SAVINGRAM

FROM: Secretary-General, Caribbean Community

TO: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda
Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Bahamas
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Barbados
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Belize
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dominica
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Grenada
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Haiti
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica
Hon. Premier, Montserrat
Minister of Foreign Affairs, St. Kitts and Nevis
Minister of External Affairs, Saint Lucia
Minister of Foreign Affairs, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Suriname
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago

COPIED: Hon. Chief Minister, Anguilla
Hon. Premier, Bermuda
Hon. Premier, British Virgin Islands
Hon. Premier, Cayman Islands
Hon. Premier, Turks and Caicos Islands
Heads of Statistical Administrations
Ministers with responsibility for Information and Communication Technologies
Ministers with responsibility for CARICOM Affairs
Ambassadors of Member States accredited to CARICOM
High Commissioner for Jamaica to Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana and the Eastern Caribbean States and Ambassador to Suriname
High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica
Director-General, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

No. 283/2014 1 April 2014

SECOND HIGH-LEVEL ADVOCACY FORUM ON STATISTICS:
STRATEGISING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS IN THE CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY (CARICOM) IN THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
ST. GEORGE’S, GRENADA, 28 MAY 2014

(CONVENING)

1. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat wishes to advise Member States of the convening of the Second High-Level Advocacy Forum (HLF) on Statistics: Strategising for the Development of Statistics in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in the Post 2015 Development Agenda on 28 May 2014 in St. George’s, Grenada. The High-Level Forum will be convened in collaboration with a number of regional and international organisations and will be hosted by the Government of Grenada. The venue of the Meeting is Radisson Grenada Beach Resort.

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2. The Provisional Agenda for this Meeting is attached.

3. The main objective of the Forum is to enable high-level commitment by governments of CARICOM to the strengthening of the national statistical systems as a key means of sustaining the development and availability of timely, high-quality and relevant statistics for decision-making and the empowerment of citizens of CARICOM. Fundamentally it is envisaged that the availability of statistics will lead to good governance, accountability and improved standards of living of the peoples of the Community.

The specific objectives include the following -

(i) To place statistics at the centre of the development agenda relative to investment by governments that can lead to the availability of better statistics to support national and regional policy responses and to improve decision-making;

(ii) To strengthen the National Statistical Systems for the monitoring of the Post-2015 global development goals;

(iii) To facilitate the availability of relevant, timely and high quality statistics to inform the strategic direction of countries and of the Community and to provide early warning signals on the economic, social and environmental challenges;

(iv) Encourage countries of the Region to invest in and make use of the statistics produced; and

(v) To enable the production of a CARICOM Strategy for the Development of Statistics (CSDS) that can promote implementation of the common Regional Statistical Work Programme (RSWP) at the country level.

4. With the approach of 2015, the status of countries regarding the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) takes on added significance as to targets such as poverty reduction, child mortality and gender disparity. For the Region, there are also Caribbean Specific MDGs (CSMDGs) targets and indicators that need to be assessed such as completion of Secondary education/educational outcomes, access to early childhood education and prevalence of selected non-communicable diseases.

5. Additionally, the Post-2015 Development Agenda 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). Statistics play a central role in the measurement of the achievements of these goals and therefore there is a need for the strengthening of national statistical systems across the Region to produce timely, relevant and reliable statistics. In emphasising the role that statistics must play in sustainable development, the Panel has called for a “data revolution”. The HLF therefore seeks to put statistics at the heart of the Post 2015 debate.

6. The HLF targets Ministers with responsibility for Statistics, High-Level Officials, Directors of Statistics, other producers of official statistics, representatives of regional and international organisations and users of statistics in the academia, public and private sectors. Along with the HLF, there will be other side meetings including a Census Symposium on the 2010/2020 Rounds of Population and Housing Census, seminars on Multi-Dimensional Poverty and on the Estimation of Labour Force Statistics, and the First Meeting of the Caribbean
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Association of Professional Statisticians (CAPS). It is also intended to have an Information Technology Fair for Statistics throughout the week.

7. The Forum is supported by the organisation, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) which is providing funding to support the attendance of representatives from Member States. Other funding is also being sought to support this event and would be communicated when it becomes available. Member States are however free to support the attendance of their representatives at this forum. Information on the forum will be updated on our website www.caricom.org.

8. Member States are requested to forward to the Secretariat, the name(s) and designation(s) of the member(s) of their respective delegations no later than Tuesday, 22 April 2014. This information should be submitted to –

The Secretary-General
Caribbean Community

for the attention of -

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Information on Ministers attending this forum should also be copied to -

Mr. Adrian Joseph
Chief of Protocol
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Email: atjoseph@gov.gd

Signed
MANORMA SOEKNANDAN, PhD
DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR SECRETARY-GENERAL