



SPECIAL FOCUS:

- Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa), p2
- Africa in Global Statistical System, p38



Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, the Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of UNECA receiving African Statistics Award from Mr. Trevor Manuel, the South African Minister of Finance on behalf of the statistical community in Africa at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 31 March 2008

African Statistical Newsletter

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ATTENTION PARTICULIÈRE:

- Commission statistique pour l'Afrique (StatCom-Afrique), p2
- L'Afrique dans le système statistique mondial, p38



M. Abdoulie Janneh, Sous-Secrétaire général et Secrétaire exécutif de la CEA, en recevant le prix africain de la statistique de M. Trevor Manuel, le ministre des finances d'Afrique du Sud, au nom de la communauté statistique en Afrique à Addis-Abeba, en Éthiopie, le 31 mars 2008

Bulletin d'information statistique africain

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African Centre for Statistics, UNECA

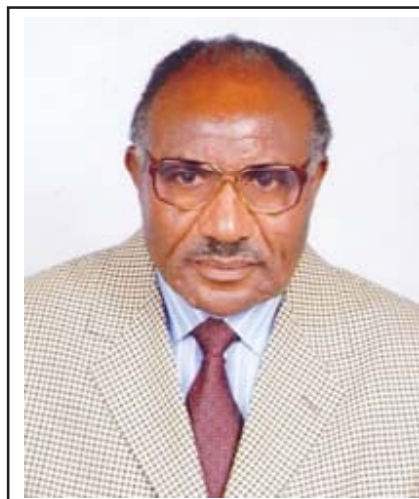
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FROM THE DIRECTOR, ACS



Ben Kiregyera (PhD), Director, ACS

I welcome readers to this 2nd issue of the African Statistical Newsletter, which was launched in Accra, Ghana early December 2007 during the 3rd African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD). We are very much encouraged and thank all those who have contributed to this and the previous issue of the newsletter and those who have sent us useful feedback about the newsletter in general.

This issue is devoted to reporting on two recent landmark events, which have given further impetus to the development of statistics in Africa. These are the 3rd African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD III) and the 1st meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa). The ASSD III took place in the Ghanaian capital of Accra from 3 to 7 December 2007 and was officially opened on behalf of the President of Ghana by Dr. Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, the Honourable Minister of Finance and Planning. In addition, the Minister officially launched the newsletter. The symposium was preceded by a regional workshop on African Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB). Key aspects of the workshop and the symposium are presented in this issue of the newsletter.

The second event is the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa). The first meeting of the commission (StatCom-Africa I) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20 to 24 January 2008. It was preceded by the 1st regional seminar ever held on leadership and management for leaders of national statistical systems in Africa including Chairpersons of Statistical Boards/Statistical Councils/Inter-Ministerial Statistical Committees; Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs); Presidents/Chairpersons of National Statistical Associations; Directors of Regional Statistical Training Centres; and Managers of Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) Units from across Africa. The African Centre for Statistics recognizes the leadership roles played by these actors in the statistical development in Africa.

Because StatCom-Africa I was held when the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) was celebrating its 50th anniversary, advantage was taken of the event to honour those who have made great contribution to statistical development in

Africa over the years, including Mr. Abdoullie Janneh, the current Executive Secretary of the UNECA. Other recipients of the award are: Julien Augustin Amegandjin (Togo), Oladejo O. Ajayi (Nigeria), Lamine Diop (Senegal), Kweku Twum deGraft-Johnson (Ghana) and Pali Jobo Lehohla (South Africa). StatCom-Africa I was followed by the 3rd Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV III), which brought together main

development partners involved in statistical development in Africa and those who collect and manage official statistics in Africa. There is extensive reporting of the StatCom-Africa event in this issue.

It is worth reporting that Africa has been in limelight internationally. Not only was Africa the first region (continent) to present a report on the state of its statistical development to the UN Statistical Commission for discussion but also the Statistician General of South Africa, Mr. Pali Lehohla, was elected the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission in New York in February 2008 for the next two years.

In addition to reporting on the above two events, there are a couple of articles from countries. We encourage the statistical community in Africa to continue using this newsletter and its companion, the African Statistical Journal, as outlets for sharing knowledge, experience and best practices in statistical development in Africa. We welcome short articles (2 to 3 pages), comments on what we publish, and information on significant statistical activities taking place in the countries.

Finally, we have a better opportunity now than ever before to raise the profile of statistics and put statistical development in Africa on a whole new trajectory. We have an obligation to exploit this opportunity to the fullest extent possible and to support our countries' and the region's commitments and efforts to achieve development results. Let us share knowledge, information and best practices on how this could be or is being done across Africa.

□

I. STATISTICAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (STATCOM-AFRICA)

Keynote Address: Global Statistical System and the Role of Statistical Commissions

Dr. Gilberto Calvillo Vives, Chairman of the United Nations Statistical Commission, Chairman of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and President of the Mexican National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Informatics

21 January 2008, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Dr. Gilberto Calvillo Vives

Distinguished Executive Secretary,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates of the Statistical Commission for Africa,

It is for me a great honour to deliver today the keynote address at this historical First Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa. Over the past 2 years I have served both as the Chairman of the United Nations Statistical Commission and as the Chairman of the Statistical Conference of the Americas. I am therefore very familiar with the complexities, but also with the opportunities, of building a regional and a global statistical system. I would, therefore, like to congratulate you from the outset for taking this important and courageous step of forming the Statistical Commission for Africa and, thus, for taking on the challenge of building a true African Statistical System. My first important message to you is that you are not alone in this undertaking. The professional statistical community, both at the global as well as at the regional levels is standing behind you, ready to share relevant experiences and to assist you, in whatever way we can. In this context it is also my pleasure to convey to you the greetings of Mr. Paul Cheung, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, who, unfortunately, cannot be here today; however, he asked me to assure you that he and his team of professionals in New York are committed to fully support you in your efforts.

Let me structure my remarks at the opening of this meeting into three parts: (i) I would like to share with you some reflections regarding the

'global statistical system', what it is and why we need it. (ii) I will offer you a short overview of the Statistical Commissions, both at the global and at the regional level, sharing thereby experiences of their functioning and highlighting some of their achievements; and lastly (iii) I would like to outline some of the key challenges I see ahead of us.

The past decade has witnessed a trend towards the 'globalization of the demand for official statistics'. The global economy as well as social and environmental development challenges, such as the spread of HIV or climate change, that do not recognize borders, have increased our "information interdependence". Governments, the private sector, researchers and the public at large demand comparable and reliable data not only for their own country, but also for other countries and for regional and global aggregates. Agreements on development policy frameworks, such as the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, are evidence that the information demand is not merely international, it is global.

The response to the challenge of the globalization of the demand for official statistics is the global statistical system: its elements are the national statistical systems and the international agencies, which are active in producing and disseminating official statistics at the sub-regional, regional and global level. The elements of the global statistical system are linked with each other in a complex network of bi- and multi-lateral data exchanges and cooperation. Despite all the cultural and political differences and the amazing variety of backgrounds, one of the cornerstones of the global statistical system is a strong sense of community, which is based on shared professional ethics. This professional vision has been enshrined in the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which were adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1994.

As the network of global statistics continuously expands and gets more complex, there is an increasing need for governance and leadership. Given that the ultimate decision power, the resources and the statistical expertise, reside with the member states, it is only a logical consequence that the leading regional and global bodies should take the form of intergovernmental Commissions. This is the reason why the United Nations Statistical Commission has not only been a crucial factor in building and strengthening regional and global statistical systems in the past, but that the UNSC is also well placed to provide leadership in the future for a higher level of cooperation, even with a largely increased number of actors.

In the following I will briefly describe the functioning and the achievements of the United Nations Statistical Commission, as well as of the United Nations Regional Statistical Conferences in Europe and in Latin America.

The first regular session of the Statistical Commission was held from 27 January to 7 February 1947.

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It focused its attention on promoting the development of national statistics, the improvement of comparability and the coordination with specialized agencies. In a nutshell this is still the essence of the Commission's work today, as it concentrates, in line with its mandate, on the following four areas of work: (i) developing standards and methods for official statistics to ensure comparability of data across countries; (ii) managing the compilation of global statistical data through the collection of national data and dissemination of world data tables, including relevant regional and global aggregates; (iii) strengthening the national statistical systems in member states through a wide-range of targeted technical cooperation programmes; (iv) coordinating activities of the global statistical system.

The major tangible accomplishment of the Statistical Commission is of course the body of statistical standards, frameworks, conceptual definitions and methodological guidelines that it has created over time. In a way the Statistical Commission has created the language for Statisticians world wide to communicate. These statistical standards have made it possible for nationally produced data to become comparable and to be meaningfully aggregated. This is a necessary condition to enable development policy makers and development analysts to use data at the international level.

The International Classifications, the System of National Accounts, the Census Recommendations, to name just a few, have become the backbone of the global statistical system. Whilst in the early years the focus was more on the classical development issues, such as national income measurement, trade and population, over time new policy concerns called for the enlargement of the statistical 'tool-box' to cover areas such as social indicators and environment statistics in the 1980s and 90s. So, as the world grew increasingly global, the Statistical Commission has provided the frameworks and tools to compile, compare and aggregate national data.

Whilst there has been considerable progress in the development of methodological tools, there has been continued concern about the practical implementation of many of the new – or even not so new – statistical frameworks. The building of national statistical capacity has been a key issue on the agenda of the Commission since the very beginning. The Commission played a leading role in the wake of the decolonization of the 60s and early 70s, calling for large-scale technical assistance to newly independent States. The World Population and Housing Census Programmes recommended by the Commission for the first time in 1965 and then later the establishment of the National Household Survey Capability Programme in 1976 assisted many countries around the world to build basic national statistical systems. Strengthening Statistical Capacity is still the major item on our agenda as evidenced by the 2006 resolution on this topic.

This latest round of discussions on national statistical capacity had actually been prompted by the concerns around the Millennium Development Indicators. As many of the Millennium Development

Goals contained specific numerical targets, the statistical community in general, and the Statistical Commission in particular, was thrown into the centre of an often highly politicized debate on monitoring the follow-up to the UN conferences. The Statistical Commission responded to the challenge and increased visibility by doing what it does best: focusing on its professional/technical expertise. Through the proven practical mechanism of a Friends of the Chair expert group it identified the areas where additional technical work is needed and it successfully shifted the focus from 'indicator debate' to 'capacity building debate'.

The debate about the Millennium Development Indicators has brought another ongoing concern of the Statistical Commission to the fore, which is the effective coordination and cooperation among the international statistical partners. The network of international statistical offices has grown increasingly complex, including specialized agencies, supra-national, regional and international organizations. Whilst this doubtlessly offers great opportunities in terms of specialization and division of labour, it also poses new challenges and requires the Statistical Commission to play an effective role as the only global and universal statistical body, which has indeed a mandate for coordination. The importance of the Commission is enhanced by the fact that its annual sessions are attended by over 100 countries, headed by senior experienced officials and by representatives from virtually all international organizations with statistical programmes.

At the regional level the work of the UN Statistical Commission is complemented and supported by relevant regional intergovernmental bodies in Statistics. In Europe the Conference of European Statisticians has been active for 55 years. The Conference meets once a year and is attended by the Heads of National Statistical Offices from virtually all European countries, as well as by those of some industrialized countries outside Europe. The Conference is supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, which prepares the sessions together with the member states and in partnership with some European based international organizations such as OECD and Eurostat. The agenda of the Conference of European Statisticians covers the broad range of all statistical sectors. The Conference has a long history of developing regional standards. Two features of the current functioning of the Conference are particularly noteworthy here: (i) the Conference elects a very active Bureau, that meets twice a year in the inter-session period, following up on the decisions of the Conference and thus ensuring, continuity. (ii) at each Conference session the agenda includes two topical seminars, where a number of papers are presented and discussed, allowing, thus, a deeper analysis of the specific topics selected.

In my home region – the Americas – a regular Statistical Conference was established in 2001. The Statistical Conference of the Americas meets every other year and is attended by all Chief Statisticians of the region, including those from regional and

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international organizations. The meetings are supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Whilst the agenda of the Conference is a priori open to include all statistical areas, the Conference decided at its session in 2005, that it would benefit from giving its priority attention to the following three substantive areas, which are part of the global agenda: (i) Statistical support for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, (ii) Strengthening national statistical capacity and (iii) the 2010 Census Round. The Conference elects an executive committee, which formally meets twice, ensuring continuity in the inter-session period. Furthermore, the Conference has constituted various topical working groups, under the leadership of specific member countries. In this context it is noteworthy to acknowledge the partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, which has assisted the Conference and in particular some of the working groups, by providing financial support for specific activities.

I hope that this very short description of the functioning and the achievements of the other United Nations Statistical Commissions will provide some inspiration for you - the architects of the African Statistical System. I can assure you, that I and my colleagues around the globe are eager to support you, especially through the sharing of practical experiences. In fact, the UN Statistical Commission has the topic of the 'Regional Development of Statistics' on its agenda for the forthcoming session in February 2008 in New York, and it has, in particular, invited ECA to report on the recent efforts to strengthen statistics in Africa. The outcome of this meeting will be available to the delegates of the UN Statistical Commission as a background document, thus ensuring the linkages between regional and global statistical development.

In this last part of my address I would like to briefly talk about the important challenge lying ahead of you and us, namely to firmly establish the Statistical Commission for Africa. From my own experience of building up the Statistical Conference of the Americas, I know that the most important first step, namely having this meeting, has been done. Still, this is only the first step. To make the Commission really work, to turn this Commission into the authoritative and leading body for African Statistical Development, a number of conditions need to be fulfilled: At the country level, there needs to be commitment to regional cooperation. This may require initially an additional effort by a particular country, in terms of taking responsibility for leading a working group or hosting an event, but in my view there is sufficient scope for the effective exchange of experiences and for sharing the load of developing new techniques or methods, that cooperation will ultimately be beneficial for all. In order to achieve concrete results within a foreseeable future, it may be necessary for the Commission to focus initially on selected statistical areas.

