

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

**PURPOSE OF FORUM**

To engage Representatives of Governments such as Ministers and/or High-Level Government Officials, Heads of Regional and International Organisations, Other Policy-Makers, Researchers, Academicians and Other Users of Statistics and Statisticians, in an interchange on the prominence and urgency of Statistics given the Global Crisis.

**BACKGROUND**

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) have joined with the organisation - Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21) - to convene a High-Level Advocacy Forum with the following objectives:

- (i) gaining 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) advocating for increased and urgent support to the development of statistics in the Community;
- (iii) engendering improvement in the production of statistics in the national statistical systems in CARICOM; and
- (iv) creating greater linkages between policy and statistics leading to increased use of statistics by policy-makers and other users.

**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 in 1974 with the following main objective:

"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." (*Terms of Reference SCCS*)

## **PARTNERSHIP IN STATISTICS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY (PARIS21)**

PARIS21 Secretariat is based at the Headquarters of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) 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.

### **OPENING CEREMONY**

It is expected that the Opening Ceremony would include a Feature Address/Other Addresses from high level persons of Regional and International Organisations. Efforts are being made to have the Feature Address done by the President of the Caribbean Development Bank or an individual of similar stature.

### **WORKING SESSIONS OF THE FORUM**

The High Level Advocacy Forum would centre on the following topics:

#### **Topic I: The Global Crisis and Implications for the Statistical Infrastructure in CARICOM**

Presentations are expected from a High-Level official from the host country, Trinidad and Tobago and the ASG of the Trade and Economic Integration Directorate.

The main aim of this topic is to highlight the Global Crisis which is fueling the demand for new data and implications for the statistical infrastructure in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and to meet these demands through the provision of the relevant statistics that are complete, timely, consistent and comparable across countries. In this context, the critical role of the statistical offices in CARICOM in enabling the establishment and monitoring of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) will be examined, as well as for monitoring the achievement of international and hemispheric commitments.

## **Topic II: Mobilisation of Resources: Support to the Development of Statistics in CARICOM**

Presenters for Topic II would come from the PARIS21 Secretariat and the Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance Programme.

The focus would be on the mobilisation of support for the development of the National Statistical Systems in the Region, of which the National Statistical Offices play a leadership role. The effect of the global crisis, has resulted in the demand for the provision and availability of timely, reliable and relevant statistics to monitor its effects on the Region, specifically the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). Urgent financial support and investment would therefore be required to further strengthen the capacity to produce on a sustainable basis, a wide range of statistical information.

## **Topic III: Panel Discussion – Making Available High Quality Statistics for Policy-Making and Monitoring of the Global Crisis – Process, Framework, Challenges and Needs**

This first panel discussion would deliberate on the development of a Monitoring mechanism of high quality statistics for monitoring the current and any future Global crisis. The aspects of process, framework, main challenges and requirements would be discussed. The composition of the panel includes representatives from:

- a National Statistical Office of a Member State;
- the Pacific Islands;

- Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine; Trinidad and Tobago; and
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)

**Topic IV: Panel Discussion – The Role of Member States in promoting an Enabling Framework for the Development of Statistics given the Experience to date in the Global Crisis – Restructuring of the Statistical Infrastructure**

The second panel which is the final item of the High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics will attempt to identify some key recommendations on the promotion of an enabling framework for the development of statistics, given the crisis and the crucial role for countries of the region in ensuring a revitalized statistical system that can meet the needs of users. The composition of the panel includes representatives from:

- the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (UNDESA) - Small Island Pacific States (SIDS)
- the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- Member Country – Statistician
- Member Country – Policy-maker

**EXPECTED OUTPUTS/OUTCOME**

Given the Global Crisis the following are the expected outputs/outcomes:

- Advocacy for the statistics at a high level in the Community would be one of the key achievements;
- The commitment by member countries to invest in statistics as a priority in the region as a basis for development would be realised;

- Commitments by international and regional organisations to greater resource mobilisation for sustained investment in statistics would be achieved;
- The process and blueprint for the development of a monitoring framework to inform on the Global crisis would be outlined;
- Linkages between policy-makers and statisticians on the increased use of statistics would be strengthened; and
- A better understanding by statisticians, given the global crisis, on the need to produce and make accessible high-quality statistics would be reinforced.

\* \* \* \* \*