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Chairperson’s Letter of Transmittal

The Honorable Pravind Kumar JUGNAUTH
Prime Minister,
Minister of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit,
Minister of Finance and Economic Development,
Port Louis

Dear Sir,

Report for period January 2018 – June 2019

I have the pleasure to present the Report of the Statistics Board which was set up under Section 23 of the Statistics Act 2000, as amended. The Report gives an account of the Board’s activities, priorities and achievements during the period January 2018 - June 2019 as well as its strategic intents. It will be posted on the website of Statistics Mauritius.

This Report exceptionally covers an 18-month period, with a view to aligning the reporting calendar with that of Government. Henceforth, the Annual Reports will be prepared on a fiscal year (1st July-30th June) basis.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Patrick Y.S YIP WANG WING
Chairperson
Statistics Board

September 2019
Message from Mr. Patrick Y.S Yip Wang Wing

Chairperson of Statistics Board

Introduction

Since its establishment eight years ago, the Statistics Board has been making, with the cooperation of key stakeholders, significant contribution towards the development and strengthening of Official Statistics, in support of national development objectives and aspirations.

On behalf of the new Board, I would therefore like to express our deep appreciation to the previous Chairpersons and Board members for the solid foundations built and transmitted to us.

It is in this context that we now present the Statistics Board’s priorities and achievements for the 18-month period running from January 2018 to June 2019.

Priorities and Achievements

In fulfilment of its assigned role, the Board has been providing strategic advice and policy guidance and support to Statistics Mauritius and other producers of Official Statistics. Twelve Board Meetings were held (of which 9 by the new Board) as well as several special issue-based meetings and discussion sessions.

The key areas of focus of the Board have been the following:

a) modernisation of the National Statistical System (NSS) and preparation of a new 5-year National Strategy for Official Statistics (NSOS) that would address the data challenges arising from economic and technological transitions: The Board has been providing its full support and guidance to Statistics Mauritius in this endeavour, particularly in terms of stewardship, advocacy and coordination. The NSOS design structures are in place, and the roadmap for assessing and addressing sector, cross-cutting, institutional as well as coordination issues is under implementation.

b) findings of the Peer Review of our National Statistical System: The Board took due note of the report’s conclusion that production and dissemination of Official Statistics in Mauritius was largely in compliance with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics. A number of weaknesses and constraints identified will be addressed in the NSOS, including ICT arrangements and coordination within the NSS. In that respect, the Board welcomed the Chief Health Statistician from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, as a co-opted member.

c) quality risks due to declining response rates in surveys: The Board initiated the setting up of a technical Working Group to assess the situation across producers of Official Statistics and come up with concrete proposals for addressing the low response in household and establishment surveys and improving quality of data.
d) In line with its statutory obligations, the Board also approved the Census and Survey Plans of Statistics Mauritius for 2018 and 2019, and gave its approval to the particulars and information to be collected for 9 surveys, including the Living Conditions Survey, Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey, Census of Economic Activities (phase 2), Surveys of Employment and Earnings and Capital Expenditure Survey 2019. In the process, the Board welcomed the move by Statistics Mauritius to online survey questionnaire and provided guidance towards more user-friendly and simpler questionnaires.

e) Leveraging on digital technology and data initiatives: The Board initiated joint working sessions with key institutions on various aspects of collaborative access and sharing of available administrative data, including Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation (Government InfoHighway, the Open Data Policy), the Economic Development Board (e-licensing platform) and the Data Protection Commission (Data Protection Legislation). Such institutional collaboration will be essential if we are to produce the disaggregated and more timely and accurate Official Statistics now being required for policy-making and monitoring.

f) The Board also took note of progress in the following areas:

(i) Statistics on Financial Sector and the update on the contribution of the Global Business Sector,

(ii) Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus, and

(iii) Indicators for monitoring UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Looking Ahead

Moving forward, the Statistics Board is committed to further strengthening the role it plays in enhancing the scope, quality and credibility of Official Statistics being produced in Mauritius.

