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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,

Annual Report 2017

I have the pleasure in submitting the 2017 Annual Report of the Statistics Board, which was set up under Section 23 of the Statistics Act 2000, for your information. The report will be posted on the website of Statistics Mauritius.

The Annual Report outlines the work undertaken by the Board during 2017 as well as its future plans.

Yours faithfully,

Ms. Marie Jennifer JEAN LOUIS
Chairperson
Statistics Board

May 2018
Introduction

The Statistics Board of Mauritius, set up in September 2011 following amendments made to the Statistics Act 2000, has as primary objectives the approval, co-ordination and monitoring of statistical programmes of producers of official statistics to improve on the consistency and efficiency of data collection and of its comparability, dissemination and analysis. In this way, the Board aims to strengthen the confidence and trust of the public in official statistics by reinforcing the professional and autonomous environment within which the statistical system operates. Over time, in line with its mandate and functions, the Statistics Board has, with the cooperation of key stakeholders, made appreciable headway in effectively contributing to the enhancement of the national statistical system, in support of the country’s economic development aspirations. Membership of the Board consists of high-level and specifically-selected professionals coming from the public and private spheres.

On behalf of my fellow Board members and in my own name, we would like to present the Board’s achievements of 2017.
Achievements

With a view to improving the quality of data produced and disseminated across the country, the Board provides strategic advice to Statistics Mauritius and other producers of official statistics. It met seven times during the year under consideration.

During the year 2017, the Board

a) approved the Census and Survey Plan for 2018 as well as the particulars and information to be collected in the course of the 2018 Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey, 2018 Tourism Surveys and the 2018 Census of Economic Activities;

b) endeavoured to protect the integrity of official statistics. Concerns raised in the media on official labour statistics were discussed thoroughly. The Board took stock of the assessment of the labour statistics system by Dr Agossou, ILO Consultant in June 2016 & April 2017 and acknowledged in a press communiqué issued in June 2017 that official labour market indicators are methodologically sound and compliant with ILO standard;

c) noted the following:

(i) Labour Market Indicators; SM released a set of Key Labour Market Indicators on its website.

(ii) Statistics on Infrastructure; A list of indicators relevant for supporting policy formulation & monitoring has been prepared by a Committee set up under the Board.

(iii) Statistics on Financial Sector; whereby a Committee set up under the Board produced a technical report on the contribution of the Global Business Sector.

(iv) Adherence to IMF SDDS Plus *; Technical Assistance from Africap South on Sectoral Financial Balance Sheet and Residential Property Price Index.

(v) Indicators for monitoring SDGs; SM published 128 out of 217 SDG indicators relevant for Mauritius on its website.

Looking Ahead

In the medium and long-term the Board will continue to provide guidance and support on the following:

(i) Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus (SDDS +);

(ii) The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); and

(iii) Financial Sector Statistics.

The Board will also push forward initiatives linked to:

(iv) Development of Register Based Population Statistics for the production of demographic and social statistics based on administrative registers to cut down costs on social surveys and reduce response burden.

(v) Improvement of statistics on Trade in Services (TIS): The need to compile and report Trade in Services (TIS) statistics with standard definitions, to inform policy decisions during the negotiations.

(vi) Data sharing between and across all levels of government, to optimize on data collected from public money in order to build a comprehensive statistics picture of the country’s socio-economic situation for enhancing decision-making capability of policy makers.

* stringent statistical standard established by IMF relative to economic and financial data in support of domestic and international financial stability
Concluding remarks

I would like to thank my fellow Board members and its Committees for their dedication, support and active participation in discussions held during my tenure as Chairperson.

I also wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to Statistics Mauritius for building on advice provided by the Board and for the provision of secretariat services and other facilities.

To conclude, I am confident that the Statistics Board will remain committed to play an increasingly perceptive role in fostering the production of high quality, relevant and more accessible official statistics.

