SECOND HIGH-LEVEL ADVOCACY FORUM ON STATISTICS: “Strategising for the Development of Statistics in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in the Post-2015 Development Agenda” Radisson Grenada Beach Resort, St. George’s, Grenada 26 May 2014

DRAFT PROGRAMME

8:00 a.m. 
Registration

Session 1 
Opening Ceremony

Chair: Mr. Mike Sylvester, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Energy, Grenada

9.00 a.m. 
National Anthem of Grenada (Presentation Brothers’ College Choir)

Invocation (Representative from the Conference of Churches)

Brief Welcome Remarks:
Mr. Mike Sylvester, Chair of the Opening Ceremony

Opening Remarks:
Dr. Philomen Harrison, Project Director, Regional Statistics
Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

Remarks:
Ms. El Iza Mohamedou, Deputy Secretariat Manager, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-First Century (PARIS21) Secretariat

Remarks:
Mr. Crispin Gregoire, Chief for the Caribbean, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Remarks:
Mr. Ewout Sandker, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and for the Dutch Overseas Countries and Territories

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Opening Ceremony (Continued)

Remarks:
Mr. Mc Donald Thomas, Operations Officer, Social Sector Division, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

Cultural Medley (Presentation Brothers’ College Choir)

Keynote Address:
Dr. the Right Honourable Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Finance and Energy, Grenada

Vote of thanks:
Mr. Halim Brizan, Director of Statistics, Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance and Energy, Grenada
SESSION 2: HIGH LEVEL PANEL: POLICY CONTEXT—INVESTING IN STATISTICS BY GOVERNMENTS

Chair: Professor Jacob Opadeyi, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Guyana

11:20 a.m. Presentations:

The Honourable Oliver Joseph, Minister of Economic Development, Planning, Trade, Energy and Cooperatives, Grenada—“The Importance of Statistics in Making Policy Decisions”

Ms. Dayenne Wielingen, Deputy Chair of the Board, General Bureau of Statistics, Suriname—“Government Investment in Suriname’s Statistical System”

Ms. Arlene McComie, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, Trinidad and Tobago—“The Future of Statistics: the Case of Trinidad and Tobago”

12:30 p.m. Discussions

1:00—2:00 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

SESSION 3: STATISTICIANS’ PANEL: THE STATUS OF STATISTICS: CHALLENGES/GAPS, STRATEGY, INITIATIVES, RESULTS ACHIEVED AND BEST PRACTICES

Chair: Mr. Eric Rancourt, Director, International Cooperation Division, Statistics Canada

2:00 p.m. Video Presentation, Statistics Canada—“Serving Canadians: The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics”

Presentation on the New Guidelines for the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), PARIS21 Secretariat

2:20 p.m. Country presentations:

Mr. Halim Brizan, Director of Statistics, Central Statistical Office, Grenada—“Strategic Approach to Statistical Development in Grenada: The Way Forward”

“A Data Revolution for improved Sustainable Development in CARICOM“
SESSION 3: STATISTICIANS’ PANEL: THE STATUS OF STATISTICS: CHALLENGES/GAPS, STRATEGY, INITIATIVES, RESULTS ACHIEVED AND BEST PRACTICES (Continued)

Ms. Carol Coy, Director-General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica—“The Way Forward, A Response to the Challenges Facing the National Statistics Office: The Experience Of Jamaica”

Ms. Lori-Rae Alleyne-Franklin, Chief Statistician, Anguilla Statistics Department, Anguilla—“Strengthening Statistics in a Small Island State: The Case of Anguilla”

3:10 p.m. Discussions

SESSION 4: PARTNERSHIPS’ PANEL: THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS: MEANING OF THE DATA REVOLUTION IN CARICOM SIDS

Chair: Mr. Dave Clement, Former Director of Statistics, Central Statistical Office, Trinidad and Tobago

3:40 p.m. Presentations:

Mr. Reynold Simons, Senior Specialist, Employment and Labour Market Policies, International Labour Organisation (ILO) - “Support to the Development of Statistics in CARICOM: The Case of the ILO”

Mr. Crispin Gregoire, Chief for the Caribbean, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - “Multi-dimensional Poverty Measurement: Confronting Complexity Through a Data Revolution”