Accordingly, the Board will provide the necessary strategic guidance for finalising the design of the medium-term NSOS and its Action Plan. Particular attention will be paid to the issue of resource and skills mobilisation over the near to medium-term for supporting effective implementation of the strategy. Likewise, the imperative of upholding public trust in Official Statistics and protecting the professional independence of their producers will have to be a cornerstone of the NSOS.

The Board will also push forward initiatives aimed at:

(i) putting in place a solid framework for data quality assessment and statistical processes;

(ii) achieving effective institutional arrangements for digital transfer of administrative data between and across levels of government for production of higher quality disaggregated Official Statistics for better public policies and improved service delivery; and
(iii) better coordination and alignment of the statistical programmes and release
    calendars of producers of Official Statistics

Concluding Remarks

I wish to express my appreciation to my fellow Board members for their dedication, support and
active participation in the discussions held during my tenure as Chairperson, as well as to the
Secretariat.

My thanks also go to Statistics Mauritius and its staff for building positively on the advice provided
by the Board and for the provision of facilities during meetings.

I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Statistics Board to foster production of higher
quality, more relevant and accessible Official Statistics and uphold their integrity, with the precious
support of the other NSS partners and stakeholders.

Mr. Patrick Y.S YIP WANG WING
Chairperson
Statistics Board
THE STATISTICS BOARD
The Statistics Board

Background

The Statistics Act 2000 was amended in July 2011, to provide for the general reform of the National Statistical System (NSS). The amendments aimed at reinforcing and modernising the set-up for the compilation and dissemination of Official Statistics alongside promoting professional independence of statistical institutions by inter alia:

- Providing for the creation of a Statistics Board;
- Reinforcing the duties and powers of the Director of Statistics; and
- Broadening the scope of the Act to cover all producers of Official Statistics.

Functions of the Statistics Board

The Statistics Board was established in September 2011 under Section 23 of the Act.

Its primary objective is promotion and safeguard of the quality and integrity of Official Statistics through (i) approval, co-ordination and monitoring of the statistical programmes of producers of Official Statistics; (ii) achievement of consistency, comparability and efficiency in data collection, dissemination and analysis; and (iii) reinforcing the professional and autonomous environment within which the National Statistical System (NSS) operates.

The Board is an independent body and, in the discharge of its functions and the exercise of its powers under the Act, it is not subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority.

Its members are high-level professionals specifically selected to improve the professional environment within which the NSS is operating and to ensure that the profile of Official Statistics is commensurate with their role in national development.

The provisions of the Statistics Act 2000 (as amended) pertaining to the Board are reproduced in the Appendix.
Board Members/Representatives

In accordance to Section 23(2) of the Statistics Act, the Statistics Board was reconstituted in June 2018. The membership of the Board during the period under review are as follows:

CHAIRPERSONS

Mr. Patrick Y. S. YIP WANG WING, C.S.K.
(from 12 June 2018 to date)

Mr Yip Wang Wing has over thirty years of experience in economic, statistical and financial analysis as well as in public policy-making.

Former Deputy Financial Secretary and former Director for Fiscal Policies, he has been closely involved in the preparation of all the National Budgets since the late 1980’s. During his career at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED), he has been responsible for issues relating mainly to public finance, taxation, statistics, fiscal policies and macroeconomic management.

Mr Yip has been serving on the Boards of several high-profile public sector bodies, including the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA), the State Investment Corporation (SIC), the State Insurance Company of Mauritius (SICOM) Group and the Stock Exchange Commission (SEC). He was also the representative of the Financial Secretary on the Statistics Board over the period 2014-2017.

Mr Yip is an Economist by training and holds a Maitrise en Econométrie and a post-graduate Diplôme d’Études Approfondies (DEA) en Politique et Analyse Economique from the University of Dijon, France.
CHAIRPERSONS

Ms. Marie Jennifer JEAN LOUIS  
(April 2015 to 11 June 2018)

Ms Jean-Louis is an experienced finance and banking executive with senior roles in financial analysis, project management, risk management, corporate services and team leadership. She has an enriching career with more than 20 years’ experience gained locally and internationally in public practice and the commerce environment.