Ms. Marie Jennifer JEAN LOUIS
Chairperson
Statistics Board
THE STATISTICS BOARD
The Statistics Board

Legislative framework

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

- Providing for better coordination mechanism among producers of Official Statistics through the replacement of the Statistics Advisory Council by a higher-level Statistics Board;
- Enhancing the professional independence of Statistics Mauritius (SM) by reinforcing the duties and powers of the Director of Statistics; and
- Broadening the scope of the Statistics Act to cover all producers of Official Statistics.

Functions of the Board

The Statistics Board was established in September 2011 under Section 23 of the Statistics Act 2000 (amended). 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.

According to the amended Act, the Board shall

(i) 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;
(ii) advise any producer of statistics on the policy, procedures and regulations relating to the development of Official Statistics;
(iii) promote and safeguard the quality of Official Statistics, particularly in relation to their relevance, impartiality, accuracy and timeliness and their coherence;
(iv) promote adherence to good practice including accessibility and implementation of international recommendations and standards, in particular, the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, the African Charter on Statistics and other internationally accepted principles relating to statistics;
(v) promote and protect the integrity of Official Statistics, including professional independence; and
(vi) do every act or thing that is required to be done by the Board under the Act.

The Board also approves the collection of statistical information relating to matters set out in the Act, other than the Population Census, as well as the information to be collected and the frequency of the data collection.

Membership of the Board

As per the Act, the Board shall consist of

(i) 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;
(ii) the Financial Secretary or his representative;

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

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

(v) a qualified and suitable person having international experience on Official Statistics, appointed by the Minister responsible for statistics;

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

(vii) the Director of Statistics Mauritius.

The Board can also co-opt other persons for assistance in relation to any of its matters and set up committees to which it can delegate some of its functions.
Profile of Board Members/Representatives
(effective April 2015)

CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Marie Jennifer JEAN LOUIS

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 currently 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
(Alternate Representative of the Financial Secretary)

Mr. Ram Hittoo is currently a 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. Jitendra Nathsingh BISSESSUR
(Representative of the Second Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mauritius)

Mr. Bissessur is currently the 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.
Dr. Naushad Ali MAMODE KHAN  
(Representative of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius)

Dr. Naushad Ali Mamode Khan is presently 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 and among others.

Ms. Dheemun Devi MANRAJ  
(Professional with international experience on Official Statistics)

Ms. Manraj is currently working as National Accounts Expert at the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics in Doha, Qatar.

She 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.

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.
MEMBERS

Mr. Raj MAKOOND
(Representative of the Private Sector)

Mr. Makoond is presently the Chief Executive Officer of Business Mauritius, the coordinating body of the Mauritius private sector. 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.

He co-chairs with the Board of Investment a wide range of initiatives on Business Facilitation and Ease of Doing Business in Mauritius and also co-chairs 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 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.

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

Ms. Li Fa CHEUNG KAI SUET
(Director of Statistics)

Ms. Cheung Kai Suet is currently 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, and is Chartered Statistician of the RSS.

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Ms. Li Fa CHEUNG KAI SUET
(Director of Statistics)

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Mr. Raj MAKOOND
(Representative of the Private Sector)
Mr. Padassery Kuriakose KURIACHEN  
(co-opted member, Ag. Chief Executive of Financial Services Commission)  
Mr. Kuriachen is the Acting Chief Executive of the Financial Services Commission (FSC), Mauritius. He joined the Commission in 2013 and is on secondment to FSC Mauritius from the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI).  
Prior to joining SEBI in 1993, he worked in the banking sector for some 19 years. He was previously on secondment at the Commission from 2008 to 2010, whereby he headed the Capital Markets Cluster.  
He holds a Diploma in Business Management, MCom, CAIIB and CFA.

