The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and its proposed implementation (Draft)
Objectives

- The main objective of the NSDS is to:
  - Implement and monitor national data for use in effective national planning strategies and programs including the MDGs.
  - Evaluate all national programs that form part of national development and policy implementation.
Objectives

The NSDS will

- encourage the analysis and use of data thereby prioritising programs that are pertinent to effective national planning. Program priority is essential particularly in developing countries
- Adopt international standards and methodologies in development and presentation of statistics
Diagnostic of the National Statistics Structure – Dominica Case

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO), the government agency primarily mandated to compile, produce and publish national and official statistics.
- The Unit was first governed by the Statistics Act of 1951 with latest revision, Act. No. 17 of 1986.
Diagnostic of the National Statistics Structure

- **Mission Statement**: The CSO’s mission is to provide Government, the public and private sectors, regional and international organisations and other users with timely, accurate and reliable data.

- **Vision**: To educate the public on the importance of statistics and maintain a professional, competent, well equipped staff emphasising modernisation through training and the utilisation of science and technology.
Structure

- The national statistics structure, which refers to all units and agencies with the functions of producing and using official statistics, supply the Central Statistics Office (CSO) with statistics as required.
- The CSO comprises of four units:
  - **Economics** (NA, BOP, Trade, CPI, TISS, Registers)
  - **Census and Surveys** (Census, LFS, SLC, VES, OWS, HBS etc.)
Structure con’t

Social and Demographic (Population, health, education, crime, environment, CSM DG)

- Administrative (personnel, accounts, assist in relevant statistical areas)
Other Structures

Other Systems

Formal systems that produce and supply statistics have been established in sectoral government ministries, statutory bodies and the private sectors.

In the absence of these statistically structured bodies, the Central Statistics Office collects other required data from other administrative sources including that of the private sector.
The Central Statistics Office is governed by the Census and Statistics Act No. 17 of 1986. The Act covers:

- the functions of the statistics office,
- delegation of functions,
- standardisation and co-ordination of statistics,
- population census,
- collection of statistics,
- compilation and publication of statistics,
- power to obtain information; power of entry;
- security of information;
- offences and penalties;
- regulations; power to amend schedule; repeals
Main Statistical Products of the CSO

- Economy and Finance: national accounts, balance of payments, external trade, consumer prices, tourism;
- Demographic and Social: MDGs, population, health and disability, education, vocation and training, agricultural, labour market, living conditions, information technology, decision-making, environment crime, SIMDGs.
Challenges: The following are considered as challenges to the successful implementation of the NSDS

- the limitations on budgetary provisions for financial and human resources;
- sustaining the awareness of the importance of statistics at the policy makers and national planners level;
- adhering to the statistical calendar release dates (constraint on resources)
Strategies

- The CSO has gained support with its various work programs and their implementation and execution by establishing national Committees.
- The CSO has established Committees which has greatly provided support and advisory services to its major programs as follows:
Strategies cont’d

- Committees
- Population and Housing Census Advisory Committee,
- Millennium Development Goals Committee,
- Labour Market Information Committee,
- Tourism Satellite Account Committee
- Joint Inter-Agency Committee for Social and Environment Indicators
2. Creating Awareness

- The CSO continues sensitization and awareness by:
  - visiting educational institutions
  - building relationship with the media on current statistical activities for news releases
  - User-producer seminars (conducted to educate stakeholders and to encourage the use, production and submission of data).
2. Creating Awareness cont’d

- Government support
3. Advocacy Plan

- A three year Advocacy Plan is being developed. It is expected that national and external agencies will lend support to this program.
- Advocacy will be a key activity since it is intended that the entire country is informed of the accomplishment or status of the NSDS.
4. Other Interventions

- Other government agencies have established mechanisms for surveillance. This mechanism positions these agencies for rapid response to national or global crisis or unexpected social or economic events.

- These mechanisms also assist in projections, estimation techniques and data validation. Surveillance are conducted in the following line ministries:
  - The Ministry of Finance,
  - Ministry of Health Statistical Unit
  - The Ministry of Community Development
Advance Preparation

- The Central Statistics Office has participated in several regional and international training programs for the data storage (served as a pilot country for PARIS 21 ADP, in 2008).
- Statistical activities have used and intend to use electronic documentation, archiving and dissemination for storage particularly survey data.
- Preparation of program action plan towards the establishment of NSDS
Advance Preparation cont’d

- **Data storage, Archiving and Dissemination**
  - NatureIsle Info. 2.0
    - The customised version of NatureIsle Info 2.0 (customised version of UNICEF’s DevInfo.6.0) is being used to disseminate the MDGs and other social and economic data
  - Census Info
    - The 2011 Population and Housing Census data will be presented and disseminated through CensusInfo Software