Ms. Jean-Louis heads the Finance division of AfrAsia Bank; a local bank headquartered in the Mauritius International Financial Centre and has been instrumental to the laying of the bank’s foundation for a sound financial management framework incorporating finance, taxation and treasury back office. As a key management executive, she sits on various of the Bank’s Management Committees.

Ms. Jean-Louis holds a Master degree in Applied Finance, is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW) and a Chartered Tax Advisor.
MEMBERS

Mr. Ram HITTOO
(Representative of the Financial Secretary and member of the Board from 17 July 2017 to date)

Mr Ram Hittoo is currently Lead Analyst at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. His current responsibilities include following up on macroeconomic policy developments, working out the macro-fiscal framework and fiscal reporting. He joined the then Ministry of Economic Planning and Development in 1998 as an Economist.

He has been a member of a number of boards of public bodies and is presently a Director on the National Pension Board.

Mr Hittoo holds a Masters in Agricultural Economics from the University of London.

Mr. Mahendra Vikramdass (Vikram) PUNCHOO
(Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius and member of the Board from 12 June 2018 to date)

Mr Vikram Punchoo is Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, and member of the Board of Directors and of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Mauritius.

Mr Vikram Punchoo is a career central banker. He joined the Research Department of the Bank of Mauritius as an Economist in 1989. He was Assistant Director in the Research Department from 2005 to 2007. Subsequently, he was appointed Head of the Economic Analysis Division until 2011 when he took over as Head of the Statistics Division.

Mr Punchoo holds a Maîtrise-en-Sciences Economiques from Université Aix-Marseille III, France, and an M.Sc. in Economics from Birkbeck College, University of London, United Kingdom.
Mr. Jitendra Nathsingh BISSESSUR
(Representative of the Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius and member of the Board from 01 April 2015 to 7 June 2018)

Mr. Bissessur is Assistant Director of the Research and Economic Analysis Department at the Bank of Mauritius. The Department is also responsible for the collection, compilation and dissemination of monetary, financial and external sector statistics.

He has served as the Head of the Statistics Division from 2007 to 2010; Head of the Financial Markets Analysis Division from 2011 to 2013; and Head of the Economic Research Division from 2014 to early 2015. Mr Bissessur was a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Mauritius in 2012. He worked as an economist in the African Department of the International Monetary Fund in 2013-14 under the Special Appointee Programme.

He holds a BA (Hons) in Mathematical Statistics and an MSc in Applied Economics.

Mr. Kevin RAMKALOAN
(Representative of the Private Sector and member of Board from 22 February 2018 to date)

Mr Kevin Ramkaloan is the CEO of Business Mauritius, the apex organization of the business community on public-private sector dialogue and industrial relations. He was the former Director of the MTPA, the national tourism promotion agency of Mauritius and Director of New Business Development at the Board of Investment, the national investment promotion agency.

Mr Ramkaloan has over 20 years of executive experience in Mauritius and internationally, spanning diverse sectors including public policy, business consulting, hospitality, financial services and the ocean economy among others.

Awarded both the State Scholarship of Mauritius and a US Fulbright, he holds post-graduate degrees in economics and policy from Cambridge University, UK and University of Maine, US respectively.
Mr. Raj MAKOOND
(Representative of the Private Sector and member of the Board from 01 April 2015 to 21 February 2018)

Mr Makoond was previously the CEO of Business Mauritius and was representative of the Private Sector on the Statistics Board from April 2015 to April 2018. Prior to joining Business Mauritius, he was Director of the Joint Economic Council, Deputy Secretary-General of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Senior Economist at the Ministry of Economic Planning & Development.

Mr Makoond co-chaired (2009-2011) the Steering Committee on the implementation of the Additional Stimulus Package (ASP) put into place in response to the global financial crisis. He co-chaired the Restructuring Working Group (2012-2014), a mechanism set up by the Ministry of Finance to support companies in the context of the Euro zone crisis. Mr Makoond chaired the Textile Emergency Support Team (TEST) between 2003 and 2005, set up in the context of the dismantling of the Multi-Fibre Agreement. He chaired the Computer Proficiency Programme (CPP) (2005), a mass IT national training programme in the context of making Mauritius a cyber island. He also co-chaired a wide range of initiatives on Business Facilitation and Ease of Doing Business in Mauritius with the Board of Investment and the Skills Working Group with the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education, the Graduate Training for Employment Scheme (GTES) to address the issue of skills mismatch.

