

**(OECS Secretariat, Castries, Saint Lucia, Monday 17<sup>th</sup>, September 2012)** The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is to provide technical assistance in transferring to the OECS Secretariat, a website with useful Population and Housing Census information for Member States.

The content of the website, which currently focuses on dissemination of information on census-related documents, data and activities, will be expanded to include dissemination of other data as needs and utilization levels increase.

The site is also designed to function as a Resource Center, featuring articles and documents, related websites and a database of experts.

The website will also feature FAQs, a calendar on which events and activities can be posted, a News and Updates function, a web forum as well as web chat features.

This initiative represents one of several ongoing and planned activities of the OECS Secretariat geared towards facilitating greater data accessibility across the OECS economic union.

The website was originally developed by the UNFPA Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean and transfer of ownership of the website also provides the OECS Secretariat with the technical capacity to manage and maintain it.

Sean Curtis Mathurin at the OECS Secretariats says in addition, the two agencies will collaborate in identifying the content to be posted in order to keep the website updated and responsive to the data and information needs of OECS Member States: “***There will be continuous and further support from UNFPA to help ensure the sustained relevance of the website and its functionalities***”.

This initiative takes place within the context of the OECS UNFPA Memorandum of

Understanding, which provides a broad framework for cooperation between the OECS Secretariat and UNFPA for collaboration on population related issues.