseminate indicators on countries of the Community. Currently work is in progress on updating searchable database that exist in the area of Trade (Tradsys Online) and Population Census (Census e-portal).



CHALLENGES IMPACTING THE AVAILABILITY OF STATISTICS – THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES AND SYSTEMS

There are many challenges faced by the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and by extension, the Regional Statistics Programme of the CARICOM Secretariat. Some of these include:

- Size – Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- Staffing – lack of trained statistical staff;
- Increased demand for statistics in an environment of declining resources, resulting in critical data gaps;
- Non-response to questionnaires and surveys carried out by the NSOs;
- Outdated legislative frameworks;
- Need to stay relevant (by providing timely and user-friendly data) in a changing environment;
- Uncoordinated National Statistical Systems (NSS);
- Inadequate Information Technology (IT) resources;
- Need for a focus on strategic planning (National Strategy for Development of Statistics - NSDS framework) to produce high-quality statistics to support regional and national policy objectives;
- Weak satellite units – line ministries often have inadequate statistical and IT capacity.



COMMON REGIONAL STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAMME AND RESOLUTION ON STATISTICS

BACKGROUND

The call for Governments to invest resources in statistics was proposed in a Paper presented by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat to the Resumed Session of the Eighth Meeting of the Community Council held in Nassau, The Bahamas on 7 July 2001.

The presentation in Nassau highlighted the thrust of the Secretariat's Work Programme that centered on the need to harmonise statistics in the Region given the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). In this regard, efforts were made to encourage Member States to document statistical methodologies, the processes of data collection and to identify a core set of economic, social, environment and information and communication technology statistics to be produced by all Member States.

These processes were to enable effective analysis and the acquisition of knowledge on the status of the Member States while ensuring comparability through the use of international and regionally acceptable methodological frameworks and standards. The Community Council, in its decisions, noted the information required on the status and role of statistics in the Region and also noted the developmental work being executed in statistics. The Community Council also mandated the Caribbean Community Secretariat in collaboration with the Standing

Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS), to prepare in its Work Programme a **3-year plan for the improvement of the quality and range of statistics available to the Region.**

DRAFT REGIONAL STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAMME (RSWP)

The objective of the Draft Programme is to focus on the statistical needs to establish, monitor and evaluate the CSME and also to make available statistical information for decision-making, to keep pace with the changing socio-economic and environmental changes, as well as technological advances. The achievement of this objective requires actions at the national level to produce relevant statistics for the diagnosis and design of national policies. Similarly, actions at the regional level are also essential to facilitate the development of harmonised national





statistical systems and to build regional databases comprising comparable data sets. In order to build these regional databases the **Statistics Legislations in Member States should be reviewed within the constraints of the confidentiality provisions, to allow for National Statistical Authorities to submit data at appropriate levels of detail to the Secretariat on a timely basis** to enrich the research and analytical programme at the regional level and as inputs into regional negotiations.

The **RSWP** was prepared by the CARICOM Secretariat and the SCCS and was approved by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers in 2005.

The **RSWP** includes work in several areas such as National Accounts, Trade in goods and services, Vital statistics, etc.



RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

At the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the SCCS in Nassau, The Bahamas in October 2001, recognizing the demands being made on statistical agencies in the context of the establishment and the monitoring of the CSME, a Resolution was prepared by the SCCS which sought to strengthen the statistical systems in Member States to improve the coverage, reliability and quality of the traditional areas and to develop frameworks to measure new and emerging issues.

The Resolution was passed by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers in 2005.

UPDATING OF THE REGIONAL STATISTICAL WORK PROGRAMME – EUROPEAN UNION-FUNDED PROJECT

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat received funding in 2007 from the European Union under the Ninth European Development Fund (EDF), Caribbean Integration Support Programme (CISP) to undertake the improving and harmonising of the developmental work in a number of areas including Statistics in Member States and at the Secretariat. One activity under the support to statistics was to update and revise as required the Regional Statistical Work Programme of 2005 and to enable implementation in Member Countries.



The overall objective of the project activity was to strengthen the Statistical Programming process at the Regional and National levels. The project was aimed at supporting the formulation and



implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and facilitating the implementation of the RSWP:

Specific attention was to be paid to the convergence between regional and national programmes for the production of key indicators that adequately reflect the RSWP as approved by the Community Council of Ministers in 2005.