No process can be successful and sustainable without adequate secretariat support. It is, therefore, crucial that ECA continue to provide full professional support for the Commission. At this

point I would like to recognize the excellent leadership of the Executive Secretary Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, who has given his strong backing to the statistical programme of ECA. This has made it possible that the StatCom-Africa is meeting here today, supported by the ECA-African Centre for Statistics under the able guidance of its Director Mr. Ben Kiregyera. ECA needs to continue this important work of preparing, carrying out and following up on the sessions of the Statistical Commission for Africa.

And lastly, at the level of the international and regional organizations, as well as of the development partners, there needs to be recognition, that this body, bringing together all the Chief Statisticians from African countries, is the legitimate and appropriate forum to discuss and coordinate all matters related to statistical development in this region. The Statistical Commission for Africa offers an important forum for countries to exercise their leadership and ultimately hold international agencies to account.

Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you again for this important step forward of creating the Statistical Commission for Africa. From my work at the UN Statistical Commission and from my previous interactions with colleagues from this continent, I know that many of you have been doing dedicated professional statistical work at the national level, under often difficult circumstances. These national accomplishments are the building blocks for the African Statistical System.

I wish you a most productive session over the next few days, and I wish the Statistical Commission for Africa success for the future.



Report on the First Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa: Setting Up Statistical Development in Africa

Dimitri Sanga, ACS

A. Brief report

To efficiently serve its member states in different areas of intervention, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has since its inception established, a number of subsidiary bodies as part of its inter-governmental machinery. In the area of statistics and statistical development, the status of these subsidiary bodies have changed over time reflecting the changing profile of statistics as a thematic area within the UNECA. The first subsidiary body to deal with statistics was the Conference of African Statisticians established in 1959, a year after the establishment of the UNECA, while the last but one was the Committee on Development Information (CODI) established in 1997 by the twenty-third meeting

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of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (CoM). The CODI was set up to provide policy and technical guidance for the sub-programme “harnessing information for development” and comprised three sub-committees covering the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Statistics and Geo-information.

Following the last UNECA repositioning exercise, the statistics division was re-established in August 2006 as the African Centre for Statistics (ACS). It was, therefore, imperative to put in place a new subsidiary body specifically devoted to statistics and statistical development on the continent. This new subsidiary body provides a forum for discussions and decisions on all aspects related to statistical development, which are of interest to its members within the framework of the policies and procedures of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the CoM. The last CoM held in Addis Ababa from 2 to 3 April 2007 endorsed the creation of the new subsidiary body in charge of statistics: the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa).

The ACS organized the first meeting of StatCom-Africa from 20 to 24 January 2008, at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme “Scaling up Statistical Development in Africa”.

Attendance

The session was attended by delegates from 42 member states of the UNECA comprising mainly Heads of National Statistics Offices (NSOs), National Statistical Councils, and National Poverty Reduction Strategy Units. Moreover, for the first time, National Statistical Associations representatives from 10 African countries attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by observers from non-African states, as well as international, regional, sub-regional organizations, and statistical training centres.



Countries at the first StatCom-Africa meeting



Partners at the first StatCom-Africa meeting

The Bureau

The first meeting of StatCom-Africa elected the following Bureau by acclamation: South Africa, Morocco, Niger, Uganda, and Cameroon as chair, vice-chair, second vice-chair, rapporteur, and second rapporteur respectively.

A rich programme

The meeting took stock of ongoing efforts in the field of statistics and facilitated the exchange of experiences and best practices by countries, sub-regional, regional, and international organizations, as well as development partners, in statistical development on the continent. Key agenda items included the formal launching of the Statistical Commission and setting up of a strong bureau and various working groups according to priority needs in statistical development on the continent, namely: (i) Development Indicators, (ii) Informal Sector, (iii) National Accounts, (iv) Data Management, (v) Statistical Training, and (vi) Gender Statistics.

In addition, a number of events took place back-to-back with StatCom-Africa. Two seminars were organized as pre StatCom-Africa events on “Effective Leadership and Management of National Statistical Systems” and the “Design and Implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)” while the Third Meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV) took place as a post StatCom-Africa event on the theme “Scaling up Statistical Development in Africa – Donors’ Perspective.”

Award ceremony

A special ceremony was held to mark the 50th anniversary of UNECA. First, the Chair of the Friends of UNECA bestowed an award on the UNECA Executive Secretary, in recognition of his efforts as a champion of statistics in Africa and his major contribution in revamp-

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ing the statistical function at his institution. The ACS then bestowed Africa Statistics Awards on five persons who had, over many years, played leading roles in the development of statistics on the continent. The five persons honoured were: Mr Julien Amegandjin, Mr Oladejo Ajayi, Mr Kweku deGraft-Johnson, Mr Lamine Diop, and Mr Pali Lehohla. These countries awards were made on behalf of the statistical community in Africa, and with the concurrence of the African Statistics Coordination Committee.

Some of the recommendations

The meeting came up with strong recommendations and called on African countries to mainstream statistics into national planning and budgeting processes to ensure statistical activities are adequately funded and seen as a key element in the development process, rather than as an add-on. Development partners were also called upon to provide sustainable technical and financial assistance for the collection, processing, analysis and use of data, particularly data necessary for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals.

The way forward

StatCom-Africa will meet every two years, but its working groups will meet at least once a year to monitor progress and take strategic decisions on statistical work in Africa. The next meeting of StatCom-Africa is scheduled for 18 to 22 January 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The success of this first meeting of the StatCom-Africa resided in the ability to bring together various stakeholders in statistical development in Africa. In fact, by bringing together a unique mix of producers, users, and development partners, the first meeting of StatCom-Africa has certainly established solid foundations for statistical capacity building efforts in Africa.

B. Communiqué

The full document can be found at <http://www.uneca.org/statistics>



The African Centre for Statistics exhibition stand at the StatCom-Africa I meeting



Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia exhibited its products at StatCom-Africa I meeting



Mr. Abraham Owino, President of the Uganda Statistical Society and Mr. John B. Male-Mukasa, the Executive Director of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics made a courtesy call on the Director, ACS



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Introduction du rapport de la Commission Économique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique à la trente neuvième session de la Commission Statistique des Nations Unies

Dimitri Sanga, ACS

Faisant à la demande spécifique formulée par la Commission Statistique des Nations Unies lors de sa trente huitième session tenue à New York en février 2007, la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA) a présenté un rapport sur l'état des lieux du développement de la statistique sur le continent africain au nom de la communauté statistique africaine. Cet article reprend, dans les lignes qui suivent, le texte introductif dudit rapport.

Monsieur le président la Commission Statistique des Nations Unies,

Je voudrais, de prime à bord, m'acquitter du noble devoir de vous féliciter pour votre élection en tant que président de la Commission statistique pour l'Afrique il y a de cela un mois, et de votre élection au cours de cette session comme président de la Commission. Cette double élection témoigne non seulement de la confiance que la communauté statistique a envers votre personne mais aussi, à travers vous, envers l'Afrique. Permettez-moi, en ce sens, de vous féliciter au nom de la communauté statistique africaine.

Monsieur le président, le rapport que la CEA présente devant cette auguste assemblée fait essentiellement état des problèmes et défis auxquels font face les pays africains dans le cadre du renforcement de leurs capacités statistiques en vue de soutenir leurs efforts de développement. Il donne aussi un aperçu des initiatives prises par les différentes parties prenantes africaines en vue de surmonter les-dits défis.

En termes de défis, monsieur le président, le rapport note, entre autres, l'absence de planification à long terme du développement des statistiques ou le caractère insuffisant de cette planification; l'insuffisance des ressources tant humaines que financières; la participation des pays africains dans le programme de comparaison internationale et la série de recensements de la population et de l'habitat de 2010; ainsi que la coordination des activités et programmes statistiques au niveau du continent.

Pour remédier à ces problèmes, plusieurs initiatives ont été adoptées dans la région par les différents intervenants. Celles-ci incluent le renforcement des fonctions statistiques au sein des principaux organismes régionaux; la préparation et la mise en œuvre du Cadre stratégique régional de référence pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques en Afrique; la préparation et la mise en œuvre des stratégies nationales pour le développement de la statistique; le Symposium africain sur le développement de la statistique; le Programme de comparaison internationale pour l'Afrique; la création de

la Commission statistique pour l'Afrique; la préparation et la mise en œuvre de la Charte africaine de la statistique; la mise en place et le fonctionnement de l'Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne (Afristat); la mise en place d'un Comité africain de coordination des activités statistiques; la célébration de la Journée africaine de la statistique; ainsi que la publication du Journal statistique africain et du Bulletin d'information statistique africain.

La Commission souhaitera peut-être exprimer ses vues et soutenir les mesures suivantes, afin d'améliorer l'aptitude des pays africains à répondre à la demande de plus en plus pressante de statistiques de qualité émanant des efforts consentis par les pays africains dans leur poursuite des objectifs tant nationaux, sous régionaux, régionaux, qu'internationaux de développement. Il s'agit de :

a) Reconnaître le Cadre stratégique régional de référence pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques en Afrique comme outil privilégié pour canaliser la plupart des efforts visant à promouvoir le développement statistique en Afrique;

b) Demander aux pays africains et aux partenaires en développement d'accorder une place de choix à la statistique dans leurs programmes de développement et de soutenir l'intégration des statistiques dans les processus nationaux de développement, y compris les stratégies de réduction de la pauvreté;

c) Demander à tous les pays africains d'élaborer des stratégies nationales de développement de la statistique et aux partenaires en développement de prêter leur concours à l'élaboration et à la mise en œuvre de celles-ci;

d) Demander aux partenaires en développement d'aider les pays africains à participer pleinement à la série de recensements de la population et de l'habitat de 2010;

e) Demander aux partenaires en développement de soutenir les pays africains par le biais de mécanismes de coordination mis en place par les parties prenantes africaines, notamment la Commission statistique pour l'Afrique, le Cadre stratégique régional de référence pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques en Afrique et le Comité africain de coordination des activités statistiques;

f) Soutenir l'ensemble des travaux que mène la CEA dans le domaine de la statistique et soutenir le rôle de coordination joué par cette Commission au sein de différents organes tels que la Commission statistique pour l'Afrique, le Comité africain de coordination des activités statistiques et autres instances.

Monsieur le président, voilà en quoi consiste le rapport présenté par la CEA devant cette auguste assemblée. Une fois de plus, nos vives félicitations pour votre élection à la tête de la Commission. C'est l'Afrique tout entière qui est honorée à travers vous. □

I. STATISTICAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (STATCOM-AFRICA)

About the African Statistics Award

The recent emphasis on performance management has led to a growing recognition of the importance of statistics. One might describe this as a statistical reawakening on the continent. The leading regional institutions have repositioned themselves to respond in a robust manner to the greater awareness of the importance of statistics for policy and programme formulation, monitoring and evaluation. At the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Statistics Division was upgraded to a Statistics Department; at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), an African Centre for Statistics was established; the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with the other regional partners produced an African Charter on Statistics which will be presented to Heads of State and Government in 2008. The UNECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Development endorsed the establishment of a Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) as the apex entity for the African statistical system. StatCom-Africa will be reporting to the Council of Ministers and the United Nations Statistical Commission.

In order to mark the contribution of UNECA to the development of statistics in Africa over the years and the launching of StatCom-Africa, the African Centre for Statistics (ACS), on behalf of the statistical community in Africa and with the concurrence of the African Statistics Coordination Committee, decided to honour with an Africa Statistics Award, those sons and daughters of Africa who have over the years played a leading role in the development of statistics in the motherland. The Award Ceremony took place during the first session of StatCom-Africa (20 to 24 January 2008) in the first plenary session also devoted to celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the UNECA.

Award winners

Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, the UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of UNECA



The presentation was made by "Friends of ECA". Dr. Gilberto Calvillo Vives, Chairman of the United Nations Statistical Commission handed the certificate to Mr. Janneh. The actual trophy was presented to Mr. Janneh by Mr. Trevor Manuel, Minister of Finance of South Africa.

Brief Citation: The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. During this period, ECA has provided invaluable services to member states in various areas of national development including statistics. It may be recalled that until mid-1990s, ECA had a large and vibrant Statistics Division. At its peak, the Division had a staff complement of 28 professionals. During the period 1970-93, ECA launched five regional technical assistance programmes with the support of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies. These programmes had great impact on the development process of African statistics. I am also happy to inform you that the division contributed greatly to the development of the global statistical system. I will give you only two examples in this respect.

First, in 1978, ECA launched the African Household Survey Capability Programme, which played a leading role in building national capacities in participating African countries to collect, through a multi-purpose integrated programme of household surveys, integrated and inter-disciplinary data on a continuing basis and on a wide spectrum of subjects. Following its success in Africa, this programme was extended to other regions of the world and established at global level as the United Nations National Household Survey Capability Programme with the African programme as a regional component. Second, much of what is now promoted internationally as the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) has its origin in the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in the 1990s. As part of the implementation strategy for the Addis Ababa Plan of Action, UNECA produced comprehensive Guidelines for Needs Assessment and Strategy Development (NASD) detailing the organization of NASD, its outputs and follow-up actions. These were "glorious days".

When Mr. Abdoulie Janneh took up his responsibilities as the Executive Secretary of the UNECA in 2005, he found that not only was the Statistics Division defunct but also the statistics function at UNECA had been badly degraded. Many statistics posts had been taken by other professions, experienced statisticians had been out-posted to sub-regional offices or to other divisions and there was no longer a "critical mass" of statisticians at ECA secretariat and resources dedicated to implementation of a coherent statistical programme in support of statistical development in Africa were severely limited. As Honourable Trevor Manuel pointed out while handing over the trophy to Mr. Janneh, statistical development in Africa was faltering.