Mr Makoond holds a BA Honours in Economics and an MSc in Tourism Planning.

Ms. Dheemun Devi MANRAJ
(Professional with international experience on Official Statistics and member of the Board from September 2015 to 11 June 2018)

Ms Manraj has a long-standing experience in the field of national accounts, prices, industrial and Government Finance Statistics. During her career, she has worked as Government Statistician and Deputy Director at the then Central Statistical Office of Mauritius, as Regional Advisor for the IMF East AFRITAC in Tanzania, and as Multi Sector Resident Advisor in Uzbekistan. She was also the National Accounts Expert at the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics in Doha, Qatar.

Ms Manraj holds a Graduate Diploma in Statistics from the Royal Statistical Society (RSS), U.K, and is a Chartered Statistician at the same institution.
Mr. Ruben THOPLAN
(Representative of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius and member of the Board from 12 June 2018 to date)

Mr Thoplan is a Senior Lecturer in Statistics from the Department of Economics and Statistics at the University of Mauritius. He holds a BSc (Hons) Statistics with Computer Science from the University of Mauritius and a Master of Applied Statistics from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

Apart from his experience as a Statistician in the private sector, with international experience in academia, Mr Thoplan has been a Statistics Tutor at the Sydney Institute of Business and Technology, Statistical Advisor and Research Assistant at Macquarie University before joining the University of Mauritius as an academic.

He also has a chapter in a book entitled “An In-Depth Analysis of Rising Household Indebtedness in an Upper Middle Income Economy - The Case of Mauritius.” His past research work was based on the modelling of spikes in the spot price of electricity for New South Wales and his current research interest covers the areas of Data Mining and Applied Statistics.

Dr. Naushad Ali MAMODE KHAN
(Representative of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius and member of the Board from 01 April 2015 to 11 June 2018)

Dr Mamode Khan is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Statistics at the University of Mauritius.

He holds a PhD in Statistics from the University of Mauritius and his thesis was based on developing Regression Models for Longitudinal Discrete Data. His research interests are Computational Statistics, Time Series and Longitudinal Data Analysis, Biometric Security and Multivariate Discrete Time Series Modelling, Using Copulas. His recent research papers have been mostly focused on the modelling of non-stationary BINAR (1) and BINMA(1) series and appear in reputed impact-factored Statistics Journals such as Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation, Communication in Statistics-Simulation and Computation, Communication in Statistics-Theory and Methods, Journal of Statistical Theory and Practice among others.
Ms. Li Fa CHEUNG KAI SUET
(Director of Statistics)
Ms Cheung Kai Suet is the Director of Statistics Mauritius. She worked as Senior Economist in the Real Sector Statistics Division of the IMF for two years and resumed her position as Director of Statistics Mauritius in November 2017. During her tenure of office, Mauritius graduated to the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). Ms Cheung Kai Suet is the IMF SDDS National Coordinator (alternate) and Chairperson of the SDDS National Technical Committee. She assisted the Seychelles’ authorities in the SDDS initiatives.

She holds a Graduate Diploma in Statistics from the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) of U.K, equivalent to a U.K Honours Degree in Statistics.

Dr. Deerajen RAMASAWMY
(Co-opted member, Financial Services Commission from 12 June 2018 to date and previously Alternate Co-opted member, Financial Services Commission)

Dr Ramasawmy is an Assistant Director at the Financial Services Commission (FSC) Mauritius and oversees the Financial Stability and Statistics Cluster. He has over 20 years of experience (including 13 at senior management level) in both public and private organisations in Mauritius and the UK.

He has a PhD in Mathematical and Statistical Modelling from Loughborough University, UK including a first class degree in Mathematics. He has successfully completed a Leadership Development Programme by TowerStone, South Africa and a Certificate in External Quality Assurance from UNESCO, France.
Mr. Nasser JEEANODY
(Co-opted member, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life from 20 June 2018 to date)

Mr. Nasser Jeeanody is the Chief Health Statistician at the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life in Mauritius. He has more than 35 years of work experience in the Health Statistics Unit, including in the application of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD10). He is in charge of the Unit since 2003.