A fundamental objective was to enable a strategic approach to the development of statistics in countries through the NSDS mechanism that is being promoted by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).

PARIS21 was founded in November 1999 by the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the European Commission, in response to the UN Economic and Social Council resolution on the goals of the UN Conference on Development.

PARIS21's goal is to develop a culture of evidence-based policy making and implementation in order to improve governance and government effectiveness in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. PARIS21 Secretariat is based at the Headquarters of OECD, in Paris.

Specifically, therefore the consultancy was to provide support to the repositioning and the restructuring of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) one outcome of which will be greater and more effective integration

of Statistics into national development policies. The activity also attempted to devise a Code of Best Practices in statistics for CARICOM statistical offices and a questionnaire was designed, administered and analysed.



RESULTS ACHIEVED

Some of the main results achieved were:

1. With respect to the RSWP, a new structure, based on the Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA) was developed.
2. On the basis of this new structure, the RSWP was redesigned and re-prioritized.
3. Strategies in implementing the redesigned RSWP were also recommended in order of urgency.
4. Information about adherence to Good Practices in Statistics has been collected through the questionnaire earlier mentioned. By using a scoring system compliance of countries with good practices were analyzed.



5. Workshops on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics were held in several countries which were: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname.

Internal Workshops were also conducted for the staff of the Statistical Offices of these countries as well as in Dominica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. In addition there was interaction with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

The CARICOM Secretariat is currently following up on the recommendations of this project as well as undertaking a Diagnostic Assessment through a project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in order to manage the implementation of the Regional Statistical Work Programme in countries. The IDB project which is complementary to the EU project on statistical programming is also undertaking the development of a Draft Model Statistics Bill that will provide support for the updating of the Statistical Legislation in the countries of CARICOM.

CARIBBEAN STATISTICS DAY OBSERVANCE - OCTOBER 15TH

Caribbean Statistics day is observed by the regional and national statistical offices of the Caribbean Community on the 15th of October as agreed to by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) at its Thirty Fifth Meeting. This observance serves to sensitise and inform users, suppliers and producers of the importance and role of Statistics and the impact statistical information plays towards the development of the Caribbean

Region. In some countries and at the regional office the activities may extend for up to one week.

Activities to mark the observance include presentations and brochures on facilities both online and offline developed or adapted aimed at improving the production and dissemination of statistics; progress summaries on each area of Statistics such as Economic and Social Statistics as well as Merchandise Trade; interactive presentations about the work being undertaken in Statistics as well as Quiz competitions for Primary and Secondary schools, radio programmes such as a call-in statistics quiz, statistics fair/exhibitions for the public; press releases; various competitions such as poetry writing, word building etc.

SUPPORT TO STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN CARICOM

In addition to the support provided by the EU and the IDB on the updating of the RSWP and in other areas, the region benefited over the last ten to twelve years from assistance provided by a number of our International Development Partners including the United Nations Statistics Division, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the World Bank under the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-First Century (PARIS21); the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland through the Department for International Development (DFID), the Government of Spain and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



HIGH LEVEL ADVOCACY FORUM ON STATISTICS: THE URGENCY OF STATISTICS AND THE GLOBAL CRISIS – ENABLING DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat convened the **High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics: the Urgency of Statistics and the Global crisis – Enabling Development in the Caribbean Community** on July 30, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. This meeting was held in collaboration with the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and was co-funded by the EU under the Ninth EDF.

OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES

The objectives of the Forum were to –

- (i) **gain** greater profile for statistics and its crucial role in understanding the magnitude and effect of the global crisis and its impact on the Region;
- (ii) **advocate** for increased and urgent support to the development of statistics in the Community;
- (iii) **engender** improvement in the production of statistics in the national statistical systems in CARICOM; and
- (iv) **enable** the creation of greater linkages between policy and statistics and increased use of statistics by policy-makers and other users.

The expected outputs and outcomes were:

- (i) **advocacy** for the statistics at a high level in the Community would be one of the key achievements;
- (ii) **commitment** by member countries to invest in statistics as a priority in the Region as a basis for development would be realised;

- (iii) **commitments** by international and regional organizations to greater resource mobilisation for sustained investment in statistics would be achieved;
- (iv) the process and blueprint for the development of a monitoring framework to inform on the Global crisis would be outlined;
- (v) **linkages** between policy-makers and statisticians on the increased use of statistics would be strengthened; and
- (vi) a better understanding by statisticians, given the global crisis, on the need to produce and make accessible high quality statistics would be reinforced.