Mr. Janneh realized early on that you cannot talk about Africa's development without talking about her statistical development, for we know that statistics are part of the enabling environment for national and international development. He appreciated that statistics is no longer just a technical issue alone; it has become a development issue as well and a priority of the international development agenda. He also realized that as a knowledge institution, UNECA needed credible country statistics for its work on policy

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analysis and advice to member states. Taking advantage of the repositioning of ECA to serve Africa better, he caused knowledge management, statistics and statistical development to become priority sub-programmes of the Commission. An African Centre for Statistics (ACS) with division status was created to implement the organization's statistics sub-programme.

Mr. Janneh has been playing a critical role in Africa's statistical renaissance and in the rolling out of the African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASS), in advocating for statistics in different high level fora in the region and internationally, and in fostering partnerships for statistical development in Africa. He is nurturing the African Centre for Statistics to become a Centre of Excellence, a repository and an authoritative source of credible statistical data and information on Africa.

On behalf of the "Friends of ECA", Mr. Abdoulie Janneh received a Statistics Award in recognition of his contribution to the revival of statistics at the UNECA and for his relentless advocacy for statistical development in Africa.

Presentation made by the African Centre for Statistics on behalf of the African Statistical Community and officiated by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under-Secretary General and the Executive Secretary of the UNECA

Julien Augustin Komla Amegandjin (Togo)



Brief citation: Julien Augustin Komla Amegandjin is currently an international statistical consultant. He has 39 years of experience in statistical training and in statistical surveys. He served successively as lecturer and Deputy Director at CESD-Paris, lecturer and the Director at the IFORD, Yaoundé,

Cameroon. After one sabbatical year at the Demographic Research Unit of University of Togo, he started his fourteen-year collaboration with FAO as country-based technical adviser, country project officer at FAO HQs and consultant. He has published extensively in the fields of censuses and surveys, sampling and its applications, social statistics and statistical organization. Since his retirement, he continues his consultancy work in survey and census design, management and analysis. He developed software called TIRAGE 1.0 which he donated to African survey statisticians. In recognition of his great contribution to statistical development and more specifically to the training of most of the Francophone African de-

mographers-statisticians, the ACS on behalf of the African statistical fraternity, bestowed the African Statistics Award on him.

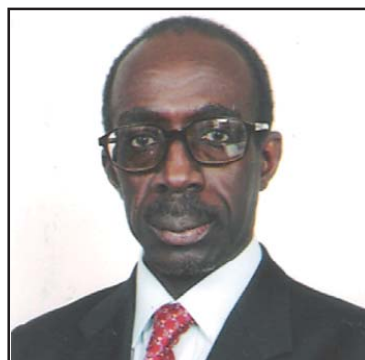
Oladejo Oyeleke Ajayi (Nigeria)



Brief citation: Oladejo Oyeleke Ajayi is currently an international statistical consultant. He has 39 years of experience in survey and census design and management, statistical organization and management and in statistical governance. He served successively as Director of Statistics, Director and Head, then

Director General of Federal Office of Statistics, Nigeria. He has published extensively in the fields of censuses and surveys, organization and management, social statistics and statistical organization. Since his retirement, he has been working as a consultant in survey and census design, management and analysis. He is also Chairman, Datastream Information Bureau and Chairperson of African Statistical Consultants (AFSTACON WORLDWIDE). He is an active member of several statistical associations and served as Vice-President of the International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS) and of the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS). He received honorary distinctions including the Africa Corporate Achievers Gold Award and the 1998 ECOWAS International Gold Award and titled "Renowned Statistician", the distinction of 1998 Distinguished Chief Executive of the Year, and of "Human Developer" by the Association of Demography and Social Statistics Students (OAU), etc. In recognition of his great contribution to statistical development, the ACS on behalf of the African statistical fraternity bestowed the African Statistics Award on him.

Lamine Diop (Senegal)



Brief citation: Lamine Diop is currently an international statistical consultant. He has 37 years of experience in statistical training, organization and management and in statistical governance. He served successively as Chief of division and Director at the National Statistical Office, Senegal, as Director of the

CESD-Paris, France, and Director General of AFRISTAT. He is an

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active member of several statistical associations and has served as President of the African Statistical Association (AFSA) and Vice-President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). He received honorary distinctions of "Chevalier" in the prestigious Ordre National du Mérite du Sénégal, Ordre National de la Côte d'Ivoire, Ordre National du Mali, and Légion d'Honneur de la République Française. Since his retirement, he has continued to do consultancy work in design of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs). In recognition of his great contribution to statistical development and more specifically to the training of most of the Francophone African statisticians-economists, the ACS on behalf of the African statistical fraternity bestows on him the African Statistics Award bestowed the African Statistics Award on him.

Kweku Twum De graft-Johnson (Ghana)



Brief citation: Kweku Twum deGraft-Johnson has 39 years of experience in statistical training and in statistical surveys. He served successively as Deputy Government Statistician and Acting Government Statistician of the Central Bureau of Statistics, Ghana, Associate Professor and Professor at the Institute of Social

and Economic Research (ISER), University of Ghana, Project Officer, Deputy Chief and Chief of the Statistics Division, UNECA. He published extensively in the fields of censuses and surveys, sampling and its applications, social statistics and statistical organization. He was an active member of several statistical associations and officiated as Past Patron of the Mathematical Association of Ghana, Vice-President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), and Council Member of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). He received the honours of Honorary Fellow from the Royal Statistical Society, and Fellow from Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. After his retirement, he has been doing consultancy work in survey and census design, management and analysis with a number of UN agencies. In recognition of his great contribution to statistical development more specifically his memorable work for the revamping of African statistical systems during his term at the UNECA, the ACS on behalf of the African statistical fraternity bestowed the African Statistics Award on him.

Pali Jobo Lehohla (South Africa)



Brief citation: Pali Jobo Lehohla is currently Statistician General, South Africa, Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission, and Co-Chair of PARIS21 Steering Committee. He has 24 years of experience in census organization and management and in statistical governance. He previously served as demographer

and Director at the Statistics Office Bophuthatswana, South Africa, and Chief Director for Population Statistics at Statistics South Africa. Under his leadership, several initiatives were launched including the African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) led by the "Friends of ECA", a group of countries advocating for the strengthening of Statistics function at ECA. He is an active member of professional associations and international bodies including the International Statistical Institute (ISI). He was honoured with the Honorary Presidency of the South African Statistical Association. Under his leadership, South Africa was selected to host the 57th session of the ISI to be held in 2009. This will be the first time ever for a sub-Saharan country to host the ISI session. In recognition of his great contribution to statistical development and more specifically to the renaissance of statistics in Africa, the ACS on behalf of the African statistical fraternity bestowed the African Statistics Award on him.



Highlights from the statements of the award winners

Award winner statement: Julien Amegandjin



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Leçons apprises de quelques unes des initiatives qui ont profité au développement des statistiques en Afrique au cours des dernières décennies

Au cours des cinq dernières décennies, les services statistiques nationaux africains ont connu un développement variable selon le pays et selon la période. Il eut des périodes fastes avec une croissance appréciable mais également des périodes de stagnation ou de régression. Différentes initiatives ont eu des effets divers sur ces systèmes statistiques africains. Elles les ont servi ou desservi.

Deux initiatives méritent d'être saluées

A propos des initiatives qui ont été favorables au développement des systèmes statistiques africains, deux méritent d'être signalées. Elles concernent deux institutions de formation avec un type de financement particulier qui a permis à ces deux institutions de connaître une existence et un fonctionnement stables sur plusieurs années. Ces deux institutions ont pu ainsi produire sur une base régulière, un grand nombre de statisticiens pour les pays africains francophones dans les années 60, 70 et 80.

La première des deux institutions est le CESD (Centre Européen de Formation des Statisticiens Economistes pour les pays en voie de Développement) créé à Paris en 1962 et qui a eu une durée de vie d'une trentaine d'années. La deuxième institution est l'IFORD (Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques) créé à Yaoundé en 1972 et qui a connu une quinzaine d'années de stabilité avant de devenir une institution d'une grande fragilité après avoir perdu en 1994 son statut de financement de départ.

Les services de formation des deux institutions ont été fournis aux pays francophones sans contribution financière de leur part. Ni paiement de frais de scolarité, ni financement de bourses d'études ni participation aux charges de fonctionnement des institutions n'incombaient aux pays bénéficiaires. Les étudiants admis dans les deux institutions bénéficiaient d'une bourse d'études pour toute la durée de leur formation, les bourses d'études étant une partie intégrante des budgets des deux institutions.

Ce qu'il faut souligner à propos des deux institutions n'est pas tant les initiatives qui ont été à la base de leur création, ni leur bilan en tant que pourvoyeuses de cadres statisticiens, mais la stabilité dont leur fonctionnement a joui grâce à un type particulier de financement. Au départ, il a été admis que la totalité du budget de fonctionnement de chacune des deux institutions devait être fournie par le bailleur de fonds.

Le CESD a été financé pendant trois décennies, de 1962 à 1993, par le Fonds Européen de Développement (FED). En 1993, le CESD a cessé ses activités de formation qui ont été transférées aux écoles de Statistique africaines, à savoir l'ENSEA d'Abidjan, l'ISSEA de Yaoundé, l'IAMSEA de Kigali et l'ENEA de Dakar. Le rôle capital joué par le statut du financement du CESD peut être apprécié par rapport

au statut du financement qui est aujourd'hui celui des écoles de Statistique africaines avec les difficultés de survie qu'il entraîne.

L'IFORD a été créé sous les auspices de la CEA (Commission Economique pour l'Afrique) comme un institut régional des Nations Unies. Son but était de former des démographes et d'aider à la promotion de la recherche sur les populations africaines au profit des pays francophones du continent. Il avait un statut similaire à celui de l'IDEP (Institut de Développement Economique et de Planification) de Dakar et à celui du RIPS (Regional Institute for Population Studies) d'Accra. Pendant deux décennies, le financement de l'IFORD a été fourni par le FNUAP (Fonds des Nations Unies pour les Activités de Population). Le financement du FNUAP a couvert la totalité du fonctionnement et des bourses d'études de l'IFORD de 1972 jusqu'au milieu des années 80. A partir de 1984, les pays utilisateurs de l'IFORD devaient apporter une contribution financière aux charges de fonctionnement pour environ 15% du budget de l'institut. Et par la suite, la contribution des pays utilisateurs est allée en croissant. En 1994, la responsabilité du financement de l'institut a été remise sur les épaules des pays utilisateurs. La perte totale de son statut antérieur de financement a été alors le début d'une série de difficultés auxquelles l'IFORD a dû faire face et continue de faire face aujourd'hui.

Dans les décennies 60, 70 et 80, les services de formation fournis par les deux institutions ont permis aux pays africains francophones de pourvoir en cadres, leurs services de statistiques naissants. Si ces pays avaient dû financer eux-mêmes la formation des statisticiens, leurs services statistiques nationaux n'auraient certainement pas connu le développement qui a été le leur dans les années 70 et au début des années 80.

Avoir eu un financement assuré en totalité et en permanence a été la clé de la réussite des deux institutions pendant trois décennies pour l'une et pendant une quinzaine d'années pour l'autre. Cette condition reste une condition nécessaire à la réussite de toute formation quel que soit le secteur concerné. Les pays africains francophones ont eu de nombreuses initiatives de programmes de formation semblables à ceux du CESD et de l'IFORD, à la différence qu'ils devaient en financer eux-mêmes l'essentiel des charges de fonctionnement. On peut citer le cas de l'Ecole de Statistique de Kigali (IAMSEA), et hors du secteur de la Statistique, les cas de l'IAI (Institut Africain d'Informatique) de Libreville, de l'Ecole de Médecine Vétérinaire de Dakar, du CRADAT (Centre Régional Africain d'Administration du Travail) de Yaoundé, de l'ESIJY (Ecole Supérieure Internationale de Journalisme) de Yaoundé et de l'IIA (Institut International d'Assurance) de Yaoundé. Pour la plupart de ces écoles inter-états, le financement a été très souvent défaillant, ce qui a fait de ces écoles, des entités en sursis permanent, incapables de fonctionner correctement.

Le financement de la formation des statisticiens africains pourrait être assuré par les

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organisations économiques régionales au nom des pays-membres

La formation des cadres et des agents étant une des clés du bon fonctionnement des systèmes statistiques, des initiatives similaires à celles qui ont fait le succès du CESD et de l'IFORD devraient voir le jour ou être consolidées si elles existent déjà comme cela semble être le cas de l'Ecole de Statistique régionale de Yaoundé. Les pays étant incapables, pour beaucoup, d'accepter l'effort de financement des formations, les organisations économiques régionales comme la CEMAC ou l'UEMOA devraient se substituer à eux. Ces organisations pourraient financer au nom des pays-membres, des programmes de formation régionaux formels, des programmes de formation continue et des programmes de bourses d'études régionaux pour des formations disponibles dans des institutions de formation existantes. Cette initiative porte sans doute en elle un gage de succès pour les actions de réhabilitation engagées aujourd'hui en faveur de nombreux services statistiques nationaux.

Quelques acteurs et actions à la base de la réussite du CESD et de l'IFORD

Le CESD a été créé et soutenu par une association de statisticiens européens qui ont été convaincus de ce que la formation des statisticiens est une condition nécessaire pour bâtir des services statistiques nationaux viables. Vittorio Paretti a été un des principaux acteurs de cette association. Fonctionnaire italien de l'OSCE (Office des Statistiques des Communautés Européennes), Vittorio Paretti a présidé pendant plus de deux décennies, le Conseil d'Administration du CESD. Guy Le Hégarat qui fut Directeur du CESD de 1963 à 1971 a été un autre artisan de la réussite du CESD de même que Lamine Diop qui dirigea l'institution pendant près d'une quinzaine d'années.

Edmond Malinvaud, ancien Directeur de l'ENSAE (Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique) et ancien Directeur général de l'INSEE (Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques) a eu également un engagement fort vis-à-vis du CESD. Le CESD était abrité dans les locaux de l'INSEE et a eu à bénéficier en permanence d'une assistance inestimable de l'ENSAE dans le domaine des activités de formation. Edmond Malinvaud fut le membre de l'association dont l'engagement a permis cette double coopération de l'INSEE et de l'ENSAE.