Dr. Deerajen RAMASAWMY  
(Alternate co-opted member, Financial Services Commission)  
Dr. Ramasawmy is an Executive at the Financial Services Commission (FSC) Mauritius and heads the Financial Stability, Economic Research and Statistics Cluster. He has over 20 years of experience (including 11 at senior management level) in both public and private organisations in Mauritius and the UK.  
He holds a PhD in Mathematical and Statistical Modelling from Loughborough University, UK including a first class degree in Mathematics. He successfully completed a Certificate in External Quality Assurance from UNESCO, France and a Leadership Development Programme by TowerStone, South Africa.

Ms. Yasmin CASSIMALLY  
(Ag. Director of Statistics until November 2017)  
Ms. Cassimally is currently Deputy Director of Statistics. She acted as Director from July 2016 to November 2017. She has a long standing experience at Statistics Mauritius in the field of official statistics, particularly with regard to prices, poverty, demography, gender, and housing and population census.  
She holds a Graduate Diploma in Statistics from the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) of UK and is Chartered Statistician of the RSS.

Ms. Yasmin CASSIMALLY  
(Ag. Director of Statistics)  
Dr. Deerajen RAMASAWMY  
(Alternate co-opted member, Financial Services Commission)  
Mr. Padassery Kuriakose KURIACHEN  
(co-opted member, Ag. Chief Executive of Financial Services Commission)
Meetings of the Board

The Act stipulates that the Board shall meet at least once every quarter. The Board met seven times in 2017. The dates of the meetings and attendance of members are given in Table 1.

Funding of Board

The expenditure of the Board in 2017 was around MUR 2.3 million, comprising mostly fees to members and Committees of Board.

Board Secretariat

SM provided secretariat services and other facilities to the Board through Mr. M. Dawoonauth, Principal Statistician and Ms. R. Soborun, Statistician.
## Table 1: Statistics Board - Meetings and attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board members</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Date of Meetings and Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ms Marie Jennifer JEAN LOUIS Chairperson</td>
<td>2-Feb-17 16-Mar-17 27-Apr-17 25-May-17 3-Aug-17 11-Oct-17 7-Dec-17 Meetings attended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mr Ram HITTOO Alternate, Representative of Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mr Jitendra Nathsing BISSESSUR Representative of Deputy Governor, Bank of Mauritius</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mr Raj MAKOOND Representative of Private Sector</td>
<td>✓ X ✓ X ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ms Dheemun Devi MANRAJ Professional with international experience on Official Statistics</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dr. Naushad Ali MAMODE KHAN Representative of Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ X ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ms Li Fa CHEUNG KAI SUET Director of Statistics</td>
<td>X X X X X X ✓ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms Yasmin CASSIMALLY Deputy Director of Statistics</td>
<td>✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mr Padassery Kuriakose KURIACHEN Co-opted member, Ag. Chief Executive, Financial Services Commission</td>
<td>✓ X ✓ X X X X 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Deerajen RAMASAWMY Alternate Co-opted member, Head-Policy (Statistics), Financial Services Commission</td>
<td>X ✓ X ✓ ✓ ✓ X 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: X = absent; ✓ = present
ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD
Activities of the Board

(A) Approval of census and survey plan for 2018 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 matters 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 approval of the Board.

In 2017, the Board approved the 2018 census and survey plan. It also gave its approval to the particulars and information collected at the:

- 2018 Continuous Multi-Purpose Household Survey
- 2018 Tourism Surveys, namely the Survey of Inbound Visitors, the Survey on Outbound Tourism and the Survey of Domestic Tourism.
- 2018 Census of Economic Activities (CEA)

The questionnaires of other regular surveys that were approved in the past were not subject to Board’s approval again, as no changes were brought therein.

The census and survey plan for 2018 is given in Table 2.