Mr. Jeeanody has led the formulation of the Strategic Plan for Health Statistics for the National Strategy for Official Statistics project and is currently involved in the development of the Health Sector Strategy. He has presented the Mauritian experiences in Civil Registration, Vital and Health Statistics in several international forums. He holds a Graduate Diploma in Statistics from the Royal Statistical Society of U.K.
Meetings of the Board

The Act stipulates that the Board shall meet at least once every quarter. Since its reconstitution on 12 June 2018, the Board met 9 times. It also held 2 Special Meetings on the National Strategy for Official Statistics. The previous Board met three times from period January to June 2018. The dates of the meetings and attendance of members are given in Tables 1 and 2.

Funding of Board

The expenditure of the Board for the 18-month period was around MUR 3.4 million, comprising mostly fees to members.

Board Secretariat

SM provided secretariat services and other facilities to the Board through Ms. Y. Cassimally, Deputy Director, and Ms. R. Soborun, Statistician.
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<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Board members</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Meetings and Attendance during January to June 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ms Marie Jennifer JEAN LOUIS</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Mr Ram HITTOO</td>
<td>Alternate, Representative of Financial Secretary Ministry of Finance and Economic Development</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mr Jitendra Nathsing BISSESSUR</td>
<td>Representative of Deputy Governor, Bank of Mauritius</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Mr Raj MAKOOND, Mr Kevin RAMKALOAN</td>
<td>Representative of Private Sector</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Ms Dheemun Devi MANRAJ</td>
<td>Professional with international experience on Official Statistics</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dr. Naushad Ali MAMODE KHAN</td>
<td>Representative of Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Ms Li Fa CHEUNG KAI SUET</td>
<td>Director of Statistics</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mr Deerajen RAMASAWMY</td>
<td>Alternate Co-opted member, Head-Policy (Statistics), Financial Services Commission</td>
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Note: X = absent; ✔ = present
### Table 2: Statistics Board - Meetings and attendance of reconstituted Board

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<th>SN</th>
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<th>Designation</th>
<th>Date of Meetings and Attendance</th>
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<td>WANG WING</td>
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<td>Mr Ram HITTOO</td>
<td>Representative of Financial Secretary</td>
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<td>Mr Mahendra</td>
<td>Second Deputy Governor, Bank of Mauritis</td>
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<td>Vikramdass PUNCHOO</td>
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<td>KOWLESSUR*</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Mr Kevin RAMKALOAN</td>
<td>Representative of Private Sector</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mr Deerajen RAMASAMY</td>
<td>Co-opted member, Financial Services Commission</td>
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Note: X = absent; ✓ = present
ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD
Activities of the Board

(A) National Strategy on Official Statistics

An assessment of the first National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for Mauritius covering the period 2007 - 2012 shows that Statistics Mauritius has successfully implemented most of the recommendations. As a result, the scope, relevance, quality and timeliness of statistics in Mauritius have significantly improved over the past years.

However, with the on-going structural changes in the economy and the increasing importance of evidence-based decision-making, producers of Official Statistics are being called upon to provide more up-to-date statistics in a larger variety of subjects. In addition, new statistics are required with regard to Three-Year Strategic Plans and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context, with the support of the Board, Statistics Mauritius is designing a new National Strategy for Official Statistics (NSOS) for the period 2019 to 2023. It will set for the next 5 years the framework, process and roadmap for strengthening statistical capacity and quality for the entire National Statistical System (NSS) and enhancing cooperation among institutions. The main features of the Strategy will be to:

(i) assess the current state of statistics in priority sectors such as Health, Environment, Labour, Tourism and Education;
(ii) consider cross-cutting issues and broader constraints;
(iii) assess the skills gaps and shortages;
(iv) evaluate the institutional environment;
(v) optimise on digital systems in place or being developed in public sector agencies for Official Statistics generation; and
(vi) propose measures to meet the data needs of users and address skills gaps.