Le maître d'œuvre de l'IFORD a été la CEA à travers la section de la Population de sa Division de la Statistique et en coopération avec la Division de la Population des Nations Unies. Yaya Diakité, le premier statisticien économiste du Mali (ENSAE, Promotion 1961) et ancien fonctionnaire de la CEA (Division de la Statistique) a joué un rôle appréciable dans la fondation de l'IFORD. La présidence du Conseil d'Administration de l'IFORD a été assurée pendant près d'une quinzaine d'années par la CEA. La CEA a été aussi l'agence d'exécution de l'IFORD établi comme un projet régional des Nations Unies. Le contrôle et le soutien technique que la CEA a apportés à

l'IFORD sont indéniables et doivent être salués.

Award winner statement: Oladejo Oyeleke Ajayi



Lessons from initiatives relating to statistical development in Africa

Introduction

The delivery of statistical information in Africa was proving to be a challenge in the 80s and to address these problems the Addis Ababa Plan of Action (AAPA) was developed. Unfortunately, this plan was not an unmitigated success, as highlighted in the evaluation report. An obvious shortcoming was that the report was not participatory and was not accompanied by an advocacy campaign. Nor was a system put in place to monitor the impact of the Plan at a country level.

In the 70's and early 80's, there were a number of statistical development initiatives that had worked. These included the African Household Survey Capability Programme which was eventually adopted globally as the National Household Survey Capability Programme, the Statistical Training Programme in Africa, the African Population Programme and the National Accounts Programme for Africa. All of these initiatives succeeded at first but could not be sustained due to the withdrawal of financial support by their funders, most notably the UNDP. However, it is pleasing to note that many of the current initiatives mentioned below have incorporated the objectives of these earlier programmes.

Over the last decade a number of networks and centres have been established and/or strengthened such as PARIS21 Consortium; "The Friends of ECA", the African Centre for Statistics at the UNECA; AFRISTAT, the statistical function at African Development Bank and the IMF Regional Technical Assistance Centres in both East and West Africa.

Other initiatives have included the preparation of strategies and systems of good practice such as the General Data Dissemination

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System together with the accompanying Data Quality Assessment Framework, the ICP-Africa along with its statistical capacity building programme; the Reference Regional Strategic Framework within the over-arching National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, the Forum for Africa Statistical Development with its forerunner, the Coordinating Committee for African Statistical Development, and the UN Development Account for the various regions of Africa.

There are other statistical development programmes at some of the sub-regional communities such as SADC's EU-supported Training Programme and the ECOWAS harmonisation of statistics in the sub-region. This is not an exhaustive list as there have been so many initiatives across Africa. Some of these are described in a little more detail below:

Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) Consortium

PARIS21 was established in 1999 as an international partnership of policy makers, analysts and statisticians in a meeting facilitated by the UN, OECD, EU, World Bank and IMF. The goal of PARIS21 is to promote a culture of evidence based policy making, with a particular but not exclusive focus on developing countries, to improve effectiveness in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. To achieve these objectives, PARIS21 promotes effective dialogue among stakeholders particularly between users and producers, producers and funders, in order to stimulate more informed demands for data, and the increased availability and use of better statistics.

To this end, National Strategies for the Development of Statistics are essential. They have to be designed, implemented and monitored; and greater collaboration forged between the poverty reduction strategy team and the producers of data. Sustained advocacy for statistics for results management is also important. Such efforts are widespread across Africa and noticeable improvements are taking place. A major lesson is the need to bring together all stakeholders into the development of statistics and to ensure strong advocacy for statistics to raise the consciousness of policy makers as to the importance of statistics in development. Positive outcomes are the better co-ordination of resources among the donors and a greater understanding of the need to develop statistics holistically.

The General Data Dissemination System (GDSS) programme

GDSS programme is also being implemented in a majority of African countries. This results in better co-ordination, improved metadata and a focus on data quality and the timely, impartial and transparent dissemination of data products.

African Development Bank Initiative

The creation of a strong statistical function at the AfDB together with

the implementation of the statistical capacity building to support the collect and use of data for the ICP in Africa is very important. The AfDB now has a full fledged Department of Statistics that has effectively executed the ICP-Africa. About 48 countries out of 53 took part in this programme resulting in the collection and analysis of improved price statistics and national accounts. For the first time, aggregation of country data across Africa has been possible showing that we can successfully carry out a continental programme of the scale of ICP-Africa.

The Reference Regional Strategic Framework (RRSF)

The RRSF has fundamentally redefined the approach to statistical development, by aiming to contribute to improved development outcomes and good governance in Africa by guiding and accelerating sustainable statistical capacity building activities. It is the response by African countries, with the support of the international community, to meet the data challenges of the results agenda. The overall objective of RRSF is therefore to strengthen national statistical systems and is built around the themes of meeting users needs; improving management of statistical systems; and ensuring the sustainability and irreversibility of statistical development. A major lesson from this initiative is the importance of the strategic framework for statistical development which incorporates sectoral concerns.

"Friends of the ECA"

A group referred to as "Friends of the ECA" were concerned about the decline of Statistics at the UNECA, and they stimulated the creation of the African Symposium for Statistical Development. To date three symposia have been held in Cape Town, Kigali and Accra and the aim is to bring together African Institutions once a year to discuss emerging issues in statistical development in Africa. The benefits of regular interaction of the country statistical agencies to share experiences and together address common challenges are obvious and indeed we are now a community of statisticians in Africa.

Rebuilding ECA Statistics

The re-birth of the statistics function at the UNECA through the creation of the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) (together with the implementation of the African Symposium for Statistical Development mentioned above) has helped to define the importance of statistics and to re-focus statistical efforts. We can now be more confident that the implementation and monitoring of all statistical development initiatives in Africa will be supported in a more coordinated manner. The lesson is that we will never develop strong quality information systems in Africa when the profile of statistics at the ECA is low. We know that the decision in the 90s to downgrade statistics in the ECA was misguided.

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African Union

The African Union Commission has recently embarked on the development of the African Charter on Statistics which is intended to raise awareness amongst key people in African States of their responsibility to develop systems of integrity which produce quality comparable and harmonised data for the support of integration and development in Africa.

AFRISTAT and its programme PROSMIC

These are very important for the development of statistics in the appropriate sub-region of Africa. They, together with other sub-regional programmes, complement the major continental and international initiatives.

This array of impressive activities, together with the coordination mechanism for their implementation and the commitment of African countries mean that we can be optimistic than previously for the faster and more effective development of statistics. Partnerships must be built and sustained to this end.

Africa has never been short of good initiatives, both home-grown and those externally driven, but continuity, sustainability, and effective implementation have been lacking. We must now renew our commitment to Africa's renaissance and development. We must fight wide-spread corruption and selfish leadership in Africa which have hampered development in our continent by providing relevant statistics to enhance good policies, good governance and accountability. Comprehensive and reliable statistics available on a timely basis must influence the course of actions by the policy makers. Statisticians can and should make a difference in moving Africa from the era of non-development and slow growth to that of orderly growth and development. It only calls for our dedication and commitment to let statistics work for Africa. It requires us to go beyond call of duty but really make statistics our passion and our own contribution to Africa's future. Certainly resources are key in this transformation we are seeking to make but our resolve and determination are far more critical and important!

In our quest to make this difference, we must promote the full participation of all stakeholders in African Statistical Development, namely, users and suppliers of data the private sector, the NGO's/CSO's, research and training institutions and the media. We must participate actively and effectively in international statistical development and contribute to the world. We must pay attention to the development of African concepts and definitions of phenomena and put our energy in an emerging initiative, namely, the measurement of the progress of society.

In conclusion, our vision is therefore to strengthen the national sta-

tistical systems, to improve the dialogue between producers and users including the media, to build capacity of the users and suppliers of statistics and to secure government commitment to raise the profile of statistics for evidence based policy making. We must promote a well coordinated and enhanced input by national and international donors. With these aspirations and efforts, statistical development can take root and grow rapidly on our continent.

Award winner statement: Lamine Diop^[1]



Leçons tirées de trois initiatives pour le développement de la statistique africaine

Allocution prononcée par Monsieur Lamine Diop lors de la cérémonie de remise du Prix de la Statistique Africaine au Centre de Conférences des Nations Unies à Addis Abeba, Ethiopie, le 21 Janvier 2008.

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA) et plus particulièrement le Centre Africain pour la Statistique, d'avoir pris l'initiative de créer le Prix de la Statistique Africaine et de me compter parmi les premiers lauréats.

En nous invitant à participer à la présente cérémonie, le Directeur du Centre Africain pour la Statistique nous a fixé la redoutable tâche de traiter le thème suivant : « **Leçons apprises de quelques-unes des meilleures initiatives dans le domaine du développement de la statistique en Afrique** ». Nous allons donc en présenter trois qui nous paraissent remarquables en raison de leur caractère original et/ou de leur impact positif durable ou potentiellement durable sur le développement de la statistique africaine. Il s'agit de l'adoption du Programme de Formation Statistique pour l'Afrique, la création d'AFRISTAT et la création du Consortium PARIS21.

La première initiative qui a retenu mon attention est le Programme de Formation Statistique pour l'Afrique (PFSA en français ou STPA

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en anglais). Adopté par la CEA en 1978, le PFSA avait pour objectif de rendre le continent « autosuffisant dans la formation de base des statisticiens de niveaux moyens et supérieurs » sur un horizon de dix ans. Financé par le Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement (PNUD), le PFSA couvrait une quinzaine de centres de formation statistique et démographique, tous situés en Afrique à l'exception du Centre de formation des statisticiens économistes des pays en voie de développement (CESD-Paris)^[2] qui en était un membre à part entière et du Centre de recyclage de Munich pour les statisticiens économistes des pays en voie de développement qui en était un membre associé.

Le PFSA compte à son actif l'élaboration de programmes types de formation pour les centres de formation francophones et anglophones. Bien qu'il n'ait pu atteindre l'objectif ambitieux de l'autosuffisance de l'Afrique dans le domaine des formations statistiques de base, le PFSA a servi de point de départ pour l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre d'autres programmes dont le Programme communautaire d'appui à la formation statistique (COMSTAT) mis au point par la Commission européenne au début des années 1990 en réponse à une requête de financement de la CEA.

Contrairement au PFSA, le COMSTAT s'est focalisé sur un nombre limité de centres de formation statistique à vocation régionale. Il a permis de financer l'organisation de concours communs de recrutement, des bourses pour les étudiants, des voyages d'études ou des séminaires de formation pour les enseignants, l'élaboration de modules de formation continue ainsi que l'acquisition d'outils pédagogiques. Pour sa part et pour renforcer l'impact du COMSTAT, la France a mis en place un programme régional de bourses pour les lauréats aux concours communs d'entrée dans les centres de formation statistique francophones à vocation régionale situés à Abidjan, Yaoundé, Kigali (jusqu'en 1994) et Dakar (à partir de 1994). Le COMSTAT a pris fin au début des années 2000.

Par ailleurs, la participation régulière des pays lusophones aux réunions biennales des Directeurs des centres participant au PFSA a mis en lumière la nécessité de la création d'un centre de formation statistique de niveau supérieur à vocation régionale dispensant ses cours en langue portugaise. Elle a servi de catalyseur à la création en 1990 du CESD-Lisbonne dans le cadre de l'ISEGI^[3], le nouveau centre destiné à former les cadres supérieurs de la statistique publique portugaise. Avant sa fermeture au début des années 2000, le CESD-Lisbonne a formé quelques dizaines de statisticiens de niveaux supérieurs pour les pays africains de langue officielle portugaise. Une nouvelle initiative est en cours pour créer, un centre de formation similaire, cette fois-ci en terre africaine.

Le PFSA a pris fin avec l'arrêt de son financement, suite aux difficultés financières traversées par le PNUD. Comme on peut le constater, le relais a été pris dans une certaine mesure par d'autres programmes comme le COMSTAT que nous venons d'évoquer.

Toutefois, le cadre unique de concertation et de travail que constituait la Réunion biennale des centres de formation n'a pas eu d'équivalent jusqu'à ce jour.

La deuxième initiative que j'ai choisie de présenter est la création d'AFRISTAT. Après une période marquée par des résultats significatifs sur le plan de l'organisation des systèmes statistiques nationaux et dans l'exécution d'opérations statistiques majeures, vint avec la crise économique et financière des années 1980, une période de déclin de la statistique dans beaucoup de pays africains. Face à l'adversité, les statisticiens africains sont restés debout et ont cherché les moyens d'assurer le renouveau de la statistique africaine.

Au niveau régional, sous l'égide de la CEA, le Plan d'action d'Addis Abéba pour le développement de la statistique en Afrique au cours des années 1990 a été adopté à cette fin. Ce plan d'action était complété par un document de stratégie et des orientations pour l'évaluation des besoins et l'élaboration de plans de développement statistique qui préfiguraient les Stratégies Nationales de Développement de la Statistique (SNDS) actuelles promues par le Consortium PARIS21.

Au niveau des pays africains francophones qui ont en commun le Franc CFA, le signal lancé par le Plan d'action d'Addis Abéba a constitué un encouragement certain à la création, en 1993, de l'Observatoire Economique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne dénommé AFRISTAT. Certes, d'autres raisons immédiates ont présidé à la création de cette organisation supranationale. Parmi celles-ci, notons la décision des dirigeants de ces pays de renforcer leur intégration économique à partir d'une intégration monétaire déjà solide.

Le renforcement de l'intégration économique des pays africains membres de la Zone Franc qui s'est traduite sur le plan institutionnel par la création en 1994 de l'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine (UEMOA) et de la Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC) suppose en effet, la production et la diffusion sur une base régulière, de statistiques nationales fiables et comparables pour assurer le fonctionnement satisfaisant du dispositif de surveillance multilatérale des politiques économiques mis en place par les deux nouvelles organisations sous-régionales d'intégration économique. AFRISTAT a donc été créé pour « *contribuer au développement des statistiques économiques, sociales et de l'environnement dans les Etats membres et pour renforcer leurs compétences dans ces domaines* ».

