

THIRD HIGH LEVEL ADVOCACY FORUM ON STATISTICS (HLF)

St. George's, Grenada
21-22 February 2019

Theme:

“Investing in Statistics to Build Resilience and to Achieve Sustainable Economic Growth and Development in the Caribbean Community”

Regional Statisticians Commend CARICOM Heads of Government for High Level Political Commitment and Support to Statistics Development

The Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics (HLF) was held on 22 February 2019 in St. George's, Grenada. The Forum which was convened under the theme *“Investing in Statistics to Build Resilience and to Achieve Sustainable Economic Growth and Development in the Caribbean Community”* was hosted by the Government of Grenada.

The main objective of the Third HLF was to ensure that the decision of Heads of Government in endorsing the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS) becomes operational. The CARICOM RSDS was endorsed by CARICOM Heads of Government at the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in July 2018.

During the Third HLF, CARICOM Member States recommended that the Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. The Rt. Honourable Keith C. Mitchell and his fellow Heads of Government of CARICOM, should be commended for their foresight and high-level commitment in leading support to statistics as a vital area required to enable the development of CARICOM countries.

Prime Minister Mitchell has been a key advocate for the development of Statistics in the Region, a role he undertook following the Second High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics held in Grenada in May 2014.

In addition to the HLF, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in collaboration with a



From Left: Dr. The Rt. Honourable Keith C. Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. Philomen Harrison, Project Director, Regional Statistics, CARICOM Secretariat and Mr. Halim Brizan, Director of Statistics, Grenada

number of Regional and International Organisations also convened a High Level Seminar on the 21 February as well as an ICT Fair during the two-day period, 21-22 February 2019.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony for the 3rd HLF was chaired by the Press Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister of Grenada, Ms. Philomena Robertson. The Prime Minister of Grenada, Dr. The Rt. Honourable Keith C. Mitchell delivered the keynote address at the Opening Ceremony.

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Dr. The Rt. Honourable Keith C. Mitchell
Prime Minister of Grenada

“We could do a lot more. I strongly believe that regional economies could have been far more advanced in terms of sustainable development had we adequately invested in our statistical systems to obtain data required for more effective decision-making”.

In his address, the Prime Minister pointed out that statistics played a vital role in governance and in improving lives. At the core of building resilience, he said, were timely and high quality statistics. He underlined the importance of statistics across sectors, and singled out agriculture, trade, health, tourism and sports.

He referenced the current success of the West Indies cricket team as a practical example of data collection and data analysis in action as witnessed in the England/West Indies series of matches, which demonstrates how far data collection and analysis have gone.

In this regard he stated that research is often undertaken on weaknesses of batsmen relative to the bowling attacks including the number of times a specific batsman succumbs to a specific bowler. This research (data collection and analysis) then informs the choice of bowler and the type of ball to be used for that batsman. Similarly, batsmen also target bowlers based on their respective weaknesses.

He emphasised that statistics is not far removed from reality. He stated that historically, when one speaks about Statistics, it is usually in the context of the intellectual and academic environment and not necessarily the practical aspects. Therefore, it is extremely important for us to invest in this area of Statistics.

Long Way To Go

The Grenada Prime Minister said that while the Region has made strides in statistics, there is still ***“a very long way to go”***. He held the view that the development of statistics had not been given the kind of attention that it deserved in the Region.

“We could do a lot more. I strongly believe that regional economies could have been far more advanced in terms of sustainable development had we adequately invested in our statistical systems to obtain data required for more effective decision-making”, PM Mitchell said.

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The PM also told delegates that investment in training was critical, especially in the context of staffing and resource constraints in his country and in the Region. Staffing/resource constraints leads to the inability to produce adequate data to inform the development agenda.

He said, *“In other words, just as we train doctors... we train engineers; in our countries with scholarships directed in specific areas of development, I don’t think we have zeroed in on Statistics in this particular context. So it seems that we have to apply that same formula to Statistics so that the young people coming up would know that there are specific scholarships available in this particular area of Science.”*

Strategic Approach to Statistical Literacy

In recommending the need for a strategic approach to Statistical Literacy, the PM stated that this can be improved by incorporating statistics in the school system, particularly from the secondary level as well as including specific courses in statistics at the A' Levels (Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations, CAPE) in addition to the pure mathematics or mechanics that are currently being offered in the region.