The NSOS is being prepared with the collaboration of concerned line Ministries which carried out a self-assessment exercise. The feedback received from the self-assessment exercise will be incorporated into the NSOS and each sector will continue to develop its own specific Strategic Plan for the improvement of statistics, in parallel.

(B) Peer Review of the National Statistical System

A peer review of the National Statistical System of Mauritius was carried out in May 2018 by a team comprising the Statistician General of Statistics South Africa, the Deputy Director for Statistics at Morocco and ex-Director of Statistics Iceland.

This exercise was part of the Pan-African Statistics (PAS) Peer Reviews organised by the African Union Commission. The peer reviews under the PAS Programme are carried out
according to a Manual for Peer Reviews of National Statistical Systems in Africa, which was prepared under the auspices of the Commission through the PAS Programme and agreed among the statistical authorities of African Union member states.

As per the procedures established in the Manual, during its mission, the team met the Board members to discuss on the independence of Statistics Mauritius, role of the Board in (i) the coordination of the NSS, (ii) the administrative and technical work of Statistics Mauritius, (iii) the release calendars of Official Statistics and (iv) ensuring user’s needs are taken on board by producers of Official Statistics.

The peer review noted that Mauritius has a relatively well developed and operating system for Official Statistics, with good cooperation among the main producers as well as the main data providers. It concluded that Official Statistics produced and disseminated largely comply with the UN Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics.

The report submitted by the mission covered the following five themes

- Organisation and coordination of the NSS
- Institutional environment
- Quality
- Statistical processes
- Dissemination

It contained nineteen recommendations to address the challenges faced by Official Statistics in Mauritius. These included, inter alia, the division of responsibilities between the Director of Statistics and the Statistics Board; better ways of data exchange; ICT arrangements and human resources situation of Statistics Mauritius and the implementation of a framework for systematic quality management.

Some of the recommendations are being addressed while others recommendations are being taken up in the National Strategy for Official Statistics, currently under preparation.

(C) Working Group on Survey Response Rate

Board viewed declining response rates to statistical surveys on households and business establishments as a threat to the quality of Official Statistics. In this regard, a Working Group was set up comprising representatives of Statistics Mauritius, Bank of Mauritius, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, Financial Services Commission and University of Mauritius. The Terms of Reference of the Working Group are to:

(i) establish the extent of household and establishment surveys conducted and planned by the various producers of Official Statistics;

(ii) assess the current situation and practices in terms of data collection methods, questionnaire design practices, response load, communication practices, follow-up procedures;
(iii) examine international trends in surveys and response rates, and identify best practices about how to elicit cooperation of respondents; and

(iv) recommend concrete measures on how to deal with low response rates in household and establishment surveys.

(D) Approval of Census and Survey Plan and related questionnaires

Section 10 of the Act stipulates that, on the recommendation of the Board, the Director can collect statistical information relating to any matter set out in the Act, except the Population Census. In addition, the frequency of the data collection and the particulars and information to be collected are subject to the prior approval of the Board.

The Board approved the census and survey plans for the years 2018 and 2019. It also gave its approval to the particulars and information to be collected in the:

- 2019 Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey
- Living Conditions Survey
- 2018 Census of Economic Activities Phase 2
- Annual Survey of Employment and Earnings in Large Establishments
- Quarterly Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours of work in Large Establishments
- Sugar Industry Statistics-2018 Annual Survey
- Annual Sugar Industry Energy & Water Survey-2018
- Annual Receipt and Expenditure Survey
- Capital Expenditure Survey 2019

Table 3: The 2019 Census and Survey Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surveys</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Living Conditions Survey</td>
<td>Monthly (October 2018 - September 2019)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Survey of Employment and Earnings in large establishments</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours of Work in large establishments</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Capital Expenditure Survey</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Receipt and Expenditure Survey</td>
<td>Quarterly and Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Sugar Industry Statistics</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Sugar Industry Energy and Water Survey</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Census of Economic Activities Phase 2</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(E) **Financial Sector Statistics**

The committee set up under the Statistics Board to assess the statistics on the financial sector met under the chairmanship of Business Mauritius to update the paper on the contribution of the Global Business Sector to the economy in light of major recent legislative and policy developments affecting the sector. Members of the Committee were representatives of Financial Services Commission, Bank of Mauritius, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Economic Development Board and Statistics Mauritius. A document detailing the contribution of Global Business to GDP, Balance of Payments, public finance and employment has been submitted to Board in June 2019.

