



**Forty-Second Meeting
of the Standing
Committee of
Caribbean Statisticians
Cayman Islands,
23-24 October 2017**

Endorsement of the CARICOM
Regional Strategy for the
Development of Statistics by the
Thirty-Eighth Regular Meeting of
the Conference of Heads of
Government of CARICOM

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Presented by:
The CARICOM Secretariat

Forty-Second Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians
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What is an RSDS?

Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics: -

- A strategic regional master plan on statistics development prepared and agreed to by regional authorities/member countries.
- It is the application of strategic planning to some regional process that requires statistics.
- Applicable in regional integration processes –to guide development of the integration agenda/alignment of priorities of the Member States

What is an RSDS?

Objectives of the RSDS:-

- Provides a **strategic framework** for ensuring relevant, timely, reliable official statistics are produced within the national statistical systems (NSS) i.e. the National Statistical Office and Other producing agencies.
- Ensures **comparability** of statistics produced by NSS within countries and across the member countries of the region.
- Essentially – the statistics produced are **responsive to the regional integration agenda** through which **the development of countries** are to be realised.
- Enabling implementation of key contextual frameworks and Monitoring and Evaluating its impact on countries:
 - **CSME, Community Strategic Plan, Agenda 2030, Samoa Pathway, National Dev. Plans/Priorities.**

What is an RSDS

Regional Integration Mechanism- Priorities Informing the Community Strategic Plan

Accelerate implementation and use of CSME (ECN 1)

Introduce Measures for Macro-economic Stabilization (ECN 3)

Build Competitiveness and Unleash Key Economic drivers to Transition to Growth and Generate Employment (ECN 4)

Human Capital Development (SOC 1)

Advance Health and Wellness (SOC 3)

Enhancing Citizens Security and Justice (SOC 4)

Climate Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Mitigation and Management (ENV 1)

Develop the Single ICT Space (TEC 1)

Deepen Foreign Policy Coordination (to support strategic repositioning of CARICOM and desired outcomes) (FOR 1)

Public Education, Public Information and Advocacy (UNY 1)

Reform the CARICOM Secretariat, the Organs, Bodies, Institution and Governance Arrangements (GOV 1 and GOV 3)



**SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT**

What is an RSDS?

Purpose of the RSDS: -

To create an efficient **Regional Statistical System (RSS)** to respond to statistical needs of the regional/national development agenda.

Key Outcomes:-

- Coordinated national and regional statistical programmes (e.g. a common statistical programme, data collection activities are harmonised, a common system for monitoring quality);
- Harmonised conceptual frameworks and methods that correspond to international statistical standards;
- Strengthened national and regional statistical systems;
- Regional/ National statistical offices/agencies serving as statistical centres of excellence in the region;
- Better integration and use of resources in statistics development – better outcomes/successes.

What is an RSDS?

Phases of CARICOM RSDS

- **Phase 1 – Assessment of the CARICOM statistical system**
 - ✓ Conduct of comprehensive assessment
 - ✓ Validation workshop to present results of the assessment and identify key priorities in the region
- **Phase 2 – Preparation of the CARICOM RSDS**
 - ✓ Follow-up strategic planning exercises and consultations with member countries on statistical development priorities
 - ✓ Preparation of RSDS action plan and costing
 - ✓ Endorsement of RSDS in the SCCS for approval
- **Phase 3 – Publication and dissemination of RSDS**
 - ✓ Publication of the RSDS document of advocacy materials
 - ✓ Conduct of dissemination and advocacy activities

Background

Resumed Session of the Eighth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers, Nassau, The Bahamas July 2001

- **Mandated** the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, in collaboration with the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians, to prepare in its Work Programme proposals for 2002-2003, a three-year plan for the improvement of the quality and range of statistics available in the Region.
- There was recognition of the **elements of strategic direction** for the development of statistics including the identification of priority areas for statistics.

Background

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers, January 2005, Georgetown, Guyana

- **Recommended** the adoption of the **common Regional Statistical Work Programme** incorporating a three-year programme of work as prepared by the Secretariat and the SCCS, subject to other issues considered necessary for inclusion;
- **Also recommended** that **national and regional statistical development strategies** with financial proposals be prepared to enable the implementation of the Regional Statistical Work Programme.

