1. INTRODUCTION

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat has been undertaking developmental work on the production of Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) since 2001. A chronology of work put in place from 2000 on the development of the TSA by the CARICOM Secretariat is as follows:

2001: CARICOM Regional Workshop on National Accounts, Trinidad and Tobago - Introduction of TSA concepts. The Satellite Account approach is contained in the 1993 System of National Accounts¹ framework therefore the introduction to the TSA concepts was included in workshops convened in the area of National Accounts;

2002: CARICOM Regional Workshop on National Accounts, St Kitts and Nevis - Introduction of TSA concepts and exposition of the TSA in the Supply and Use Framework (demand and supply) of the 1993 SNA.

2001-2002: Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA-funded Project on Strengthening Statistical Capacities in Member States to produce Statistics on

¹ The recommendations on the TSA Methodological Framework were approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its thirty-first session in New York.
International Trade in Services, under the CARICOM Protocol II, Trade Policy and Facilitation Project. Tourism under this project was recognised as a very important internationally traded service for the Region and one that generates considerable income. The situational assessment recommended steps to be taken by countries and regional organisations to develop tourism statistics and the TSA. One regional workshop and two national workshops were held in which the Tourism Sector was one of a few sectors that were incorporated on the agenda. Private sector representatives, central banks, statistical offices and tourism related associations were among the participants of these events. The regional workshop was held in Barbados and the national workshops were held in Grenada and St Kitts and Nevis.

2003: CARICOM Regional Workshop on Tourism Satellite Account held in Barbados and funded by the Government of Spain. The TSA was addressed in the context of the System of National Accounts 1993;

2004/2005: CARICOM in collaboration with CARICOM Trade and Competitiveness Development Programme (C-TRADECOM), a Project funded by the USAID, undertook developmental work on International Trade in Services including elements of Tourism Statistics and components such as Travel and transportation. Technical assistance was applied in six countries – Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

2006: The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) undertook developmental work in the area of Tourism Statistics, focusing on the development of a Tourism Satellite Account framework. In February 2006, the Secretariat continued work in this area with a two-week Pilot Technical Assistance Mission to Saint Lucia to review and support the development of a System of Tourism Statistics and to explore the development of a TSA in that Member State.

This Mission was funded by the Government of Spain through the CARICOM-Spain Cooperation Agreement and included representatives from Barbados, Dominica and
Grenada as part of capacity building. Initial missions were held in Barbados, Dominica and Grenada.

The CARICOM Secretariat has been in the process of putting together a proposal for additional funds from the Government of Spain. The Secretariat is also aware of work that was put in place in St Vincent and the Grenadines on the TSA. The area of Tourism has been addressed at the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Heads of Government held in Antigua and Barbuda in July 2008. The rest of this paper provides information with regard to this development including the decisions of the Heads of Government with respect to Tourism Satellite Accounts and steps taken to implement these decisions.

2. DECISIONS OF THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ON THE TSA AND FOLLOW-UP TO THESE DECISIONS BY THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COTED)

The Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (Antigua and Barbuda, July 2008) considered developments with respect to Tourism and Transportation. With respect to Tourism, there was focus given to the development of Tourism Satellite Accounts in Member States. Among the decisions were:

“The Conference:

... agreed that a Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) will be developed in each Member State to facilitate the effective management and planning of the sector;

Also mandated the CARICOM Secretariat to collaborate with the CARTAC, the CTO and the ECCB, and other regional institutions to establish the TSA;”
Following the decision of Heads of Government, the CARICOM Secretariat convened the Twenty-Eighth Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) focusing on Tourism and Transportation/Civil Aviation which was held in Trinidad in September 2008. The COTED made the following decision:

“On discussion relating to the **Implementing Comprehensive and Timely Information through Use of Satellite Accounting Systems and Immigration Card Systems**

**THE COTED:**

**...mandated** the establishment of a regional multi-agency committee for Regional Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) implementation which would comprise relevant agencies and at least six (6) representatives from the NSOs and three(3) from the CARICOM Member States. That Committee would be led by the CARICOM Secretariat and the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) and would be responsible for guiding the TSA implementation process and providing the necessary coordination, monitoring and oversight roles for ensuring the successful implementation of TSAs in the Region;

**Authorised** the CARICOM Secretariat to seek further funding from regional and international donor agencies, including the CDB, for the purpose of financing the further development of TSA, including the provision of TSA Technical Experts to guide the implementation of TSAs in Member States on an “as required” basis;

**Also mandated** the CARICOM Secretariat, through the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS), to provide the requisite technical support and where necessary seek funding, for assisting relevant Member States in developing their National Accounts compilation process as well as their
System of Tourism Statistics (STS) as necessary platforms for eventual TSA implementation;

*Noted* the possibility of assistance from the Dominican Republic to CARICOM Member States, through the CARICOM Secretariat, in TSA implementation initiatives;

*Welcomed* the indication by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) of its commitment in principle to supporting various initiatives to strengthen statistical capacity in Member States;

*Agreed* that the United Nations World Tourism Organisation- UNWTO TSA implementation model was the preferred option for treating with TSAs.

3. **PREPARATION OF PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR SUBMISSION TO THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

The Statistics Sub-Programme has prepared a proposal comprising a multi-year programme of technical assistance, training workshops and attachments/exchange visits for submission to the Caribbean Development Bank. This proposal is to be presented to the Twenty-Ninth Special Meeting of the COTED which is scheduled to meet in October 2008.

**ACTION REQUIRED**

The **Meeting** is **invited** to:

- **consider** the developments in relation to the production of Tourism Satellite Account in the Region and specifically the support that would be required from the national statistical offices to enable the development of the TSA.

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