Mr. Michael Morris, Results Adviser, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) - “Better Data for Decision-Making through a Data Revolution”

Ms. El Iza Mohamedou, Deputy Secretariat Manager, PARIS21 Secretariat - “Developing Statistics in CARICOM: From Strengthening the National Statistical Systems (NSS) to Data Revolution”

“A Data Revolution for improved Sustainable Development in CARICOM”
SESSION 4: PARTNERSHIPS' PANEL: THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS: MEANING OF THE DATA REVOLUTION IN CARICOM SIDS (Continued)

Presentations:

Ms. Veronica Boero, Regional Statistician, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean - “The Global Strategy: Improving the Availability and Quality of Agricultural and Rural Statistics for the Caribbean Region”

Mr. Hendrik van der Pol, Director, Institute of Statistics, and Mr. Hara Padhy, Adviser, Communication and Information, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) - “Building CARICOM Statistics for Knowledge Societies: Projects and Activities of UNESCO”

5:10 p.m. Discussions

SESSION 5: MIXED PANEL: THE WAY FORWARD

Chair: Ms. Sonia Jackson, Former Director-General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica

PANELISTS:

5:30 p.m. The Honourable Oliver Joseph, Minister of Economic Development, Planning, Trade, Energy and Cooperatives, Grenada

Mr. Halim Brizan, Director of Statistics, Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance and Energy, Grenada

Ms. Carol Coy, Director-General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica

Ms. El Iza Mohamedou, Deputy Secretariat Manager, PARIS21 Secretariat

Mr. Crispin Gregoire, Chief for the Caribbean, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Michael Morris, Results Adviser, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

6:30 p.m. Closing

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“A Data Revolution for improved Sustainable Development in CARICOM“
The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat through its Regional Statistics Programme has been working with the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of its Member Countries to enable the production and dissemination of harmonised, high quality statistics for use in public and private decision-making and for monitoring the achievement of various developmental goals and targets. Among the frameworks that have been developed to achieve these outcomes has been a Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) which was developed by the Secretariat and the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) and was subsequently presented to and approved by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers (Council) in January 2005. However, the formal adoption of the RSWP by the NSOs was limited.

The RSWP has since been updated through funding provided by two International Development Partners, the European Union, which provided funding for the development of the overall system and elements and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Among the decisions of the Fifteenth Meeting of Council were the following: Council urged governments of the Region to give priority to investing in national statistical systems; it endorsed the need to invest these resources in statistics on a sustained basis focusing on the human and financial resources needed by national statistical offices; it also urged Member States to update their statistical legislation to obtain information required for decision-making, recommended that national and regional statistical development strategies with financial proposals be prepared to enable implementation of the RSWP and called on regional and international organizations to collaborate and integrate their resources to enable greater efficiency in the provision of technical assistance and funding of the programmes to be instituted in statistics in the Region.

There are many challenges facing CARICOM countries as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that impact the capacity to implement the RSWP and fundamentally affect the availability of statistics for use by policy and decision-makers.

Of significance is that the year 2015 brings into focus the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the assessment of the outcomes achieved based on measurable indicators available from the National Statistical Systems (NSS) of countries. Further, the development agenda in the post-2015 era has already begun to take shape with the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons (Panel) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The report of the Panel expressed the intent of finishing the job started through the Millennium Declaration. Further, it called for “...a data revolution for sustainable development, with a new international initiative to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens...”. It further emphasized the need to take advantage of new technology, crowd sourcing and improved connectivity to empower people with information on the progress towards targets.

This year would also mark the convening of an International SIDS Conference to be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa, to be preceded by activities related to the conference from 28 to 30 August 2014, also in Apia, Samoa. It will focus the world’s attention on a group of countries that remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities.

Statistics is therefore a vital part of the development agenda but investment in statistics remains a challenge in countries of CARICOM.

It is the above context of strategic development of the Region, monitoring development, effecting policy response to treat with concerns and challenges of countries and the strengthening and integration of the National Statistical Systems that the High Level Advocacy Forum (HLF) on Statistics is seeking to address. The HLF will be supported by International and Regional Development partners with key commitment being received from the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-First Century (PARIS21) the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).