The Forum explored the development of a monitoring framework comprising a coherent set of official statistics that can be useful in providing the policy-makers and analysts, with an information base to understand the nature of the crisis and to monitor and report on the transmission mechanisms that may give rise to systemic risks and vulnerabilities of the Region's economy.



The recommendations emanating from the forum were placed on the agenda of the Sixth and Seventh Meetings of the Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) and an Action Plan, in keeping with these recommendations, was developed by the AGS. A matrix documenting the activities in this Action Plan was sent to all countries for completion in order to assess the current state of implementation of the recommended activities of the High Level Forum. Some of the recommended activities include Continued advocacy for statistics at the highest level within countries and the need to invest in statistics as a priority; Strengthening of collaborations with other Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations; Improved partnership/establishing continuous relationships with the media should be encouraged; Establishment of a Professional Association of Statisticians of the Region and the Development and Implementation of a Quality Assurance framework for the Region. Countries are undertaking national plans to implement the recommendations of the High Level Forum.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS (NSDS) IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat convened in collaboration with the organisation, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) a Regional Workshop on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) in the Caribbean Community, during the period 27-29 July 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. This Meeting was funded by the Ninth European Development Fund under the Caribbean Integration Support Programme (CISP) to develop statistical programming in Member States. The Workshop was facilitated by representatives of PARIS21.

The NSDS provides a framework for statistical capacity building across the entire national statistical system, through a development and strategic management perspective, augmenting the link between statistics and national development policy framework.

The objectives of the Regional NSDS Workshop were to:

- (i) Provide training to statistical personnel on the development of a strategic plan for the National Statistical System;
- (ii) Enable a greater role for statistics in improving development outcomes;
- (iii) Achieve better allocation of resources and increased effectiveness through statistics;
- (iv) Integrate evidence-based policy of statistics into policy frameworks-such as on Poverty Reduction;
- (v) Obtain appropriate and sustained support for statistics from national budgets; and
- (vi) Improve donor coordination in the funding of statistics.

The Regional NSDS Workshop also sought to enable the visioning of the National Statistical Systems and provided a coherent framework that can reposition statistics in a prominent role relative to the achievement of development outcomes at the national level.



THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF CARIBBEAN STATISTICIANS (SCCS)

The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) acting within the framework of the Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community, in accordance with Resolution No. 54/74/4 of the Fourth Meeting of the Common Market Council of Ministers and subject to the general supervision of Council, was established with the following main objectives:

- To foster increased recognition of the importance of adequate statistical services to the countries of the Region;
- To widen the scope and coverage of statistical data collection; and
- To improve the quality, comparability and timeliness of statistics produced.

Membership of the Committee is open to all current or future Member States of the Caribbean Community. Associate membership of the Committee is open to countries that become Associate members of the Caribbean Community.



The SCCS also invites representatives from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the

Caribbean (ECLAC), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the University of Guyana (UG), other tertiary institutions and other relevant National, Regional and International Agencies to attend its meetings and to participate according to the Rules of Procedure of the SCCS. The terms of reference and Rules of Procedure of the SCCS have been recently updated.

KEY WORK OF THE CARICOM ADVISORY GROUP

Efforts to implement the RSWP and to address the actions of the Resolution led to the establishment of a CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) by the **Thirty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS)** which approved the Terms of Reference (TOR), in 2007 in Paramaribo, Suriname, thereby establishing the **Advisory Group on Statistics**.

The AGS, which reports to the SCCS, is tasked with the responsibility of facilitating the improvement of statistics through the implementation of the programme areas of the RSWP as well as consideration of any needed reform of the SCCS as a forum for statistical development. The membership consists of The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the CARICOM Secretariat.

The objectives of the AGS are to:

1. Establish and develop a framework to achieve the implementation of the Regional Statistical Work Programme in CARICOM Member States and Associate Members in a manner that will result in the production of a common core of harmonised, high quality and timely information on the Region.



2. Implement the Resolution on strengthening the National Statistical Systems.

The establishment of AGS has targeted the development of specific areas of statistics such as Social/Gender and Environmental Statistics and National Accounts/Economic Statistics.