Entre 1996 et 2003, AFRISTAT a exécuté au bénéfice de ses Etats membres le Programme régional d'appui à la statistique (PARSTAT) de la Commission de l'UEMOA financé par l'Union Européenne et le Fonds de solidarité prioritaire français pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques en matière d'analyse conjoncturelle, de prévision économique et de diffusion statistique. La mise en œuvre

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du Programme Statistique Minimum Commun des Etats membres d'AFRISTAT (PROSMIC) au cours de la période 2001-2005 a mis à profit la synergie créée par ces deux programmes, contribuant ainsi malgré ses limites, notamment en termes de mobilisation de ressources pour le financement des activités nationales, à une relance et à une amélioration de la production statistique dans des domaines comme les prix, les comptes nationaux, les enquêtes sur le secteur informel et l'emploi.

L'expérience d'AFRISTAT montre que ses Etats membres, en raison de leur petite taille et de leurs moyens limités ont eu raison de mettre leurs ressources rares en commun pour bâtir des systèmes statistiques performants, en confiant à une organisation supranationale dotée de pouvoirs réglementaires, la tâche d'assurer l'amélioration et la comparabilité de leurs statistiques par des activités de recherche méthodologique et de soutien direct à la production statistique sous la forme de missions d'experts dans les Etats membres.

La troisième initiative que j'ai retenue est intervenue en 1999 avec la création du Consortium PARIS21^[4] par la communauté internationale (Nations Unies, Organisation pour la Coopération et le Développement Economiques, Union Européenne, Banque mondiale, Fonds Monétaire International) et des pays donateurs. Le Consortium doté d'un Secrétariat hébergé par l'OCDE à Paris a pour objectif d'encourager et de soutenir « une culture de prise de décision basée sur les faits » dans les pays en développement et en transition. Il regroupe des décideurs, des analystes et des statisticiens des pays du nord et du sud ainsi que des organisations internationales.

Au centre des activités du Secrétariat de PARIS21 se trouve le plaidoyer pour une bonne utilisation des statistiques et pour le financement de leur production et de leur diffusion. A cet effet, les besoins en statistiques de la gestion axée sur les résultats et la nécessité d'une gestion stratégique des systèmes statistiques nationaux ont conduit le Secrétariat à inscrire au programme des ses premières équipes de travail, l'élaboration d'outils méthodologiques pour la conception, l'élaboration et le suivi de la mise en œuvre de Stratégies Nationales de Développement de la Statistique, plus connues sous les sigles français SNDS et anglais NSDS. Le Consortium PARIS21 est reconnu maintenant comme un acteur majeur sur la scène statistique internationale pour son rôle de catalyseur des actions destinées à harmoniser les activités de plaidoyer pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques des pays en développement, africains notamment.

Au niveau de la région africaine, d'autres initiatives ont vu le jour au cours des dernières années notamment :

- le Projet de comparaison internationale dont la composante africaine supervisée de main de maître par la Banque Africaine de Développement vient de s'achever sur un très grand succès. Ce projet qui a connu un nombre record de pays participants a jeté

les bases pour l'amélioration et la consolidation des statistiques des prix et de la comptabilité nationale dans la région ;

- la création des Amis de la CEA, du Symposium Africain sur le Développement de la Statistique et du Forum pour le Développement de la Statistique en Afrique (FASDEV). Ces structures informelles ont beaucoup contribué à la nouvelle dynamique observée récemment au niveau régional avec le plaidoyer en faveur de la participation de tous les pays africains à la série 2010 des recensements de la population et de l'habitation sous l'égide de la Division de la Statistique des Nations Unies, l'élaboration et l'adoption du Cadre Stratégique de Référence pour les Capacités Statistiques en Afrique et la création du Centre Africain pour la Statistique érigé au rang de division au sein de la CEA ;
- la création de la Commission Statistique pour l'Afrique (STATCOM) comme nouvel organe subsidiaire de la CEA, compétent pour tout ce qui concerne le programme statistique de la CEA et le développement de la statistique africaine ;
- la création, au sein de la Commission de l'Union Africaine, d'une unité statistique. Celle-ci a déjà pris l'initiative de l'élaboration d'un projet de Charte Africaine de la Statistique qui sera soumise pour adoption au Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de l'Union Africaine ;
- la création du Comité de Coordination Statistique Africain par la Commission de l'Union Africaine, la CEA, la Banque Africaine de Développement et la Fondation pour le Renforcement des Capacités en Afrique (ACBF).

Comme nous pouvons le constater, la CEA célèbre ses cinquante ans dans un contexte tout à fait favorable au développement de la statistique soutenu par plusieurs initiatives. Ces dernières ne pourront être couronnées de succès qu'à plusieurs conditions :

1°) Il est nécessaire d'assurer une meilleure coordination de l'appui au développement de la statistique africaine. A cet égard la Déclaration de Paris sur l'efficacité et l'harmonisation de l'aide constitue un cadre approprié auquel ont adhéré les principaux donateurs nationaux et internationaux et beaucoup de pays africains.

2°) La répartition des rôles des principaux intervenants au niveau régional doit être précisée, en partant de leurs mandats respectifs et en s'appuyant sur le principe de la subsidiarité.

3°) Les gouvernements africains doivent prendre les mesures appropriées sur les plans institutionnel et organisationnel pour doter leurs pays de systèmes nationaux cohérents et stables qui disposent de ressources humaines motivées et de ressources financières nationales suffisantes et régulières pour leurs activités de production courante.

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4°) Les statisticiens africains doivent s'atteler résolument à relever le défi de l'organisation et de la gestion des systèmes statistiques nationaux.

5°) Un appui doit être apporté aux centres de formation statistique, et notamment aux centres à vocation régionale, pour le renforcement de leurs capacités dans les domaines suivants : l'octroi de bourses pour la formation des étudiants et le perfectionnement continu des enseignants, l'élaboration de programmes d'enseignement, les échanges d'enseignants et d'étudiants, la promotion des activités de formation continue et de recherche, la rénovation ou la construction des infrastructures là où elles sont déficientes ou inexistantes, la fourniture d'équipements et d'outils pédagogiques ainsi que le recours de plus en plus systématique aux nouvelles technologies.

Pour terminer, j'invite les dirigeants politiques, les statisticiens africains, les organisations sous-régionales et régionales, les centres de formation statistique et la communauté internationale à faire preuve d'imagination et de hardiesse et à se mobiliser résolument et sans délai afin que la renaissance de la statistique africaine dont nous voyons déjà les prémices, se concrétise au service du développement économique et social et de l'unité du continent qui restent les deux aspirations majeures de nos populations.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

1. Ancien Directeur de la Statistique du Sénégal, ancien Directeur du CESD-Paris et ancien Directeur Général d'AFRISTAT. Abrégé de l'allocation prononcée lors de la cérémonie de remise du Prix de la Statistique Africaine au Centre de Conférences des Nations Unies à Addis Abeba, Ethiopie, le 21 Janvier 2008.
2. La création, en 1962 du CESD-Paris, à l'initiative de la France et de la Communauté Européenne a été un des moments clés de l'histoire de la formation statistique en Afrique francophone.
3. Sigle de : « Institut Supérieur de Statistique et de Gestion de l'Information », en français.
4. Partenariat pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques à l'aube du 21^{ème} siècle.

Award winner statement: Pali Lehohla



Lessons Learnt from some of the Best Initiatives in Statistical Development in Africa

As the Chair of the Friends of the ECA, it gives me great pleasure this morning to receive, on behalf I believe of all the Friends of the ECA and the entire African statistical community, an award for a humble contribution towards statistical development in Africa and to a rejuvenation of the mandate of the ECA in Africa. The tangible contribution we celebrate today was, is and must always be a collective of the entire African statistical community and its partners.

The past two years have been exciting years for statistics on the continent as we witnessed the ECA rise to the fore at a critical time when development issues of the African continent required strong leadership, the mandate which lay with the ECA.

What have we achieved in so short a space of time that deserves our recognition today? Before I interrogate this, allow me to express appreciation, gratitude and admiration to the Executive Secretary of the ECA for the role, intervention and impact he has made in revitalising statistics on the African continent in his short period of tenure. I must also thank the Minister of Finance in South Africa, who worked very closely with the ECA, Friends of the ECA and Mr. Janneh in steering this ship onto its successful course. The cooperation of our development partners has been invaluable, particularly the UNSD and the African Development Bank.

In asking the question: "What lessons can be learnt from some of the best initiatives in statistical development in Africa?" I want to reflect on this TWO YEAR journey since September 2005. This journey may have started prior to 2005 but began to be visible and could be plotted as a road map from September 2005 in the wake of a report by the then UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan to the General Assembly in September 2005 that shows the glaring data gaps in monitoring progress made in Africa on the Millennium Development Goals.

This, in conjunction with the noted silence by the African statistical community and the ECA on the Principles and Recommendations on the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (seen as an important benchmark for data and information for monitoring MDG's) gave birth an aggressive path in pursuit of revitalising statistical development in Africa. Two months later at a census advocacy meeting in Yaounde, South Africa committed to rallying together African countries and the ECA to interrogate the P&R and to develop a Africa-wide census programme.

The birth of the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development in 2006 took place In Cape Town in January 2006, the 2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development proposed a number of key recommendations and resolutions that represented a holistically African position on census taking in Africa in the 2010 round as well

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as raising key issues and challenges that confront the continent on national statistical systems and capacity building.

With the ECA taking the lead, the issues of statistics were elevated to the attention of Africa's Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning in Ouagadougou in May 2006, three months after the 1st ASSD. An important resolution that came out of the 39th Session of African Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning was that assistance should be provided to countries emerging from conflict.

The second of an anticipated 53 Symposia, the 2007 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (2007 ASSD) whose theme was "Africa Counts: Towards a Complete Enumeration of the African Population during the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses" took place in Kigali, Rwanda in January 2007.

As the ASSD approached its 3rd Session in December 2007 much ground had been covered as the ASSD with the ECA continue to monitor the participation of African countries in the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. To date, all countries who committed to undertaking a census in 2005, 2006 and 2007 have successfully done so. There has been a focus on countries emerging from conflict (Angola, DRC, Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia and Liberia) which are in the process of preparing census plans

What have we achieved as a Continent?

- P&R: Africa input into the 2010 round P&R and development of an African Addendum
- ASSD
- Formation of the Friends of ECA
- Establishment of ACS
- Collaborative Development of Work programme of ECA
- Completion of ICP-Africa and Accra Declaration
- RRSF
- NSDS
- Formation of African Statistics Charter
- Mobilisation of post-conflict countries for 2010 round: Luanda Declaration
- StatCom-Africa

How was it done?

- Political support – Conference of Ministers of Finance and Economic Development
- Partnerships (ECA, AfDB)
- Consolidation of work programme
- Prioritization of statistical issues
- Formation of forum for discussion – ASSD, FASDEV, ABSA, and now StatCom-Africa
- Country-led initiative
- Communication

These ingredients were lacking in the past or were given out in too weak a dose to feel their impact

- What are the Challenges going forward?
- Continued support of ECA
- Programme implementation
- Sustaining programmes as country-led initiatives
- Funding
- Addressing the immediate census requirements of the Sudan to which I call on ourselves as Africans to send our teams of experts to make the Sudanese census successful



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The Accra Africa Symposium on Statistical Development: A Third Stop on a Fifty-three stop Journey throughout Africa

Dimitri Sanga, ACS

A. Brief report

African countries' representatives converged on Accra, Ghana, from 3 to 7 December 2007 on the third of a fifty-three stop journey that started in Cape Town, South Africa in 2006 aimed at discussing issues pertaining to their statistical development on a continent-wide coordinated basis. As agreed upon during the first symposium, this third meeting was devoted to the participation of African countries in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

Following the successful symposia in Cape Town (South Africa) in January 2006 and Kigali (Rwanda) in January 2007, this third symposium focused on best practice and the exchange of experiences to achieve successful participation in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

The ASSD meeting was preceded by an ICP-Africa workshop, which is reported separately. (see page 25)

Attendance

The meeting was attended by representatives from 47 African countries comprising mainly Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and census managers. Representatives of sub-regional, regional, and international organizations and development partners also attended the meeting.

The programme

The Cape Town symposium focused on assessing the preparedness of African countries for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, lessons learned from the 2000 Round, as well as the regional contribution to the revision of the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

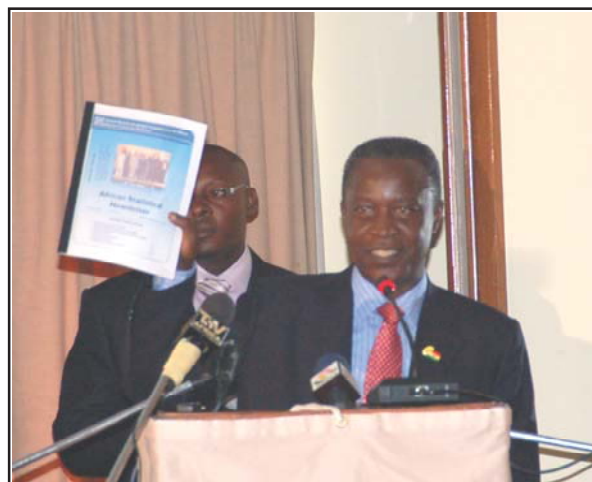
The Kigali meeting moved forward the census agenda by identifying key areas of interventions in which Africa could concentrate as a region in order to improve African countries' participation in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. It also focused on the preparation of an African Supplement to the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

Building on the momentum of these two meetings, the Accra meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of progress since 2005 paying particular attention to the resolutions and recommendations of the two previous symposia. Participants discussed, *inter alia*, methods used in planning and carrying out censuses during the 2010 round by countries that have already conducted a census; the use of contemporary technology such as Geographic Information Sys-

tems (GIS) and scanning; advocacy strategies for census taking; revisiting the contributions to the Addendum to the Global Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses; and some emerging issues related to census taking. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were also a focus of the discussions. Not only did the participants discuss the status of African countries with respect to reaching the MDGs by the 2015 deadline but also brainstormed on issues pertaining to the ability of censuses to measure progress in reaching the MDGs. Engendering Population and Housing Censuses and measuring the contribution of women to the economy also featured in the discussions during this gathering.

