PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF BELIZE (SIB) HOSTS DATA USER CONFERENCE TO ADVANCE EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

Belize City, October 17, 2025 – The Statistical Institute of Belize (SIB), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), proudly hosted the 2025 Data User Conference (DUC) today at the Best Western Plus Belize Biltmore Plaza in Belize City. This flagship event is a key highlight of Statistics Week, which celebrates Caribbean Statistics Day on October 15 each year.

Funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) through UNDP Belize, the conference brought together over 50 participants from government ministries, academia, research institutions, the media, and civil society. The DUC aims to strengthen the use of data for governance, policy formulation, and climate resilience—supporting Belize's ongoing commitment to evidence-based decision-making.

The conference featured a robust agenda, including the launch of two census thematic reports: one on migration and the other on multidimensional poverty, as well as a presentation on family farming in Latin America and the Caribbean. Discussions explored how data can inform inclusive policies, improve poverty measurement, and enhance food security and climate resilience.

Panel discussions focused on:

- Migration trends and policy responses for Belize
- The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and its role in targeting development priorities
- Strengthening family farming for food security and rural livelihoods

Participants also had the opportunity to view the best communication products developed through the online climate advocacy training provided by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). The conference concluded with reflections on how strong data management practices support science, policy, and practical decision-making through a presentation by the University of Belize's Environmental Research Institute.

The SIB extends sincere gratitude to KOICA for its generous contribution; UNDP and the Sustainable Development Unit for assistance in planning the event; PARIS21 for supporting the conference through climate advocacy training for National Statistical System (NSS) partners; the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for supporting the production of the Census thematic report on migration and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for their collaboration on the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report. We also thank the University of Belize

for its participation and all attendees for their engagement and shared commitment to harnessing data for a better Belize. This collaborative event underscores the vital role of reliable statistics and data-driven approaches in advancing national development.

End

For more information, please contact:
Javier Romero
Communications & Marketing Officer
jromero@mail.sib.org.bz