

## **RESOLUTION**

**Bearing in mind** the essential and ever increasing need for official statistics in the area of economic, social/gender, environment and information and communication technology for policy formulation and informed decision-making, with an indisputable nexus to positive and sustainable development;

**Recalling** the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as adopted in 1994 by the United Nations Statistical Commission, which include recognition of statistics as an indispensable pillar in the information of a democratic society;

**Recalling too** the principles outlined in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as a new guide to human, social and economic development, the acceptance of indicators to measure that performance and the need for adequate legal and regulatory frameworks to achieve these goals;

**Conscious** of the prevailing international trade and economic reconfiguration being driven by a globalisation largely underpinned by advances in technology, in particular, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs);

**Conscious too** of the need to equip and strengthen systems for survival and prosperity in a new world economy through provision of adequate and timely empirical data and that governments themselves have set up statistical agencies, particularly, National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to perform this function;

**Particularly conscious** of international trade processes at the global and hemispheric levels, especially the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the need of the Caribbean Community to participate meaningfully in these negotiations;

**Mandated** by the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community to create a CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and a Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) to fit the Region for advantage in the new environments and to provide the statistics to favorably achieve this fit;

**Considering** the urgency to stabilise economies of the Region that are facing economic downturn, and the central role of statistics in that stabilisation programme;

**Guided** by the Community's efforts at social transformation to pursue principles of new governance and to create the environment to nurture the ideal Caribbean person as contained in the provisions of the CARICOM Charter for Civil Society;

**Further guided** by the need to encourage regional and international organisations to collaborate and integrate their resources in the implementation of the statistical programmes in the Region and to aggressively pursue the appropriate human resource development in this regard;

**Recognising** the critical role that complete, accurate, reliable, timely and relevant statistics accessible to all, will play in successful implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), nationally, regionally and internationally, and as a corner stone of democracy;

**Also recognising** the mandate given by the Resumed Session of the Eighth Meeting of the Community Council to the Secretariat, to prepare in collaboration with the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS), to include in its Work Programme proposals a three year plan for the improvement of the quality and range of regional statistics, available to the Community and its public and private sectors;

The Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) resolves as follows:

**These Governments of the Caribbean are urged to:**

- (i) Give priority to the strengthening of national statistical systems, particularly NSOs to undertake the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistics;
- (ii) Provide the NSOs with the human, material, technical and financial resources and logistic support to produce the data required by users;
- (iii) Enact the necessary monitoring and evaluating legislative and regulatory instruments to facilitate the execution of the mandate of the NSOs;
- (iv) Establish an intensive sensitization programme to encourage participation and early response from all stakeholders-users, producers and suppliers- with respect to the production of relevant and timely statistics.

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