The Accra symposium was marked by the launch of the maiden issue of the African Statistical Newsletter prepared by the African Centre for Statistics (ACS). This provided an opportunity to call upon countries to contribute to the exchange of best practices and other experiences in capacity building using this medium.

Some of the recommendations



The launching of the African Statistical Newsletter by the Minister of Finance of the Republic of Ghana during the symposium

The Symposium agreed a number of recommendations for African countries, regional organizations, and for future symposia.

African Governments were called upon to prioritize the provision of adequate resources for undertaking censuses in their respective countries and to increase advocacy and sensitization of the 2010 round to policymakers at the highest level of government and the general public.

The UNECA, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Friends of ECA, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were called upon to maintain and strengthen support to African countries undertaking a census in the 2010 round through effective monitor-

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ing of the Africa census programme, guided by a matrix of strengths and weaknesses on census-taking in the region, to ensure Africa ownership, sustainability of synergies and south-south technical co-operation amongst African countries.

The Fourth ASSD

The fourth symposium is scheduled to take place in Luanda, Angola, in 2009. In addition to taking stock of progress in the participation of African countries in the current round of censuses, this ASSD will focus on mobilizing technical and financial support to six priority countries emerging from conflict. It will also focus on key census variables in relation to gender in Africa. Finally, it will aim to build a strategy for planning and management of censuses for 2008-11 cadre of countries and support dissemination strategies of Census 2005-7 cadre of countries.

B. Resolutions

Arising from the gathering of 47 African countries at the 3rd ASSD in Accra, Ghana, 3-7 December 2007, represented by Heads of National Statistical Offices, census managers and development partners;

Considering the ASSD to be the most successful endeavour the African continent has undertaken towards ensuring a complete enumeration of African countries;

Considering the significant role played by the ECA, Friends of the ECA, AfDB, UNSD and UNFPA in ensuring the success of the Africa programme of 2010 rphc, with emphasis on coordination of roles and responsibilities and the creation of synergies to ensure the effective and optimal use of resources on the African continent;

Considering the need to ensure a holistic, integrative approach to Africa wide support for the 2010 round;

Commending African governments and Ministers of Finance & Economic Planning for the support provided to the ASSD and its outcomes;

Taking into account the acute demand for reliable, timely, accurate and relevant statistics to manage for development results, measure progress towards achieving the MDGs and national PRSPs through the effective execution of censuses in the 2010 round;

Taking cognizance of the need to strengthen initiatives to mobilize census-taking in African countries emerging from conflict;

Committing ourselves to building the capacity of each country towards ensuring a complete enumeration of the African population and establishing best Practice in Africa;

Ensuring a commitment to the sustainability of the Africa programme on 2010rphc and country ownership;

Taking cognizance of the Accra Declaration taken 1 December 2007 at the meeting of the ICP-Africa programme;

It is therefore recommended:

A) That African Governments and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance & Economic Planning should:

- Increase advocacy and sensitization of the 2010 rphc to policymakers and the general public, at the highest level of government;
- Prioritize the provision of adequate resources, for the undertaking of censuses in the 2010 round to support evidence-based development strategies in Africa;
- Promote statistical harmonization in Africa through recognition of existing programming frameworks that ensure statistical development in Africa, such as the ASSD, RRSF, ICP-Africa, NSDS and StatCom-Africa.

B) That the AfDB, ECA, Friends of the ECA, UNSD and UNFPA should:

- Maintain and strengthen support to African countries undertaking a census in the 2010 round through an effective monitoring of the Africa census programme, guided by a matrix of strengths and weaknesses on census-taking in the region, to ensure Africa ownership, sustainability of synergies and south-south technical cooperation amongst African countries.
- Ensure that financial resources and technical assistance are allocated effectively.

C) That the ASSD should:

- Continue to effectively monitor progress of census taking in Africa in the 2010 round;
- Take into account those areas needing support for timely assistance;
- Ensure that census-taking in Africa in the 2010 rphc makes values visible through gender mainstreaming while taking cognizance of other emerging issues like climate change, conflict
- Develop a research & development unit of the ASSD which will develop a prioritized research agenda to investigate the emerging issues from the census 2010 rphc. These issues include:
 - ◆ Climate Change
 - ◆ Challenges of census-taking in conflict situations
 - ◆ Socio-demographic issues pertinent to Africa (emerging migration trends, HIV/AIDS, poverty, life expectancy ... to name a few)
- Support countries' adherence to international standards in census-taking, drawing from the Principles & Recommendations

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tions, in particular the Africa addendum to P&R;

- Ensure commonality and comparison through inclusion of African core topics;
- Assist African countries in the dissemination and archiving efforts of census results;
- Harness the intellectual capacity and capability of African continent through analysis and research for optimal utilization of census results;
- Promote sustainable capacity building in new methodologies and technologies for census-taking in Africa

Priorities of the 4th ASSD

- 1) Strengthen local organizational statistical issues of host country;
- 2) Friends of the ECA to devise strategy for sustainable resource mobilization of ASSD including the highest political level with emphasis on national country level resource mobilization;
- 3) Mobilize Technical and financial support to six priority countries emerging from conflict;
- 4) Focus on key variables for gender and census-taking in Africa as standing agenda of the ASSD and promote the establishment of a gender desk in NSO's in Africa;
- 5) Promote the intellectual capability of the ASSD through the intensive census data analysis and preparation of thematic intellectual papers on emerging issues of censuses in Africa;
- 6) Review
- 7) Capacity –building strategy for planning and management of censuses for 2008/09/10/11 cadre of countries;
- 8) Support dissemination strategies of Census 2005/6/7 cadre of countries.



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Accra Declaration on Statistical Development in Africa Arising from the African Development Bank's International Comparison Programme (ICP) Workshop (Adopted in Accra, 1st December, 2007)

- 1) The Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) from 50 African countries, meeting in Accra on December 1, 2007, and following up on the Yaounde Declaration on Statistical Development in Africa;
- 2) Encouraged by the reinvigoration of the collaboration between the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and their enhanced partnership in statistical development, in the implementation of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF) and supporting StatCom-Africa;
- 3) Commending the effective manner in which the AfDB implemented the ICP-Africa as a statistical capacity building activity in participating member countries;
- 4) Commending the dedication with which participating sub-regional organizations (AFRISTAT, COMESA, ECOWAS, SADC) coordinated and supervised the implementation of the survey at the regional level;
- 5) Commending the Governments for participating and for providing financial contribution;
- 6) Considering that this is the most successful Africa wide statistical endeavour lead by an African institution;
- 7) Considering the need to strengthen all African statistical initiatives in order to ensure sustainability of statistical programmes and country ownership;
- 8) Considering the significant role played by statistical training centres in human capacity development in the region;
- 9) Committing ourselves to the adoption of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF), with particular emphasis on coordination and creating synergies as well as an optimal use of resources which should be allocated to statistical development;
- 10) Taking into account the increased demand for statistics due to the commitment of the development community to managing for development results, focusing on measuring results, and emphasizing quantitative targets in the MDGs, NEPAD initiative, as well as the requirements for monitoring progress within PRSPs;

- 11) Appreciating the support rendered by African Development Bank (AfDB) to countries in strengthening their price statistics activities, improvements of their national accounts; and in the development of their National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS);

Commitments:

The Heads of NSOs, having reviewed and endorsed the results of the international comparison programme of participating countries in the International Comparison Program for the Africa region (ICP-Africa), commit to:

- Actively pursue the dissemination of the ICP Results;
- Integrate the ICP activities into their CPI activities;
- Implement the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity building in Africa (RRSF);
- Cooperate technically among themselves.

Recommend

a) To the African governments to:

- Implement the RRSF through the development and implementation of the NSDS;
- Promote statistical harmonization work by ensuring that StatCom-Africa operates as a programming framework in the area of statistics;
- Increase advocacy and sensitization on the ICP activities to decision makers, and in particular, at the highest levels of government;
- Give a higher priority, including providing adequate funding, for the development of statistics to support evidence based development strategies in the countries.

b) To bilateral, international and regional organizations to:

- Maintain and strengthen their statistical support to African countries within the context of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity building in Africa (RRSF) and the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS);
- Continue work in the area of statistical capacity building by scaling up financial and material resources to statistical activities;
- Continue to work towards sustainability of synergies already developed;
- Ensure that aid resources are allocated effectively.

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c) To the African Development Bank in particular, to:

- Significantly scale up a follow up statistical capacity building program that will assist countries to strengthen their statistical capacities to support MDGs monitoring and the results agenda;
- Strengthen all African statistical initiatives in order to ensure sustainability of statistical programmes and country ownership;
- Further strengthen the ICP so as to ensure continuity during the inter-survey period;
- Increase its advocacy role for ICP at high levels;
- Assist countries in their dissemination efforts as well as improving on their statistical literacy campaigns;
- Support countries' adherence to international standards;
- Support Statistical Training Centres (STCs) in order to enhance human resource development for national statistical systems in Africa;
- Support technical cooperation among countries;
- Consider more suitable mechanisms in its procurement and disbursement procedures for small projects which require quick and uninterrupted disbursement;
- Strengthen and support the establishment of statistical activities in regional economic communities recognized by the Africa Union Commission.



Declaration D'accra Sur de Developpement Statistique Issue du Seminaire de la Banque Africaine de Developpement Sur Le Programme de Comparaison Internationale pour l'Afrique (Adoptée à Accra, le 1er décembre 2007)

- 1) Les Directeurs généraux des instituts nationaux de statistique (INS) de 50 pays africains, réunis à Accra, le 1er décembre 2007, donnant suite à la Déclaration de Yaoundé sur le Développement de la Statistique en Afrique ;
- 2) Encouragés par la redynamisation de la collaboration entre la Commission de l'Union Africaine (CUA), la Banque africaine de développement (BAD), la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA) et la Fondation pour le renforcement des capacités en Afrique (ACBF), ainsi que par le renforcement de leur partenariat pour le développement statistique, la mise en œuvre du cadre stratégique régional de référence pour le

renforcement des capacités statistiques en Afrique (CSRR) et l'appui à StatCom-Afrique ;

- 3) Se félicitant de l'efficacité avec laquelle la Banque africaine de développement a conduit le PCI-Afrique en tant qu'activité de renforcement des capacités statistiques des pays membres participants ;
- 4) Se félicitant de l'esprit d'engagement démontré par les organisations sous-régionales participants (AFRISTAT, COMESA, CEDEAO, SADC) dans la coordination et la mise en œuvre de l'enquête au niveau régional ;
- 5) Se félicitant de la participation et l'appui financier apporté par les gouvernements ;
- 6) Considérant qu'il s'agit de la plus grande réussite, parmi les initiatives statistiques panafricaines réalisées par une institution africaine;
- 7) Considérant la nécessité de renforcer toutes les initiatives statistiques africaines afin d'assurer la pérennité des programmes statistiques et leur appropriation par les pays ;
- 8) Considérant le rôle fondamental joué par les centres de formation statistique dans le renforcement des capacités humaines dans la région ;
- 9) Engagés à adopter le cadre stratégique régional de référence pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques en Afrique (CSRR), avec un accent particulier sur la coordination et le développement de synergies, ainsi qu'une utilisation optimale des ressources à consacrer au développement de la statistique ;
- 10) Considérant la demande croissante de statistiques procédant de l'engagement des partenaires au développement à la gestion axée sur les résultats et le développement effectif, donc à la mesure des résultats, à la fixation d'objectifs quantitatifs au regard des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD), du NEPAD et du suivi nécessaire de l'évolution des DSRP ;
- 11) Reconnaissants à la BAD pour son assistance aux pays dans le renforcement de leurs activités de statistiques des prix, l'amélioration de leurs comptes nationaux et dans l'élaboration de stratégies nationales de développement de la statistique (SNDS);

Engagements:

Les responsables des INS, ayant examiné et entériné les résultats des pays participant au Programme de Comparaison Internationale pour l'Afrique (PCI- Afrique) s'engagent à:

- Poursuivre activement la diffusion des résultats du PCI ;
- Intégrer les activités du PCI dans leurs activités des indices de

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prix à la consommation ;

- Mettre en œuvre le cadre stratégique régional de référence pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques en Afrique (CSRR) ;
- Coopérer techniquement entre eux.

Recommandent

a) aux gouvernements africains de :

- mettre en œuvre le CSRR à travers la mise en œuvre des SNDS qu'ils auront élaborés,
- favoriser l'harmonisation des travaux statistiques en veillant à ce que StatCom-Afrique fonctionne comme cadre de programmation dans le domaine de la statistique,
- renforcer les activités de plaidoyer et de sensibilisation relatives aux activités PCI destinées aux décideurs, et en particulier aux niveaux les plus élevés des gouvernements,
- réserver une plus haute priorité, ainsi que des financements adaptés au développement de la statistique, afin d'appuyer les stratégies nationales de développement basées sur des éléments factuels ;

b) aux organisations bilatérales, régionales et internationales, de :

- maintenir et renforcer leur appui statistique aux pays africains, dans le cadre du cadre stratégique régional de référence pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques en Afrique (CSRR) et des stratégies nationales de développement de la statistique (SNDS),
- continuer à œuvrer au renforcement des capacités statistiques, en apportant leur appui financier et humain aux activités statistiques,
- poursuivre leurs actions visant la pérennisation des synergies déjà existantes ;
- veiller à une allocation efficace des ressources au titre de l'aide.

c) à la Banque africaine de développement, en particulier, de:

- mettre en place un programme élargi de suivi du renforcement des capacités statistiques pour aider les pays à améliorer leurs statistiques en vue du suivi des OMD et du cadre de mesure des résultats du développement ;
- renforcer toutes les initiatives statistiques africaines afin d'assurer la durabilité des programmes et leur appropriation par les pays ;
- renforcer davantage le PCI afin d'en assurer la continuité entre deux périodes d'enquête ;
- accroître son rôle de plaidoyer pour le PCI aux niveaux les plus élevés ;

- assister les pays dans leurs efforts de diffusion ainsi que dans l'amélioration de leurs campagnes sur la culture statistique ;
- appuyer les pays à adhérer aux normes internationales ;
- appuyer les centres de formation statistique (CFS) afin de renforcer le développement des ressources humaines des systèmes statistiques nationaux en Afrique ;
- Appuyer la coopération technique entre les pays ;
- Considérer l'application, dans ses procédures d'acquisitions et de décaissement, de mécanismes plus adaptés aux petits projets qui exigent des décaissements rapides et ininterrompus ;
- renforcer et appuyer la mise en place d'activités statistiques au niveau des Communautés économiques régionales reconnues par la Commission de l'Union africaine.