Presentation Brothers' College Choir in a sitting rendition of the Grenada National Anthem (Photo courtesy of Grenada Government Information Service)

Remarks were also delivered by the Project Director, Regional Statistics, CARICOM Secretariat, Dr. Philomen Harrison and the Director of Statistics, Grenada, Mr. Halim Brizan at the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd HLF. A summary of these remarks can be found in the following pages.

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“The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Grenada, who has been a true champion for the role of statistics and the statisticians of CARICOM must be applauded for their continued efforts including through this High-Level Forum, to improve the lives of the people of our Community”.

**Dr. Philomen Harrison,
Project Director, Regional Statistics, CARICOM Secretariat**

In her remarks, the Project Director, Regional Statistics of the CARICOM Secretariat, Dr. Philomen Harrison reflected on the significant milestones for statistical development in the Caribbean Community during the years 2016-2018.

In July 2016, the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (HGC) of the Caribbean Community endorsed the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean.

The Action Plan was born out of the need seen by the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) for support by Governments to the strengthening of the national statistical systems, particularly in the face of the avalanche of statistical requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, that requires the production of 230 plus indicators.

The SCCS in their pursuit of moving forward, sought and obtained the endorsement of the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the HGC in July 2017, to prepare a CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS). The CARICOM RSDS was prepared by the SCCS with funding support that provided technical assistance from the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-First Century (PARIS21) which included the conduct of an assessment of the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS) and the conduct of a Strategic Planning Workshop.

Additionally, the Heads of Government at their Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting in July 2018 in Jamaica, recognised the strategic role of strengthening and improving the availability of statistics for evidence-based decision-making and endorsed the Strategic Framework of RSDS, she said.

Dr. Harrison also stated that the Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics that was being hosted by the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the Government and people of Grenada is a watershed moment in its thrust to build on the momentum of the high-level endorsements given to statistics.



Delegates during the Opening Ceremony

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“There is considerable merit in us coming together to generate ideas and plan the most effective path for the region given these challenges we face”.

**Mr. Halim Brizan, Director of Statistics,
Grenada**

The Director of Statistics, Grenada, Mr. Halim Brizan, welcomed the delegates to the forum.

He extended a warm welcome to the Prime Minister of Grenada and other Government Officials in attendance and stated that their presence demonstrates their support for statistics, their understanding of its value and the urgent need for the improvement of statistics in the region.

In recognising the contributions of the International Development Partners (IDPs) who sponsored the hosting of the forum, he stated that the support of the IDPs is highly commendable. The forum was sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), A Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the European Union.

“It is not often we see such great turn out at a statistics event which is definitely a positive sign for the development of statistics in Grenada. It is our desire to see improvements in statistics but we must also all recognise that we all have an important role to play, wherever we are or whoever we are in advocating and offering strong support for statistics development in whatever way we can. We are all key stakeholders within our National Statistical system”, he said.

He stressed that although a lot of work has been done in developing statistics in the region given that as a region, we are nowhere close to where we should be. The increasing demands in statistics as a result of the global, regional and local agenda has created significant challenges for data producers given that we have to satisfy this demand with the same or dwindling resources. In this regard Mr. Brizan stated that ***“there is considerable merit in coming together to generate ideas and plan the most effective path for the region given these challenges we face.”***



Delegates during the Opening Ceremony at the Grenada Trade Centre

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“More and better financing for data and statistics is needed to strengthen the capacity of the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to produce timely, high quality, relevant and dis-aggregated statistical evidence”

Her Excellency I. Rhonda King,
President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of St. Vincent
and the Grenadines to the United Nations

In a video message, the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, Her Excellency I. Rhonda King said that ***“more and better financing for data and statistics is needed and called on Member States to invest in their national statistics offices to strengthen their capacity to produce timely, high quality, relevant and dis-aggregated statistical evidence.”*** She pointed to a recent study which called for the doubling of official development assistance for the statistics sector.