<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    Survey of Employment and Earnings in large establishments</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3    Survey of Employment, Earnings and Hours of Work in large establishments</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4    Capital Expenditure Survey</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5    Receipt and Expenditure Survey</td>
<td>Quarterly and Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6    Sugar Industry Statistics</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7    Sugar Industry Energy and Water Survey</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8    Survey of Inbound &amp; Outbound Visitors</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9    Survey of Domestic Tourism</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10   Census of Economic Activities</td>
<td>Every 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(B) Labour Market Statistics

In 2016, the Board set up a High Level Working Group (HLWG) on Labour Statistics to, among others:

- come up with a list of Labour Market Indicators (LMIs) needed to inform policy decision; and
- recommend the most appropriate data sources for compiling the LMI and propose changes, if any, to the current data collections.

The Working Group submitted its report which was approved by the Board in August 2017.
Subsequently, SM published some 35 Key Labour Market Indicators (KLIM) on its website in October 2017. The KLIM will be updated and expanded based on new data collections being undertaken.

As regards appropriate data sources for the KLIM, the HLWG recommended the optimal use of administrative data mainly from the Central Information Systems Division (CISD), Ministry of Social Security (MSS), Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the Corporate Business Registration Department (CBRD). SM is already tapping data from these sources; there are some data gaps and negotiations are underway with the concerned departments for obtaining more relevant and structured data through the InfoHighway.

(C) Infrastructure Statistics

Following the pressing needs of users for infrastructure indicators, the Statistics Board, in October 2016, set up ‘The Committee on Infrastructure Statistics’, the aim of which was to recommend a list of indicators on Infrastructure to be developed with the aim of supporting evidence-based policy decisions.

The Committee submitted its report in November 2017. It identified a list of some 500 indicators as being relevant for supporting policy formulation, monitoring and decisions. The indicators were classified under 3 sectors:

- Transport (air, sea and land)
- Utilities (electricity, water & sanitation, ICT)
- General Indicators (e.g. GDP, Government Expenditure, Investment, Household consumption, etc)

The Board advised Statistics Mauritius to publish a report on core indicators for users to make better use of the Infrastructure situation.

(D) Financial Sector Statistics

In 2016, a committee was set up under the Statistics Board to assess the demand for statistics to monitor the financial sector. A presentation on the main findings of the committee with respect to the contribution of the Global Business sector to the economy was made by the committee’s Chairperson in December 2017. In the light of the presentation, the Board recommended that a report be prepared on the contribution of the Global Business sector to GDP, employment, government revenue, import and export of services as well as Balance of Payment.

(E) Statistics on Rodrigues

The Board took stock of bottlenecks being encountered in the production of reliable economic statistics for Rodrigues, one of it being the absence of a qualified and experienced professional in the field of statistics in Rodrigues to drive the project. In this context, action is being initiated to recruit a professional Statistician with extensive experience in official statistics to lead statistical development in Rodrigues.

(F) Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) Plus of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

In 2013, Mauritian Authorities expressed their interest to adhere to SDDS Plus * but no commitment has yet been taken. In this context, the Board is continuously monitoring the activities and providing necessary guidance to producers of official statistics to ensure adherence to SDDS Plus in the medium term.

* stringent statistical standard established by IMF relative to economic and financial data in support of domestic and international financial stability
The work in progress on SDDS Plus for the 9 data categories as at December 2017 is given in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Categories of SDDS Plus</th>
<th>Work in progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Sectoral Financial Balance sheet</td>
<td>IMF provided Technical Assistance (TA) to SM in April 2016 and April 2017. A first set of balance sheet data from various sources have been collected and used to compile balance sheet by instrument as at June 2016.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 General Government Operations</td>
<td>A survey among Extra Budgetary Units (EBUs) and Local Authorities has been conducted and required statistics compiled for Q1 2016 to Q3 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 General government, total gross debt</td>
<td>Data for Government is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Other financial corporations survey (OFCS)</td>
<td>A survey has been conducted and required statistics compiled for Q1 2016 to Q3 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Financial Soundness Indicators</td>
<td>The first six components have been completed by BoM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Debt Securities</td>
<td>Data for the Government sector and for the banking sector are already published on the website of MOFED and BOM respectively. Work in progress with regard to data on the Financial Services Sector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS)</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS)</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Currency Composition of Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER)</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(G) **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

In October 2016, a Committee on SDGs was set up by the Statistics Board to work on the development of the indicators. The Committee identified 217 indicators that are relevant to monitor progress in the Republic of Mauritius. Out of the 217 indicators, a database of 128 (60%) available indicators has been published on SM’s website and will be subject to regular updating further to improvement in data availability and refinement of UN metadata.