Background

Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-First Century (PARIS21)

- Founded in November 1999 by UN, World Bank, IMF, OECD, European Commission as a response to the challenges faced by both statisticians and decision-makers.
- Partnership of national, regional and international statisticians, analysts, policy-makers, development professionals and other users of statistics that seeks to promote, influence and facilitate statistical capacity development and the better use of statistics.

Increased Engagement with the **PARIS21** from 2008.

Background

First and Second High Level Advocacy Forums on Statistics (2009, 2014)-Key recommendations:-

- Monitoring Framework for the CSME;
- Advocating for statistics at the highest level/promotion of the use in policy-making;
- Preparation of the CARICOM RSDS;
- Champion for statistics emerged – the Honourable Prime Minister of Grenada who continues to place statistics at the highest level of the Community;

Background

Preparation of the Action Plan for Statistics out of the Second High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics 2014 by the SCCS:-

- Included in the Action Plan was the preparation of the CARICOM RSDS;
- Proposal submitted to PARIS21 in 2016 led to the recruitment of a Consultant and the commencement of work;
- Endorsement by the 37th Conference of Heads of Government of the Action Plan for Statistics in July 2016;
- Endorsement of the preparation of the CARICOM RSDS in July 2017 at the 38th Conference of Heads of Government.

Some Guiding Principles for RSDS:-

- Responding to the statistical requirements of the regional development agenda-bridging the data gaps relative to informing the integration process/and strengthening the links and convergence among Member States;
- Assuring comparability of data in all Member States-harmonizing of concepts, methods and tools and also legislation;
- Pooling of statistical skills, expertise, resources- enabling statistical cooperation such as through South-South cooperation, Centres of Excellence and in general promoting regional solutions;
- Serving as a framework for the use of the Agenda 2030 framework to generate sustainable statistical capacity across all areas of statistics as a central framework of the statistics architecture.

Current Status

- Conduct of an Assessment of the Regional Statistical System;
- Presentation of an Inception report (desk research) to the 19th AGS & 41st SCCS held in October 2016 in Curacao;
- Consultations – face-to-face/remotely with NSOs, Secretariat, policymakers other users/agencies;
- Presentation of the early findings and recommendations at the 20th AGS Meeting in June 2017 in Suriname/First validation workshop;
- Convening of an e-meeting in September 2017 with NSOs to discuss the initial draft Assessment Report and the Preliminary Recommendations;
- Conduct of a Strategic Planning Workshop during the 21st AGS Meeting 17-18 October 2017, Cayman Islands;

Next Steps

- Wide dissemination of the Draft Assessment Report with Recommendations and SWOT Analysis;
- Preparation of a Roadmap/ Formulation of the RSDS (work commenced during the validation meeting in October 2017);
 - Key Strategic Areas, Strategic Objectives corresponding of activities, Vision, Mission, Core Values;
- Consultations on the RSDS/wide dissemination and finalisation of the RSDS;
- Political support for the RSDS/Heads of Government;
- Costing/ Communication and Advocacy /Resource Mobilisation;
- Implementation/Monitoring and Evaluation.

Issues

- **Capacity-building** in statistics is a complex task and therefore comes with risks;
- **SIDS**- susceptible to natural disasters and external shocks that impact the availability of domestic resources for investment in statistics;
- Increasing **demand** for statistics/ Big Data /Unofficial Source of Statistics;
- Ensuring that Data/Statistics are in fact treated as the new oil (*Economist*) – a **core asset** and is fully-incorporated in the development discourse;

Issues

- **Enabling Environment-** Institutional/ Organisational/Physical /IT Infrastructure -Legal framework, Code of Practice/Quality Assurance, Funding, Resources Management, Business Process, Dissemination/data policy;
- **Making a Business Case for the Funding of Statistics-** ensuring the linkages between statistics and development- the well-being of people- sustainable growth and development;
- **Continue the momentum of building** and producing systems of statistics and disseminating them, promoting their use - must be given priority even as we pursue modernisation and transformation;
- **Training/technical assistance:** - e-Training/establishing knowledge base/ Centres of Excellence attachments to provide the support to achieve the results required.

Issue-Transformation through the RSDS