Currently included on the Agenda of the AGS are the Implementation of the Updated Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP); the Implementation of the updated Terms of Reference (TOR) and Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS); Development of a Model Statistics Bill; Establishment of a Position on Access to Microdata; Establishment of a Professional Association of Statisticians in the CARICOM; Establishment of a Database of Experts on Statistics; and Incorporating the High Frequency Indicators in the CARICOM Minimum Data Set.

POSITION ON ACCESS TO MICRODATA

Confidentiality protection of microdata has always been at the forefront of Regional efforts given the increasing demands by users for access to countries' microdata. In particular the demands by researchers for the purposes of cross-country comparisons, including international agencies, that would require the use of microdata for research and analytical purposes, e.t.c. The issue of the confidentiality protection of microdata was raised at the Fourth Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS). The meeting sought to address these challenges with respect to the demand for access to countries' microdata by preparing a Statement on the Position on Access to Microdata

which was brought to the attention of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) at its Thirty-Fifth Meeting. Subsequently, the **Position on Access to Microdata** was endorsed by the Thirty-Fifth SCCS as the agreed position on access to microdata in the Region. The statement on micro data incorporates a preamble and takes into consideration the following elements:



1. The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics reinforced by Principle 6 which states *“Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes”* ;
2. The increasing requests by various organisations for individual data;
3. The legislation under which the Statistical Offices operate;
4. The Dakar Declaration; and
5. The demand for statistics for research and analysis.

MINIMUM DATA SET

The decision was taken at the Second Meeting of the CARICOM Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) to identify a core set of minimum indicators for the Region based on a presentation made by representatives of Suriname and Dominica outlining the **Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) – Overview of Minimum Activities to be Implemented**. Following this presentation the **Minimum Set of Indicators** for the CARICOM



Single Market and Economy (CSME) were identified taking into consideration the following:

1. the minimum activities to be implemented in the various elements of the RSWP; and
2. the need for the availability of a core set of indicators to monitor the progress of the CSME.

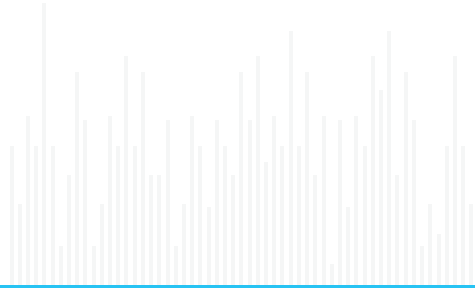
The list contains thirty-seven (37) indicators of which the first set of a total of twenty (20) indicators were defined as “**core**” indicators. Among the core indicators include Tourism, Services, Environment and Crime Statistics. The second set of indicators, being a total of seventeen (17) “**encouraged**” indicators comprised useful data that should be compiled by countries, where possible. These include percentage contribution of tourism to real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Tourism consumption expenditure, Trade in Services – Exports and imports by trading partners, Quarterly GDP, Producer Price Index (PPI), Migration and free movement Statistics and Percentage of children in Child labour and Percentage of children abused.

In addition to these core and encouraged indicators, the AGS also identified twenty (20) Priority Activities which Member States were urged to give priority relative to data compilation beyond the core and encouraged indicators identified in the Minimum Data Set. These include measuring the informal sector, Development and Maintenance of Sampling frames and the development of survey design capabilities and sampling methodology skills.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE/NEXT STEPS

Ultimately the goal is to acquire first-world status for the statistical offices of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The approach to achieving this status is being fuelled through the support that has been received from a number of development partners and countries including the European Community, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Department for International Development (DIFID), the Inter-American Development Bank, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the United Nations (UN) System. The support from the development partners has enabled the strengthening of statistical capacity in member countries and at the Secretariat. It is the vision of the Statistics Programme to promote the following in Member States and at the Secretariat:

- **A state-of-the-art Information Technology (IT) platform**, which supports dissemination of data to a wide range of users and which is supported by Up-to-date and reliable IT equipment and infrastructure;
- **Adequate highly trained, highly motivated human resources** operating in professional teams to achieve the work programme;
- Providing **dynamic leadership** in the statistical offices and at the Secretariat that can lead to the production of high quality and timely statistics to fuel regional economic competitiveness and improved economic, social and environmental conditions for the people of the region;
- Capabilities and **capacity** to respond to new challenges in data collections;
- Continuity/establishments of **partnerships** with regional and international organizations for the development of the region.



CARICOM

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