In order to track progress at the national level, national targets remain to be determined. To that effect, the Strategic Policy and Planning Department (SPPD) of MoFED, which is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of SDGs at national level, is taking the lead.

(H) **Integrity of Statistics**

Further to concerns raised in the media on official labour statistics, the Board discussed thoroughly on this issue. It took stock of the assessment of the labour statistics system by Dr Agossou, ILO Consultant in 2016 and 2017, and concluded that official labour market indicators are methodologically sound and compliant with ILO standard. The Board endeavoured to protect the integrity of official labour statistics through a press communiqué issued in June 2017.
LOOKING AHEAD
Looking Ahead

In addition to the continuation of past initiatives, the Board would like to provide the necessary support on the following:

(i) **The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)**

The first National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for Mauritius covering the period 2007 - 2012 was launched in 2007.

An assessment of the 2007 NSDS shows that Statistics Mauritius has successfully implemented most of the recommendations. Amongst others, the Statistics Act has been revised to set the ground for an autonomous Statistics Office and a Statistics Board came into force in September 2011; an e-business plan was designed and implementation is ongoing; the quality of Mauritius statistics has improved and is now to SDDS standards; and MOUs have been signed with key stakeholders to improve data collection and sharing.

Still, challenges remain, particularly in the wake of globalization and data revolution. There is thus a strong need to have an up-to-date NSDS and the Board will fully support Statistics Mauritius to carry out this exercise.

(ii) **Trade in Services (TIS)**

In the context of SADC negotiations on trade in services in the region and in the absence of the necessary information on this trade, Member states had identified the need to develop a common instrument to compile and report trade in services (TIS) statistics with standard definitions, which would inform the trade in services negotiations and support negotiators in making their policy choices during the negotiations.

The SADC templates for trade in services statistics had been developed in 2014 and approved in 2016 to address this requirement for a common tool for the reporting of statistics. The templates use the latest international standards for economic statistics (MSITS 2010, BPM6, SNA 2008, ISIC Rev 4) and would facilitate the production of reliable, comparable and analytically useful data.

The Bank of Mauritius, as the official compiler of external sector statistics for Mauritius, will initiate work on the measurement of trade in services and implementing the SADC templates with the support of SM and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(iii) **Code of Practice for Official Statistics**

The Code of practice for official statistics, approved by the Statistics Board in May 2013, represents a set of principles and indicators of good practice intended to improve the quality, relevance and credibility of Official Statistics. It also aims at ensuring that the statistics are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards and that they are well explained. Mindful of the importance of high quality of official statistics, the Board will promote initiatives to determine whether the Code of Practice is being applied and respected by all producers of Official Statistics which must guarantee the standards of statistics produced and disseminated.

(iv) **Data dissemination**

Data dissemination in user-friendly and engaging ways is a pre-requisite for informed decisions. In today’s world where people are bombarded by information every day, there is need for official data providers to use new tools to make their statistics more accessible, and more importantly to ensure that official statistics are looked upon as an authoritative source. In addition to the release of the traditional paper and on-line publications, more accessible and innovative means of dissemination that meet the divergent users’ needs for data should be used. In this regard, the Statistics Board will provide strong support to Statistics Mauritius in expanding and enhancing its modes of data dissemination.
C/O Statistics Mauritius
LIC Centre
John Kennedy St
Port Louis
Mauritius

Tel: 208 1800
Fax: 211 4150
Email: statsmauritius@govmu.org
Website: http://statsmauritius.govmu.org