(F) **Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus**

In 2013, Mauritian Authorities expressed an interest to adhere to SDDS Plus of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Accordingly, preparatory studies and work, including foreign technical assistance, were launched and the project spearheaded by the SDDS National Coordination Committee. The Board is monitoring progress and providing necessary guidance to ensure adherence to SDDS Plus in the medium term.

(G) **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Indicators**

A Committee on SDGs was set up in October 2016 by the Statistics Board to work on the development of the SDG indicators for Mauritius. The Committee identified 219 indicators that are relevant to monitor progress. Out of the 219 indicators, a database of 155 (71%) including 48 proxy indicators, is available and has been published on SM’s website. It has been revised twice to cover improvements in data availability and refinement of UN metadata. 64 indicators are still outstanding, 3 of which fall under the purview of SM and the remainder under the responsibility of other line Ministries.

The Committee has recommended that these outstanding indicators need to be prioritised according to national objectives such as Vision 2030, Budget Report and Strategic Plan so as to make efficient allocation of resources. This exercise will require the involvement of the national body responsible for the implementation of SDGs, the concerned line Ministries/Departments and Statistics Mauritius.

The Committee also made recommendations pertaining to the review of existing data collection system at household/establishment surveys in order to collect new information, enforcement/review of specific legislation to enable collection of required data, development of geospatial data, more use of administrative data and development of a more interactive platform for data dissemination.
LOOKING AHEAD
Looking Ahead

The needs of users of statistics, namely policy makers but also businesses and civil society, have been growing significantly not only in terms of the range and scope of statistics required but also in their sophistication and complexity. With the rapid transformation in the socio-economic structures and sectors, such demand can only accelerate in the years to come.

The Board is conscious that under the present set-up, the resources and institutional capacity of producers of Official Statistics will be put under increasing pressures, thus posing emerging challenges and risks to the quality, consistency and relevance of the statistics being generated by our National Statistical System.

At the same time, fast technological innovation and the digital revolution has opened up unprecedented opportunities in the field of data collection, processing and sharing and is challenging traditional methods of statistical production. Although administrative data are targeted to a purpose other than statistical, they have extensive coverage, are very detailed and disaggregated, are instant and timely and, moreover, are free assets that cannot be ignored by Statisticians.

In view of those considerations and taking a strategic looking ahead, the Board will give priority attention to the following key areas:

(i) Finalisation of the National Strategy for Official Statistics:

The Board will give the necessary strategic guidance for timely finalisation of the on-going design work on the 5-year Strategy. It will also use its leverage to provide full support for smooth and effective implementation of the various measures that will be contained in the Action Plan accompanying the NSOS, including resource and skills mobilisation.

(ii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Peer Review:

The Board will advise and support Statistics Mauritius in the implementation of the various recommendations contained in the Report of the Peer Review. Among others, the Office is coming up with a National Data Quality Assessment Framework based on the Code of Practice for Official Statistics to assess the quality of Official Statistics in the country.

(iii) Building on Digital Systems and Administrative Data for Better Statistics:

The potential of recent and emerging initiatives such as the Open Data Policy, the Government InfoHighway, the e-business licensing platform, the e-health project has yet to be tapped. The Board will support producers of Official Statistics in making effective institutional arrangements for efficient digital transfer of administrative data between and across levels of government as well as for addressing skills and data quality and privacy concerns.
(iv) Improving coordination within the National Statistical System:

Together with producers of Official Statistics, the Board will deepen work towards a better coordination and alignment of their statistical programmes and their release calendars, including surveys. The aim is also to promote comparability of data from different sources, avoid duplication and minimise respondent burden.
Extracts of the Statistics Act 2001 (as amended)

23. The Board

(1) There shall be, for the purposes of this Act, a board which shall be known as the Statistics Board.