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High Level Seminar on Leadership and Management of National Statistical Systems

Misha Belkindas, World Bank

Introduction

Developing countries including those in Africa have signed up to managing for development results to achieve better development outcomes. Managing for results has evolved as a global effort among both national governments and development agencies to:

- reduce poverty (headline MDG goal);
- support sustainable and equitable economic growth;
- better define and systematically measure development outcomes; and
- report on achievements of outcomes and impact of policies and programmes.

Managing for results is data intensive and has recognized good statistics as part of the enabling environment for national and international development. Good statistics:

- provide a basis for good (evidence-based) policy and decision-making;
- help identify best courses of action in addressing complex issues e.g. poverty;
- are essential to manage delivery of public services;
- are essential for transparency and accountability; and
- provide a sound basis for designing, managing, monitoring and evaluating of national policy frameworks e.g. PRS, MDGs, etc.

The new focus on managing for development results has increased demand for development data exponentially and put a lot of pressure on already weak and vulnerable National Statistical Systems (NSS) to deliver high quality development data and in a time frame that is appropriate for policy design and monitoring. It has exposed weaknesses in organization including coordination of NSSs; institutional management and capacities including limited infrastructure, human and financial resources; technical assistance; data and systems that produce them; data management including archiving, analysis and reporting; and data use for policy and decision-making. There is a great need for new approaches and innovations to meet current and evolving data needs. It is widely acknowledged that the above issues can best be addressed in a comprehensive and strategic manner using the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). In doing all this, more effective leadership and management of the NSSs will be critical.

There are different leaders of the NSS, including Heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs); Chairpersons of Statistical Boards, Statistical Councils or Inter-Ministerial Statistical Committees; Presidents/Chairpersons of National Statistical Associations; Heads of Statistics Coordination Units at NSOs; and Coordinators of the NSDS. No workshop or seminar had previously been organized at regional level to bring together these leaders of NSSs in Africa for purposes

of peer learning, discussing issues related to statistical development and sharing practical knowledge and experience on the challenges they have faced and how they have handled them in their particular environment. While all countries are different, there are many similarities to make some solutions portable and replicable. It should also be mentioned that whereas there has been rapid turnover of statistical leadership in Africa, there is no regional facility for the induction of new leaders.

It is for these and related reasons that this seminar, the first of its kind in Africa, was organized as a pre-StatCom-Africa (Statistical Commission for Africa) activity. It is expected that follow-up and more intensive seminars will be held in different sub-regions in future also for other layers of managers e.g. for coordinators of NSDSs and Heads of coordination units at NSOs.

Objectives

The objectives of this seminar were to:

- a) empower leaders of NSSs and Poverty Reduction Strategy Units (PRSUs) in Africa to provide strategic (high level) leadership and management to better support national development processes;
- b) bring together leaders and managers of NSSs and PRSUs to discuss and share practical experience and knowledge on current issues and challenges of managing NSSs; and
- c) search for solutions to the challenges of raising the profile of statistics and mainstreaming them into national development processes, especially the PRSPs.

Expected Output:

- more empowered leaders of NSSs;
- clear strategies for raising the profile of statistics and for mainstreaming them into national development processes, especially the PRSPs;
- greater commitment to the process of designing and implementing the NSDS.

Facilitators

The session was chaired by ECA

Panelists

A two person panel presented their views related to management of NSSs. The panel comprised notable and very experienced statisticians from developing countries. These were:

Mr. Gilberto Calvillo, the Director General (INEGI), Mexico, and current Chair of the UN Statistical Commission shared his experience in statistical organization and management in South America with special emphasis on statistical reforms.

Mr. Pali Lehohla, the Statistician General of South Africa shared his experiences on high level advocacy, establishing and maintaining the integrity of official statistics and who highlighted dynamics of leadership and management needed to get African countries from "vicious cycle" to "virtuous circle" status where there will be high demand for and supply of better statistics to support national development processes.

□

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Africa's STATS League - The movers and shakers 2006-2007

Peter Wingfield-Digby, Statistical Consultant and Chair of STATNET, ACBF

Every year the World Bank rates all countries around the world on some important dimensions of statistical capacity. Three broad dimensions are used: statistical practice, data collection, and indicator availability. Within each dimension, there are a number of items on which each country is scored, so as to arrive at an overall assessment of their statistical capacity. The methodology, and the results for the period 2004 to 2006 for individual countries, are available on the World Bank web site, and are described in full in a recent paper prepared for the African Capacity Building Foundation.

Recently the World Bank has uploaded the results for 2007, and this note updates the situation regarding statistical capacity in Africa. It is not possible to make a direct comparison with the figures in the ACBF paper because the World Bank has made some major revisions to their scores allocated for the earlier years, but the results for 2007 can be compared with the revised figures for 2006 (see Table 2).

There was hardly any change between 2006 and 2007 in the overall indicator score for all African countries, or for the overall scores on each of the three dimensions. The overall score for the whole of Africa fell from 57 to 56. The statistical practice score rose by 1 point, but the scores for data collection and indicator availability fell by 2 and 1 points respectively.

Under the World Bank system, the final scores for all countries are on a scale from 0 to 100. To make the comparison of countries more interesting, the ACBF paper incorporated a star rating system, awarding a star for every 20 points. A country could therefore get a 5-star rating if it scored a perfect 100. In the 2007 assessment (see Tables 2 and 3), there were two 4-star countries (Egypt and South Africa), 22 3-star countries, 17 2-star countries, 11 1-star countries, and one no-star country (Liberia).

For 2007 (see Table 3), three-quarters of the countries have retained the same star rating as they had in the 2006 revised listing, but there have been a few changes. Those gaining a star were Benin, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, and Swaziland (all up from 2 to 3). Those losing stars were Namibia, Niger and Zimbabwe (down from 3 to 2), and Central African Republic, Congo DR, Djibouti, and Libya (down from 2 to 1).

Another way of looking at things is to study the league table, and see which countries have moved the most. Table 1 shows those countries whose position changed by at least 10 places, either up or down, between 2006 (revised figures) and 2007.

As can be seen from Table 1, the biggest upward movers were Nigeria and Rwanda, while the biggest losers were Chad, Mauritania and Niger.

Table: Africa STATS League: Main Movers, 2006 to 2007

Country	No of places	Move-ment	Country	No of places	Move-ment
Moving up the league table			Moving down the league table		
Nigeria	+ 17	36 to 19	Chad	- 13	23 to 36
Rwanda	+ 17	23 to 6	Mauritania	- 13	11 to 24
Ethiopia	+ 12	22 to 10	Niger	- 13	14 to 27
Seychelles	+ 10	34 to 24	Zimbabwe	- 11	19 to 30

It is possible to drill down into the World Bank web site and find out the exact reasons why the position of certain countries has improved or worsened over the last year. To take Nigeria as an example, we can see that the respective scores for statistical practice, data collection and indicator availability have gone from 40, 40 and 72 respectively in 2006, to 50, 60 and 75 in 2007. There have been improvements in all three dimensions of statistical capacity. Further investigation of the World Bank web site can reveal what are the particular improvements that have helped to boost Nigeria's score. For instance, the indicator for statistical practice increased because the CPI has been rebased, while the data collection score was boosted because a population census was conducted in Nigeria in 2006.

One particular aspect of this index worth noting is that a country cannot rest on its laurels. It must continue to carry out censuses and surveys at regular intervals in order to maintain its standing in the STATS league. For instance, if a country gains points because it has carried out a population census within the last ten years, it will lose those points as soon as the ten-year period has elapsed, and fall down the league table. If it then carries out a census in the eleventh year, those points will be reinstated and it will climb back up the league table. Some year-to-year volatility in the league table is therefore to be expected, and it would really be better to study the positions of countries in the STATS league over longer time periods to get a clearer picture of how well they are developing their statistical capacity.

Finally, it must be emphasized that this kind of exercise - ranking countries according to performance - depends critically on what indicators are chosen to measure the different dimensions of performance, and what weights are given to each indicator. These issues are discussed in the ACBF paper referred to above. The complete dataset can be found at www.worldbank.org/data/countrydata/cs/id.html.

1. Peter Wingfield-Digby is the Chair of STATNET, the ACBF Technical Advisory Panel and Network (TAP-NET) on National Statistics and Statistical Systems. pwdigby@loxinfo.co.th - www.pwdigby.com
2. Peter Wingfield-Digby, Towards reforming national statistical agencies and systems: a survey of best-practice countries with effective national statistical systems in Africa - An ACBF STATNET study, ACBF Best Practices Study Series, ACBF/BPS/01/2007, African Capacity Building Foundation, 2007



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Table 2: Indicators of Statistical Capacity for All Countries in Africa,

	2006-2007							
	2006				2007			
	Overall	SP	DC	IA	Overall	SP	DC	IA
Algeria	62	50	50	87	61	50	50	83
Angola	37	40	10	62	37	40	10	62
Benin	58	40	50	83	64	50	50	93
Botswana	51	30	40	82	49	30	40	78
Burkina Faso	62	50	50	85	63	40	60	88
Burundi	43	40	20	68	41	40	10	72
Cameroon	62	60	40	87	67	60	50	90
Cape Verde	54	40	70	53	58	40	80	53
Central African Rep.	42	10	50	65	33	10	30	58
Chad	58	60	30	85	52	50	20	85
Comoros	56	30	60	77	56	30	60	77
Congo, Dem. Rep.	44	50	20	62	39	40	20	58
Congo, Rep.	49	50	30	67	56	60	40	68
Côte d'Ivoire	76	60	80	87	69	60	70	78
Djibouti	44	40	20	72	37	30	10	72
Egypt, Arab Rep.	92	80	100	97	89	70	100	97
Equatorial Guinea	31	10	20	62	29	10	20	57
Eritrea	39	20	20	78	34	20	10	72
Ethiopia	59	50	60	68	68	60	60	85
Gabon	37	20	30	62	39	30	30	58
Gambia, The	56	40	60	68	52	40	50	65
Ghana	56	30	60	78	53	30	50	78
Guinea	56	30	60	78	56	30	60	78
Guinea-Bissau	37	30	20	62	29	20	10	58
Kenya	57	40	50	80	57	40	50	80
Lesotho	70	50	70	90	69	60	60	87
Liberia	18	10	0	45	17	10	0	42
Libya	41	40	40	43	31	30	20	43
Madagascar	62	50	50	87	64	50	60	83
Malawi	64	60	50	83	67	60	60	80
Mali	61	40	60	82	61	40	60	82
Mauritania	64	40	60	93	60	40	50	90
Mauritius	73	80	60	78	72	80	60	75
Morocco	77	80	70	82	79	80	80	78
Mozambique	66	50	70	77	69	50	80	77
Namibia	60	40	60	80	59	40	60	77
Niger	62	50	50	85	58	50	40	85
Nigeria	51	40	40	72	62	50	60	75
Rwanda	58	50	50	75	71	70	60	82
Sao Tome & Principe	41	30	40	52	44	40	40	52
Senegal	74	60	70	93	74	70	60	93
Seychelles	55	50	60	55	60	60	70	50
Sierra Leone	42	30	40	55	46	40	40	58
Somalia	21	0	20	43	21	10	10	43

South Africa	86	100	70	88	82	100	70	75
Sudan	33	30	0	68	34	30	0	72
Swaziland	58	30	60	83	61	30	70	83
Tanzania	64	50	70	73	63	50	60	80
Togo	58	40	60	75	58	40	60	75
Tunisia	72	70	60	85	66	70	50	78
Uganda	66	60	60	78	65	60	60	75
Zambia	58	20	60	93	61	30	60	93
Zimbabwe	61	60	50	72	57	60	40	72
Overall	57	45	49	76	56	46	47	75

Abbreviations: SP Statistical Practice, DC Data Collection, IA Indicator Availability

Source: World Bank website, 13 January 2008

Table 3: Africa's STATS league 2007

Star rating	Country	Score (max=100)	star rating	Statistical Data Indicator		
				Practice	Collection	Availability
1 4-star	Egypt	89	4	3	5	4
2	South Africa	82	4	5	3	3
3 3-star	Morocco	79	3	4	4	3
4	Senegal	74	3	3	3	4
5	Mauritius	72	3	4	3	3
6	Rwanda	71	3	3	3	4
7	Cote d'Ivoire	69	3	3	3	3
7	Lesotho	69	3	3	3	4
7	Mozambique	69	3	2	4	3
10	Ethiopia	68	3	3	3	4
11	Cameroon	67	3	3	2	4
11	Malawi	67	3	3	3	4
13	Tunisia	66	3	3	2	3
14	Uganda	65	3	3	3	3
15	Benin	64	3	2	2	4
15	Madagascar	64	3	2	3	4
17	Burkina Faso	63	3	2	3	4
17	Tanzania	63	3	2	3	4
19	Nigeria	62	3	2	3	3
20	Algeria	61	3	2	2	4
20	Mali	61	3	2	3	4
20	Swaziland	61	3	1	3	4
20	Zambia	61	3	1	3	4
24	Mauritania	60	3	2	2	4
24	Seychelles	60	3	3	3	2
26 2-star	Namibia	59	2	2	3	3
27	Cape Verde	58	2	2	4	2
27	Niger	58	2	2	2	4
27	Togo	58	2	2	3	3
30	Kenya	57	2	2	2	4
30	Zimbabwe	57	2	3	2	3

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32	Comoros	56	2	1	3	3
32	Congo Rep.	56	2	3	2	3
32	Guinea	56	2	1	3	3
35	Ghana	53	2	1	2	3
36	Chad	52	2	2	1	4
36	Gambia	52	2	2	2	3
38	Botswana	49	2	1	2	3
39	Sierra Leone	46	2	2	2	2
40	Sao Tome & Principe	44	2	2	2	2
41	Burundi	41	2	2	0	3
42 1-star	Congo DR	39	1	2	1	2
42	Gabon	39	1	1	1	2
44	Angola	37	1	2	0	3
44	Djibouti	37	1	1	0	3
46	Eritrea	34	1	1	0	3
46	Sudan	34	1	1	0	3
48	Central African Rep.	33	1	0	1	2
49	Libya	31	1	1	1	2
50	Equatorial Guinea	29	1	0	1	2
50	Guinea-Bissau	29	1	1	0	2
52	Somalia	21	1	0	0	2
53 No star	Liberia	17	0	0	0	2

Note: A star is awarded for every 20 points gained Source: See Table 2



Progress made in the Implementation of the Statistical Master Plan in Kenya

David Mboni, Coordinator of Statistical Master Plan, CBS, Kenya

Demand for statistics has been rising due increased demand for statistics to monitor the Millennium Goals, the NEPAD African Peer Reviewer Mechanism especially on governance, Globalization and Regional integration, and Economic Recovery strategies.