She stated that there is also need for increased coordination of efforts such as resource mobilisation to attract more investments as well as innovative approaches to make better use of existing funds.

“It is important for the Region to commit funding for the implementation of the RSDS to help Member Countries to improve and develop their statistical systems in support of both National and Regional Development Agendas....Governments should step in and ensure that funding is available for statistical operations”

Mr. Johannes Jütting
Manager, PARIS21

PARIS21 Manager, Johannes Jutting, called on governments to ***“step in and ensure that funding is available for statistical operations”***. He indicated that investment was also necessary for statistical literacy among the Region’s populace if data is to be used effectively.

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“By understanding the meaning of numbers, statistical concepts, tables and graphs, citizens will be able to make more appropriate use of the information and be more capable of using evidence to make informed decisions”, he said. National Statistical Offices have a major role in facilitating engagements between statistics producers, policy-making institutions and society at large and ensure a culture of evidenced informed development in the Region.

The Paris21 Manager also stated that his organisation plans to continue their support in the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS through *inter alia*, supporting countries in the development of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), promoting and advocating for statistical literacy and supporting capacity development through the Paris21 New Signature Initiative Capacity Development 4.0.

“Domestic and external funding for Small Island Developing States needs to be boosted, this is critical so that key statistical activities such as surveys to improve the information base about a country’s development can be undertaken in a timely way”

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu

United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

In a video message to the Forum, Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) acknowledged that the funding commitments to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) remained low, and advised that *domestic and external funding for statistics needs to be boosted*.

She went on to say that *“At a time where it is often difficult to exist or worse, overruled by emotion, it is so critical to be able to lead fact-based discussions and take fact-based decisions”*.

The UN High Representative urged governments of CARICOM to develop their statistical systems and elevate the status of statistical offices to ensure that National Statistics Offices (NSOs) could effectively support governments, the private sector and civil society in development activities.

Visit <http://www.caricomstats.org> for the full remarks made at the Opening Ceremony including the video messages.

Highlights of the Summary of Main Recommendations coming out of the Third HLF

The CARICOM Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics,

*Recognising that while significant work has been done in statistics in CARICOM and that there is still more work to be done, **recommended** the following:*

- ◆ that the Prime Minister of Grenada Dr. the Rt. Honourable Keith C. Mitchell and his fellow Heads of Government of CARICOM Member States should be commended for their foresight and high-level political commitment in lending support to Statistics as a vital area required to enable the development of CARICOM countries;
- ◆ implementation of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS), post its endorsement by the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in July 2018, as an important step towards improving the availability of high quality statistics for decision-making and in enabling a robust CARICOM Statistical System (CSS);
- ◆ **emphasised** the need to invest in statistics, to enable cost-cutting effective approaches to governance of statistics in Member States and to strengthen the national and regional statistical systems to lay the foundation for the monitoring of the National Development Plans (NDPs), the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Samoa Pathway¹;
- ◆ **reiterated** the need for a regional approach to statistics led by an effective well-resourced Regional Statistics Programme at the CARICOM Secretariat²;
- ◆ **urged** governments to provide domestic funding to develop the National Statistical Systems and to elevate the status of the National Statistical Offices in countries and for the financing of sustainable statistical infrastructure, inclusive of innovative financing, to support the production of timely, high quality, robust and disaggregated statistics;
- ◆ **identified** the need for funding of the implementation of the CARICOM RSDS by the International Development Partners (IDPs) and by the private sector;
- ◆ **reinforced** the importance of the forthcoming 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census relative to the need for financing by governments of CARICOM Member States;
- ◆ **promoting** the alignment of the CARICOM RSDS in the modernisation and transformation of the CSS, with international statistical frameworks and action plans such as the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data and the Dubai Declaration on Statistics³;
- ◆ **emphasised** the need for continued advocacy on the vital role of the CARICOM RSDS to enable the development of statistics to monitor key national, regional and international frameworks;

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¹The Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway arose out of a UN High Level Conference in Apia, Samoa in 2014 and was adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 2014.