(2) The Board shall consist of—

(a) a Chairperson, suitably qualified and experienced in the field of statistics, economics, social sciences, finance, management or related fields, appointed by the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister tendered after the Prime Minister has consulted the Leader of the Opposition, on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Prime Minister;

(b) the Financial Secretary or his representative;

(c) a Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius or his representative;

(d) a representative of the private sector, appointed by the Minister on the advice of the Joint Economic Council;

(e) a qualified and suitable person having international experience on Official Statistics, appointed by the Minister;

(f) the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius or his representative; and

(g) the Director.

(3) —

(a) The members referred to in subsection (2)(d) and (e) shall be appointed by the Minister on such terms and conditions as he may determine.

(b) The Board may co-opt such other person as may be of assistance in relation to any matter before the Board.

(4) Any person co-opted under subsection (3)(b) shall have no right to vote on any matter before the Board.

(5) Every member shall be paid such fees as may be approved by the Minister.

(6) In the discharge of its functions and the exercise of its powers under this Act, the Board shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority.
(7) The President shall, on the advice of the Prime Minister, at any time, terminate the appointment of the Chairperson—

(a) on grounds of any misconduct, default or breach of trust in the discharge of his functions; or

(b) where he is subject to proceedings of such nature as to render desirable the termination of his appointment.

24. Functions of Board

(1) The functions of the Board shall be to—

(a) approve, coordinate and monitor statistical programmes of producers of Official Statistics in order to achieve consistency and efficiency, facilitate integration and promote comparability of data from different sources, avoid duplication, minimise respondent burden, and improve design of data collection and analysis;

(b) advise any producer of statistics on the policy, procedures and regulations relating to the development of Official Statistics;

(c) promote and safeguard the quality of Official Statistics, particularly in relation to their relevance, impartiality, accuracy and timeliness and their coherence;

(d) promote adherence to good practice including accessibility and international recommendations and standards, in particular, the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics and any other internationally accepted principles relating to statistics;

(e) promote and protect the integrity of Official Statistics, including professional independence; and

(f) do every act or thing that is required to be done by the Board under this Act.

(2) The Board may set up one or more committees and may delegate such of its functions under this Act to any committee or the Director as may be necessary to assist the Board in the discharge of its functions.

25. Meetings of Board

(1) The Board shall meet as often as is necessary but at least once every quarter and at such time and place as the Chairperson may determine.

(2) In the absence of the Chairperson at a meeting of the Board, the members present shall elect a member to act as Chairperson for that meeting.

(3) At any meeting of the Board, 4 members shall constitute a quorum.

(4) Subject to this section, the Board shall regulate its meetings in such manner as it thinks fit.

(5) The Director shall provide the Board with such resources as are necessary for the effective performance of its functions.
5. Functions and powers of Director

(1) Subject to this Act, the Director—

(s) shall, with the approval of the Board, publish a Code of Practice for Official Statistics which shall be based on the values of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the African Charter on Statistics, and any other internationally accepted principles relating to statistics;

(t) shall, at the request of the Board, assess and determine whether the Code of Practice for Official Statistics has been complied with in relation to any Official Statistics;

(u) shall, with the approval of the Board, publish, not later than 3 months after the end of every year, a list of Official Statistics;

10. Collection of other statistical information

(1) On the recommendation of the Board, the Director may, from time to time, collect in Mauritius or any part of it, whether in conjunction with a census or not, statistical information relating to all or any of the matters set out in the First Schedule, other than the census referred to in section 9.

(2) The particulars and information to be furnished in relation to any matter in respect of which the statistical information is to be collected under subsection (1) and the frequency of the collection shall be subject to the prior approval of the Board.

14. Access to public and other records

(1) Where the Board has given his approval to, or directed, the collection of statistical information relating to any matter, and where the Director is of opinion that there can be obtained from records of any public sector agency or other person, information sought in respect of the matter in relation to which the collection of statistical information has been approved, or directed, or information which would aid in the completion or correction of the statistical information, any person who has the custody of any of the records shall grant access to them to the Director or an authorised officer for the obtaining from them of the information.