



SAVINGRAM

FROM: Secretary-General, Caribbean Community

TO: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda
Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Bahamas
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Barbados
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Belize
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dominica
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Grenada
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Haiti
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica
Hon. Chief Minister, Montserrat
Minister of Foreign Affairs, St. Kitts and Nevis
Minister of External Affairs, Saint Lucia
Minister of Foreign Affairs, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Suriname
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago

COPIED: Hon. Chief Minister, Anguilla
Hon. Premier, Bermuda
Hon. Premier, British Virgin Islands
Hon. Leader of Government Business, Cayman Islands
Hon. Premier, Turks and Caicos Islands
Heads of Statistics Division
Ministers with responsibility for CARICOM Affairs
Ambassadors of Member States accredited to CARICOM
High Commissioner for Jamaica to Trinidad and Tobago,
Barbados, Guyana and the Eastern Caribbean States
and Ambassador to Suriname
High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica
Director-General, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

No. 450/2009

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

30 JULY 2009, PORT-OF-SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

(CONVENING)

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1. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat wishes to advise Member States of the convening of a **High-Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics: The Urgency of Statistics and the Global Crisis – Enabling Development in the Caribbean Community** on **30 July 2009** at the **Hyatt Regency Hotel** in **Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**.
2. At the Second Meeting of the Advisory Group on Statistics (AGS) which was held in June 2008 in Belize, representatives of the organisation, **Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)** presented to the AGS, areas of intervention that it can apply to support statistical development in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Arising out of this presentation, a recommendation was made to the Thirty-Third Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (33rd SCCS) which was held on 27-29 October 2008 in Barbados, to convene a High- Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics.
3. PARIS21 is an organisation, based in the headquarters of the Organisation of Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) in France, and was founded in November 1999 by the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the 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.
4. The Thirty-Third Meeting of the SCCS endorsed the recommendation to convene a High-Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics. The objectives of this Forum are :
 - (i) To 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) To advocate for increased and urgent support to the development of statistics in the Community;
 - (iii) To engender improvement in the production of statistics in the national statistical systems in CARICOM; and
 - (iv) To enable the creation of greater linkages between policy and statistics and increased use of statistics by policy-makers and other users.
5. The theme for the High Level Forum on Statistics: The Urgency of Statistics and the Global Crisis – Enabling Development in the Caribbean Community is “**Better**

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Statistics for Better Management and Better Development Outcomes". The Meeting will discuss the implications for official statistics arising from the systemic aspects of the global financial crisis and economic downturn of the world economy. It will further seek to mobilise international, regional and national resources to enable the development and repositioning of the statistical infrastructure to provide high quality statistics that are complete, timely, relevant, reliable and comparable, to enable and understanding of the crisis and to foster development of the CARICOM Region.

6. The meeting will also seek to explore the development of a monitoring framework comprising a coherent set of official statistics that are 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 economies.
7. This Forum which is jointly organised by the CARICOM Secretariat and PARIS21 would be held in collaboration with a number of organisations: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Small Island Development States (UNDESA SIDS) the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).
8. The Forum follows a Workshop that will be conducted from 27-29 July on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics which is being convened jointly by the CARICOM Secretariat and the PARIS21 Secretariat to enable the development of strategic planning in the National Statistical Systems.
9. The Draft Programme and a Brief of the Forum are found in **Attachments I and II, respectively, to this Savingram.**
10. The Forum specifically targets **two** Ministers of Government or in their absence Permanent Secretaries or other high-level representatives of Governments of Member States and Associate Members; and the Directors of Statistics/Chief Statisticians of National Statistical Offices.
11. Funding has been obtained from PARIS21 to meet the travel expenses to enable the attendance at the High-level Advocacy Forum of representatives from Member States. Funding has also been obtained from the European Union to support this activity. Further details with respect to the funding arrangements will be communicated directly to the nominees under separate cover.

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12. Member States are requested to forward to the Secretariat the name(s) and designation(s) of the members of their respective delegations no later than **Friday, 19 June, 2009**. This information should be forwarded to –

The Secretary-General
CARICOM

for the attention of -

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Original signed by
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Deputy Secretary-General
/s/SECRETARY-GENERAL