²A regional approach was emphasised at the Second High Level Advocacy Forum in 2014, in Grenada

³These frameworks arose from the First (2017) and Second (2018) UN World Data Forum.



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- ◆ **ensuring** more and better coordination among key developmental partners in building statistical capacity in CARICOM;
- ◆ **emphasised** the importance of statistics for building resilience and achieving sustainable growth and development in CARICOM;
- ◆ **promoting** the use of currently available statistics and greater expansion in the qualitative aspects of data collection and use;
- ◆ **encouraged** the mainstreaming of Gender, state of the art Information Communication Technologies (ICT), Sustainable Capacity Building (SCB), the SDGs and the Samoa Pathway as key drivers in the implementation of the CARICOM RSDDS;
- ◆ **reinforcement** of the need for statistical literacy in promoting the use of statistics in CARICOM⁴;
- ◆ **awarding** of scholarships in statistics, similar to awards in other areas of specialisation to enable the availability of statistical expertise in CARICOM⁵.

Status of Implementation

The High Level Advocacy Forum was aimed at making operational the necessary resources to implement the CARICOM RSDDS.

The Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM (HGC), apart from endorsing the Strategic Framework of the CARICOM RSDDS also approved the preparation of the following supporting frameworks:

- **A Comprehensive Implementation Plan**

The Implementation Plan has been completed and was approved by the Forty-Third Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) by circular arrangements.

- **A Communication and Advocacy Strategy**

The Communication and Advocacy Strategy has been prepared with the support of Statistics Canada under the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC) and was utilised for the Third HLF. One activity of the Communication and Advocacy Strategy is the current quarterly CARICOM RSDDS Newsletter, which complements the Bi-Annual Stats News and Views. Other activities used for the Third HLF, include the creation and use of the CARICOM RSDDS Logo, brochures and factsheets which were displayed at the IT Fair. These documents are available on our website, www.caricomstats.org, for viewing and download.

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⁴This area, which was mentioned in the Opening Ceremony, was also discussed during the High Level Seminar that preceded the HLF. There are therefore additional recommendations on statistical literacy later on these conclusions.

⁵Related to the Action Plan for Statistics in the Caribbean that was approved by the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in July 2016.

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- **A Resource Mobilisation Strategy**

The Resource Mobilisation Strategy is currently being developed. The funding gap is to be identified. This work is being supported by the Resource Mobilisation and Technical Assistance Programme of the CARICOM Secretariat.

- **A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**

Work is to commence on the preparation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Regional Strategy for the development of Statistics (RSDS).



CARICOM HIGH LEVEL SEMINAR ON STATISTICS

The **CARICOM High Level Seminar on Statistics** was successfully convened prior to the Third HLF on the **21 February 2019**. The seminar centered on a few core issues of the strategic Framework of the CARICOM RSDS that will influence its success in enabling its goal of an **efficient CARICOM Statistical System (CSS)**, that is responsive to the national, regional and global development agenda, enabling a resilient Community with sustained economic growth and development.



Participants at the High Level Seminar

These included the **2020 Round of Population and Housing Census; Leadership and Management and the RSDS; Standards and Harmonisation through the RSDS; Promoting the use of Statistical Literacy through the RSDS; Strengthening Admin Data and Enabling the use of Non-Traditional Sources of Data and Gender Mainstreaming in the RSDS.**

There were rich discussions among participants at the seminar in these areas which led to several useful recommendations

for future consideration in addressing the key challenges and needs of the CARICOM Statistical System. Some of these recommendations are summarised as below/overleaf.

2020 Round of Population and Housing Census

The Census is the largest statistical activity a country can undertake and permeates the entire CARICOM RSDS and

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the approval of the latter implies approval of the census execution in the 2020 Round.

