UNDP Suriname, CARICOM and the General Bureau of Statistics (ABS) of Suriname organized a Conference on Poverty Measurement in Paramaribo, August 24th and 25th 2010. The overall objective of the Conference was to build consensus on the determination of an official poverty line for Suriname and related methods of poverty measurement, including the introduction of measurement of multidimensional poverty.

National, regional and international experts contributed to the conference from ABS, CARICOM, Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Saint Lucia Statistics Department, Centro de Estudios Distributivos, Laborales y Sociales (CEDLAS) from the Universidad De La Plata (World Bank's partner), UNDP, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), International Labor Organization (ILO), UNICEF, and the statistical office of the European Union (EUROSTAT). Around 120 participants from the Government of Suriname, International Organizations and civil society participated in the Conference.

The Conference is framed in the context of the support that UNDP and CARICOM are providing to the Government of Suriname (GoS) in the process of designing and approving a National Strategy for the Development of Statistic (NSDS) that is led by the ABS. The NSDS is expected to provide the country with a strategy for strengthening statistical capacity across the entire national statistical system (NSS).

Suriname, like many other countries in the region and around the globe faces the challenges of measuring poverty. For the measurement of poverty, there is a large array of instruments that can be used, and the statistical offices identify those that are technically more relevant to their specific purposes, and practical in terms of their financial resources and technical and administrative skills. A report with the conclusions and recommendations from the Conference will be shared with inter alia the policy makers in Suriname, with the aim of contributing to the measurement of poverty in Suriname.

Report on the Conference