2008/2009 Survey of Living Conditions and the 2011 Population and Housing Census can be stored in the Accelerated Data Program through the use of the IHSN Microdata Management Toolkit with the

2014 Agriculture Census will be also follow the IHSN storage
2. Data Storage cont’d

- **Administrative Reports**

- The production of Administrative Reports has been institutionalised for all major statistical products. This assists in building capacity and avoiding data gaps in statistical data. Administrative Reports have been prepared for:
  - National Accounts,
  - Survey of Living Conditions,
  - Consumer Price Index,
  - Labour Force,
  - Census Mapping with GIS and GPS
  - Population and Housing Census,
  - Agricultural Contribution to the Tourism Industry
  - Visitor Exit Surveys.
Other Systems Institutional capacity and production of statistical data and indicators

- Institutional capacity have been established in key government ministries, and with support from the CSO, capacity will be built in other key agencies overtime.

Challenges particularly in line ministries are:
- Staff turnover
- Limited human resource
- Data gaps
- Documentation
Coordination and collaboration with key statistical agencies

- Good relationship with key statistical agencies will facilitate the formalisation of national statistical systems:

- Key partners are:
  - **Line Ministries**
  - **The private sector**
  - **Non-Government Organisations**.

- This has greatly facilitated data collection and sharing and will further facilitate the NSDS. Further strengthening of interagency collaboration will increase the sustainability of functions that are key to the establishment of the NSDS.
Management of Databases and Database Development

- The Central Statistics Office continues to benefit from knowledge and training in management of database and database development.
- Recent database development have been implemented for price statistics, (PIPS) population statistics (SQL).
- Interagency database linkages form an integral part for the NSDS development.
Database Assessment

- Ministry of Education
- An Assessment on the Ministry of Education data storage and data management was conducted by the CSO and a draft Report prepared.
The National Statistical System

- A formal National Statistical System (NSS) is key to the development of a NSDS. Although a formal synchronised national statistical system is not yet operational, systems that can facilitate the process exist.
Requirements for the NSDS

- The following are also requirements for the establishment of a NSDS
  - Human Resource
  - Legislation
  - Information Technology
  - Institutionalisation
  - Technical Support
Legislation

- The modernisation of a statistical system requires appropriate changes particularly within its legal framework.
- Appropriate legislative operational framework is currently being undertaken by the “Model Statistics Bill” which is coordinated and supported by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Regional Statistics Program.
Further training in Information Technology is required.

The adoption of information technology is pertinent to the entire modernisation process of statistical offices and agencies.

Challenges

- Anonymity and technological dissemination are considered issues to be addressed.
Institutionalisation

- The successful implementation of programs as indicated by beneficiaries will be evaluated.
- It is also proposed, over time, after being soundly established that the NSDS become institutionalized and therefore merge into government programming.
Supporting Agencies and Partners

- **National Statistics Committee** will be established to:
  - *Oversee the operations* of the NSDS. The Committee will be made of persons from key government departments, private employers representative and non-government organisations.
  - *Monitor and evaluate*
    - Ensure that resources are mobilised and lateral cooperation is established within the statistical systems.
    - To oversee the maximisation of time and resources thereby operating efficiently within the most cost-effective manner.
Supporting Agencies and Partners

- Regional organisations have initiated programs in support of and towards the establishment of the NSDS.
  - The Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics which broadly encompasses the harmonisation and production of statistics fits well within the NSDS framework.
Supporting Agencies and Partners

- OECS, ECCB, CDB, CARICOM
- IMF/CARTAC
- World Bank
- PARIS21
- United Nations
- Other Institutions – Statistics Canada
The Establishment of NSDS (Proposed)

Appointees to the NSDS must be aware of activities and accomplishments of ministerial programs conducted under the NSDS

• The head of the NSDS is recommended to be the highest authority over the Ministry under which the CSO operates

• The head will assign functions to the relevant ministries within the sub-project framework as applicable, while monitoring and evaluation of these projects will be conducted by the National Statistics Committee.

• This oversight will also be applied to non-government organisation since the amended Statistics Act will cover all agencies in terms of national data collection.
Conclusion

- Given the importance of monitoring nationally relevant social and economic indicators towards economic growth, stability and sustainability; and poverty reduction and alleviation, commitment must be towards programs that effectively contribute to these achievements.
Conclusion con’td

- It is therefore proposed that the components within the program action plan be followed; that the work program within the program costing be adopted and the NSDS be formalised.
Conclusion con’td

- Statistical Program action plan towards NSDS
- Adoption of SNA08
- Institutionalize Household Surveys
- Establishment of Research Unit
- Conduct assessment of line ministries databases and data capture instruments
- Activities incorporated in Recurrent Budget
Costing and Funding of Programs 2012-2017 and program action plan are available at the CSO.)