The High Level Seminar examined the role of the CARICOM RSDS in addressing the challenges and concerns that can arise during the various stages of the census taking process including Census Management and Planning, Data Collection, Data Processing and Dissemination of Census results. The discussions during the seminar led to a call for all CARICOM countries to provide adequate financial resources and in a timely manner, to the National Statistical Offices for the conduct of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census.

Further, the importance of the census in providing information for monitoring and decision-making was emphasised in such areas as monitoring of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), enabling implementation of the SAMOA pathway, achieving regional integration through the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and in the monitoring of National Development Plans. Specifically, the census is of vital importance in treating with natural disasters, climate change and with the status of special population groups such as the aging population, persons with disabilities, women, children, youths etc.

Recommendations were made to improve the various stages of census-taking as follows:

- Modernised techniques for Census Management and Planning should be adopted and supported to enable the release of results from the 2020 Census in a timely manner;
- The promotion of the use of up-to-date ICT techniques in the Census activity should be supported in so far that it would not only enable greater efficiency in Census-taking and deliver timely Census results, but will benefit the ICT Infrastructure in the entire National Statistical System, promoting IT as a key enabler of the CARICOM RSDS;

- Similar to the 2010 Round of Census, common tools are recommended for the dissemination of Census data in the 2020 Census Round, primarily, REDATAM, offshoot of the former application 'CensusInfo'. GIS-web-enabled census e-portals should be particular features of the Dissemination Strategy.
- The ICT infrastructure of the Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) should be strengthened to include skilled staff that can provide ICT support to countries in critical areas of statistical data management, production and dissemination.

The Resolution on the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census which was approved by the Third HLF is on Page 13 of this Newsletter.

Leadership and Management

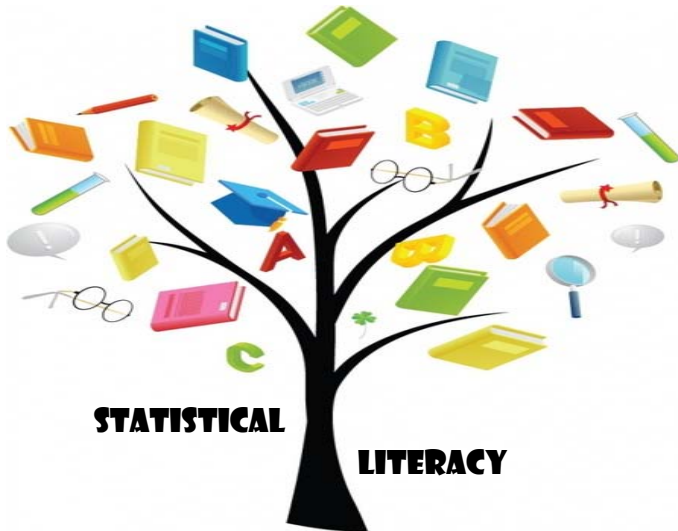
The seminar also examined leadership response in light of key challenges within the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS). Specifically, the seminar looked at the effect of enabling effective governance arrangements to transform and modernise the CSS. It noted that an effective governance structure can be achieved through:

- Movement to a semi-autonomous statistical institute;
- Promoting effective leadership skills and engagement for all staff within the CSS;
- Ensuring that a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) is developed and implemented
- Promoting a change management process that focuses on the people dimension;
- Building capabilities through- training, exposure, assigning responsibilities, providing opportunities for growth, providing rewards and related actions;
- Development of an overall HRD policy for continuous growth and development of staff.

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Promoting the use of Statistics and Statistical Literacy through the RSDS



The seminar presented several ideas to promote the use of statistics as follows:-

- Foster active learning (in contrast to lecturing) to enable statistical literacy;
- Encouragement of the use of statistical software and interpretation of outputs;
- Awarding students for excellent performance in Advanced Level Statistics;
- Focusing on statistical reasoning and thinking rather than theories, use of formulas and computation;
- Ensuring that Data Visualisation experts be included as core staff of the NSOs to enable the production of more user-friendly statistical products;
- Including material on interpretation of statistical terminologies on NSO websites;
- Improving of Statistical Literacy in the Public Sector;
- Incorporating Statistics in a creative way at levels of the educational curricula (Action Plan for Statistics);

- Engaging with youths to produce mobile applications on Statistics (Action Plan for Statistics);
- Supporting the proposed development of the e-Caribbean Institute of Statistical Training and Research (e-CISTAR) inclusive of the CARICOM Knowledge Base as key mechanisms for enabling statistical literacy.

Gender Mainstreaming in the implementation of the RSDS



The seminar discussed enabling Gender Mainstreaming through the following stages, *inter alia*:

- Strengthening the link of the CARICOM RSDS with National Development Planning including Gender Policy/Planning;
- Aligning of the monitoring of global normative commitments on Gender Equality;
- Support to training and knowledge based facilities on Gender;
- Support to the proposed CARICOM UN Women Project on the strengthening of Capacity for the Production and Use of Gender Statistics.

RESOLUTION ON THE 2020 ROUND OF POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN CARICOM

The CARICOM Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics,

Recalling that in July 2018 in Jamaica, the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government (HGC) of the Caribbean Community endorsed the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS);

Recognising that the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census, as a central strategic activity and a core integrated programme of the CARICOM Statistical System (CSS), is included in this endorsement by the Thirty-Ninth HGC on the RSDS;

Particularly conscious of the vital importance of the Population and Housing Census in the Building of Resilience of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM);

Emphasising the vital importance of the Population and Housing Census in lessening the impact of natural disasters, climate change and in improving the quality of life of special population groups such as, the aging population, persons with disabilities, women, children, youth- particularly, unemployed/school dropouts, persons living below the poverty line, persons in situations of crime and violence and persons in other situations of vulnerabilities;

Emphasising also the importance of the Population and Housing Census in providing information for monitoring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), enabling implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, achieving regional integration through the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and in the monitoring of National Development Plans of countries,

1. Calls on all CARICOM countries to provide adequate financial resources and in a timely manner, to the National Statistical Offices for the conduct of the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census;
2. Emphasises the importance of the Population and Housing Census as an integrated programme of the CARICOM Statistical System, which will be implemented as part of the CARICOM Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics and specifically through the CARICOM Regional Census Strategy for the 2020 Census Round;
3. Urges all CARICOM countries to ensure that the results from the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Census are disseminated and in a timely manner and that outstanding census results from the previous census round are made public.

ICT FAIR St. George's, Grenada 21-22 February 2019

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat in collaboration with the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Grenada hosted an **ICT Fair** during the **Third High Level Advocacy Forum on Statistics (HLF)** from **21st to 22nd February 2019**.

As one of the key drivers of the CARICOM RSDS strategic priorities, ICT Infrastructure has been identified as a critical and highly effective mechanism for helping the Region to move forward quickly and effectively in the design of strategies for statistical development. IT also has great potential to be the engine of the data revolution needed to improve statistics.

The ICT Fair gave participants the opportunity to learn about a few of the available applications for the production and use of statistical data. Software consultants/firms were on hand to provide practical demonstrations on available services.

Software Applications used for Statistics Production

The CSO of Grenada made full use of the IT Fair by showcasing the various software used to conduct their work. One such software on display was the Geographic Information System (GIS) which is used for gathering, managing, and analysing geographic data. The software **integrates many types of data and analyses spatial location and organises layers of information into visualisations using maps and 3D scenes.**

New Website of the Grenada Central Statistical Office (CSO)

The CSO of Grenada also showcased their newly developed website, an initiative that was undertaken with assistance from the Government of Canada through the Project for the Regional Advancement of Statistics in the Caribbean.

The website <http://stats.gov.gd/> was launched in early 2019.

Demonstration of IT Services

Sonova, a software company based in Grenada also participated in the IT Fair. The technology solutions company provides innovative software development services for governments, organisations and businesses in the commercial sector. Representatives of Sonova treated participants to demonstrations on some of their services during the two-day activity.

Online databases of the CARICOM Secretariat

The CARICOM Secretariat, Regional Statistics Programme (RSP) showcased two (2) online databases at the IT Fair, namely, TradSys Online and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework for the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) using virtual demonstrations prepared for the event.

Tradsys Online is a facility that allows users to access the Regional Trade Information System, via the web. The Regional Trade Information System includes detailed commodity level data submitted to the Secretariat by CARICOM Member States. Development of this facility was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The CSME Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework was designed to facilitate the reporting of specific CSME indicators by CARICOM Member States. The platform is intended to aid in inter alia, the comparison of data between Member States; to simplify and foster dissemination of data within Member States and to promote a regional reporting of outcome data. The data within this framework is being disseminated using the DevInfo Platform.

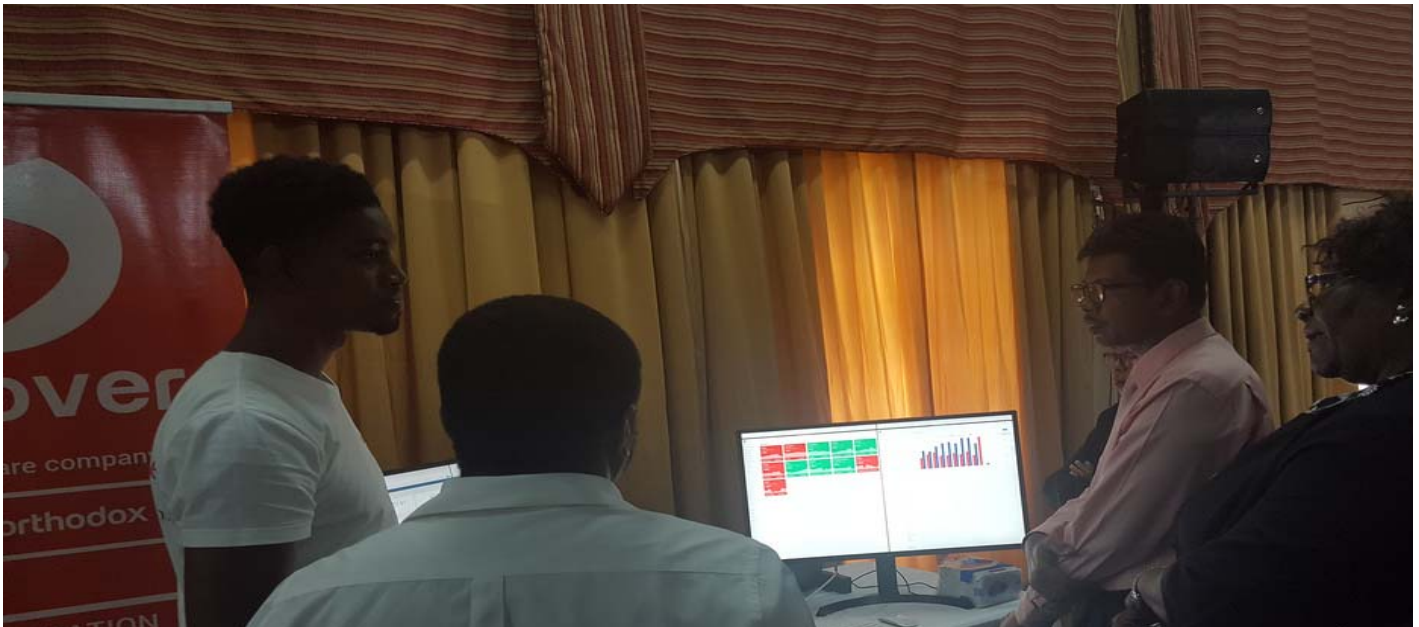
The Secretariat also had other statistical outputs on display including brochures and factsheets on certain statistical areas such as Merchandise Trade, National Accounts etc.

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FACTSHEETS by UNWOMEN

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN) also used the IT Fair to display factsheets on Gender and Domestic Violence.

Scenes from the HLF and IT FAIR



Representatives from Sonover providing demonstrations to a few participants at the IT Fair



Students engage in discussions with an exhibitor during the IT Fair

More Scenes from the HLF and IT FAIR