To meet the demand for statistics, the Government with assistance from Development Partners embarked on compilation of a five year Strategic Plan for the National Statistical System (NSS) covering the period 2003/2004 to 2007/2008 which was completed in March, 2003 and thereafter developed its Strategic Implementation Master Plan (SIMP) for the National Statistical System.

The funding for the implementation of the plan is being carried out by the Government together with the assistance from Development partners. The planned activities in the strategic plan have eliminated ad-hoc financing by the donors. Most of the Development Part-

ners, support is being channeled through the National Statistical System Project with 15 Government Ministries/Agencies benefiting. The World Bank is giving the Government a loan of \$20.5 million, while DfID has given a grant of 6.5 million pounds sterling during a five year period. Other Development Partners who have promised to fund or are funding some of the activities include USAID, SIDA and GTZ.

This project is being managed by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) as the lead agency in the national statistical system. Two committees, namely the National Steering and Technical Committees, a Project Management Unit (PMU) and sectoral task teams were constituted in 2005 to facilitate effective implementation of the activities in the plan. It is important to note that the functions of the National Steering Committee were taken by the Board of Directors which was constituted in July 2007 to run the KNBS.

The Board acts as the national coordinating body, it defines the national statistical strategy, policies, priorities and broad implementation arrangements. It oversees national programme elaboration and implementation, and bears the responsibility for results and their quality.

The Technical Committee meets quarterly or preferably at two weekly intervals, before the steering committee meets. Its main functions include:- examining the statistical programmes of the various agencies in order to achieve greater coordination and avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts, and evolving a national statistical program for the approval of the steering committee; ensuring uniform standards and methodology amongst the various agencies with a view to improving on the quality, comparability and timeliness of their statistical output.

Four sectoral tasks teams have been established in the areas of Real, Fiscal, Financial, and External, Social and Justice statistics. The teams handle specific sectoral issues relating to the NSS and the other statistical units in sector ministries.

Activities Implemented

New Statistics Bill:- A new Statistics Act was enacted in 2006 and became operational in February 2007. The Act transforms the Bureau into a semi-autonomous corporate body known as the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics with a Board of Directors as the overall management authority. The Bureau will co-ordinate and supervise the National Statistical System and set-up a Socio-economic database.

System of National Accounts 93 :- The first aggregates using SNA93 were released in 2004. In 2005 Kenya fully adopted the compilation of the aggregates using SNA 93.

Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS):- The objective of the KDHS was to provide indicators to evaluate and monitor population health and other social indicators. The survey was conducted in 2003.

Tourism Satellite Accounts:- This study was made to assess the

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total economic impact of the sector. Two expenditure surveys on inbound/outbound were conducted in March/April 2004 (Low season) and November/December 2004 (High season)

Governance Survey:-This survey was based on the African Peer Review Mechanisms (APRM) framework. The survey was carried out 2004.

Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS):-This survey started in May 2005 and ended in 2006. Its objects are to generate data to measure poverty, generate data for new CPI and data on household consumption. Two reports have been compiled namely the KIHBS Basic Report and Basic Report on Well Being for Kenyans.

International Comparison Programme (ICP):- The data collection started in June 2005 and ended in 2006. The objective of the ICP is to generate information for the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the construction of Purchasing Power Parities (PPP) and for use in improving national accounts aggregates especially the consumption component.

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA):-The Survey is aimed at understanding poverty and at identifying priority poverty reduction actions from the perspective of poor people by using a qualitative approach. The survey started in December 2005 and ended in April 2006. Work is on going to harmonize the PPA data and that of the KIHBS.

Training

Several officers have enrolled in Masters and Diploma courses since the implementation started. Other training has been the areas of:-

- Basic computer report writing
- Basic statistics Project monitoring and evaluation
- Data management, strategic planning and management
- Data analysis

About 593 officers drawn from the major data producing Agencies have been trained.

- Computer and Equipment:-To date 172 computers, 122 UPS's, 15 Laptops, 36 Printers, 52 TFT screens and 2 LDC Projectors) have been purchased

Technical Assistance:-The country has received over 20 TAs especially from the GDDS project and AFRITAC in the areas of National Accounts, GFS, External sector, Population, Justice statistics etc.

Other Completed Activities include

- Formation of statistical units in Police, Prisons, Judiciary and Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Preparation and implementation of the Eighteen Months Work plan, Procurement and Training Plans (2005/06 , 2006/07 and 2007/08)
- Developed an Institutional Risk Management Frame work

- Developed Financial and Procurement Manuals
- Training Needs Assessment (TNA) study for the NSS is being implemented
- Workshops and training courses conducted on, for example, strengthening of labour statistics, on financial and procurement procedures, and on record management
- Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey Data Captured and reports prepared (KIHBS Basic reports and Report on Well Being)
- Creation of a Database for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in the Civil Service
- Benchmark Survey for the project
- Database for the Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Harmonizing of Education and Industrial Data Collection Instruments
- Printing and launch of Gender Data sheet
- Printing of Health Reports
- Data Access and Dissemination Policy agreed
- Disability Survey data capture and analysis completed
- Masterfile designed and moved from Mainframe to PC platform
- Upgrading of the KNBS Local Area Network
- Development of Specifications for NSSP Computer Equipment

A Guide for Mainstreaming Sectoral Statistical Systems in Africa Launched

Oladejo Ajayi, International Consultant, and Adalbert Nshimyumuremyi, AfDB

The rationale for mainstreaming sector concerns into the NSDS is to achieve uniform and balanced strengthening of the National Statistical System (NSS). Statistical development has often focused on the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to the neglect of the other producers of data namely, all the sectors and sub-national domains. The said mainstreaming ensures that comprehensive statistics can be delivered to users meeting national, sub-national, sectoral and international needs. The intended outcome is a coordinated NSS with shared goals and cross-cutting strategies capable of efficiently and effectively monitoring development indicators.

In order to assist staff of NSOs and of sectoral statistical offices to work together to mainstream sectoral statistical systems into the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) by integrating their strategies into the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) design and implementation, a guide on mainstreaming sectoral sta-

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tistical systems in Africa was officially launched by Dr. Gilberto Cavillo, President of the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and



informatics (INEGI) of Mexico and Chair, UN Statistical Commission at the pre-StatCom-Africa Seminar on the Design and Implementation of the NSDS held in Addis Ababa on 20 January 2008. The preparation of the guide was led by the African Development Bank with the collaboration of Intersect and PARIS21. Also the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) contributed to some parts of section 3 of the guide.

This guide to planning a coordinated NSS complements other documents that have been prepared to assist countries in designing a NSDS such as the Guide for NSDS design. The mainstreaming guide therefore includes some materials on the NSDS design process that is already familiar to staff of NSOs but which may not be as familiar to people working in the sectors. The guide also discusses issues of importance to those sectors to which the NSO should pay attention.

The guide has been presented in **four sections**, namely:

Section 1 : In this section, the need to mainstream Sectoral Statistical Systems into a NSS is demonstrated and some international initiatives to support statistical capacity building to meet development needs are described. The objective is to get users of the guide to appreciate the need to build a coordinated NSS and for them to be aware of the international support that is available to do this.

Section 2 : Describes a framework of objectives and cross-cutting strategies that may be employed to mainstream sectoral statistical systems into a NSS. The objective of this section is to make users of the guide aware of some cross-cutting strategies that may be employed to create a coordinated NSS and help them apply the framework during NSDS design.

Section 3 : Provides an overview of available guidance on how to design an NSDS and how to design sectoral systems for health, labour, agriculture and education. The objective of this section is

to help users of the guide know where to find materials to assist in developing an integrated NSDS.

Section 4 : Provides guidance for staff of NSOs and sectoral statistical offices on how to involve Sectors during every phase of the NSDS design process in order to develop cross-cutting strategies. The objective of this section is that the users of the guide are able to:

- Launch an NSDS design process that involves the sectors in its planning and in preparing its roadmap;
- Use the framework described in section 2 during NSDS design to assess sectoral statistical systems;
- Use the framework described in section 2 to prepare strategies for the sectors;
- Use the framework described in section 2 to develop shared goals and cross-cutting strategies for integration into the NSDS; and
- Implement the integrated NSDS and monitor and evaluate its implementation.

This guide should be used from the launch of NSDS design process through to its implementation. The guide is also useful when revising a Statistical Master Plan or NSDS document without sectoral strategies.

The guide annex contains links to relevant websites providing resources to complement knowledge contained in the guide. There are also examples drawing on country experiences, which form useful directions on how to proceed.



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ILO Outlines the Challenges and Ways of Improving Employment Statistics in Africa

Sylvester Young, Director, ILO Bureau of Statistics

Since its inception in 1919, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has been involved in statistical development activities, which started with the compilation and dissemination of statistics for use in improving labour conditions and related matters. It has since been expanded to include setting standards to improve the comparability of statistics between countries, as well as to assist countries in establishing or improving their labour statistics, through technical assistance and training.

In 1985, the International Labour Conference adopted the Labour Statistics Convention (No. 160), which requires member countries to "... regularly collect, compile and publish basic labour statistics, which shall be progressively expanded in accordance with its resources ...". The list of basic labour statistics specified in the Convention covers, among others, the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, average earnings and hours of work, time rates of wages and normal hours of work, labour cost, consumer price indices, etc.. These topics have, over the years, formed the core of the ILO statistical capacity building and development activities.

On several occasions over the past three decades, African governments have identified employment creation as the key to the fight against poverty. In the recent past and in particular in the Conclusions of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in 2006 and in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in 2007, there has been a strong call for improvement of employment statistics. The ILO presentation examined the challenges Africa faces in improving employment statistics and the opportunities available which could be utilized to achieve this goal as well as the technical support that the ILO could provide in this context.

The Employment Statistics Challenges in Africa

It was pointed out that labour markets in Africa have changed profoundly, due mainly to the forces of trade liberalization, privatization, deregulation and globalization of the economies in the region. Technological developments, new systems of production and organization of work, and lately the "brain drain" have also magnified this situation.

The problems of employment, unemployment and underemployment in Africa are of a structural nature. The majority of the labour force earn their living from low productivity and low income, survivalist-oriented activities in the smallholder or subsistence agricultural sector, and in the informal or micro-enterprise sector. The majority of the workers are self-employed and unpaid family workers. Therefore understanding employment concerns in Africa should go beyond volume measures of labour force to the nature and structure of employ-

ment and the demand for labour.

With respect to employment data collection and analysis, it was observed that while the need for adequate information to support labour market policies and programmes has always existed, in many countries the necessary information is unavailable, unreliable, outdated, or misunderstood. In most countries in Africa, data collection efforts have largely been ad hoc. What is required is an institutionalized and sustainable data collection, analysis and dissemination system.

While Labour Force Surveys (LFS) continue to be the best source of employment statistics, they are rarely conducted on a regular basis in many African countries or at low frequencies, such as 5-yearly, in other countries. Regular annual labour force surveys should be the aim and if less frequent, then these statistics should be collected through modules attached to other annual household surveys. Also attention should be given to labour demand statistics, which are best obtained through establishment/enterprise surveys and censuses.

Improving Employment Statistics

It was strongly argued that improving employment statistics and indicators, therefore, should have the overall objective of strengthening national capacities to produce and analyse reliable labour statistics and labour market information within properly functioning national statistical systems (NSSs). This would include ensuring (a) that National Strategies for Development of Statistics (NSDS) in Africa incorporate labour statistics; (b) that countries aim at (i) conducting regular and frequent Labour Force Surveys & Labour Demand Surveys; (ii) regular production of statistics on human capital development; (iii) exploiting administrative sources, population censuses, industrial surveys and censuses, etc.; and (c) there is effective leadership by national statistical offices (NSOs) of the NSSs.

To support this effort, the ILO will continue to provide technical advisory services through consultancies, missions and training as well as making available technical manuals, which member countries can adopt or adapt. Examples include the recent manuals, publications, etc. on informal employment (forth-coming), disabled workers, labour migration, occupational injuries, consumer price indices (CPI), and tourism statistics. There is also wealth of information available through the ILO data warehouse (<http://laborsta.ilo.org>) & e-advice system (<http://www.ilo.org/stat>). Support will be given to countries to produce and analyse MDG indicators related to employment, including the four for the new employment target, and to mainstreaming gender in labour statistics.

To support capacity building in Africa, the ILO has statistical expertise both in the region and at Headquarters, which countries can access. It has two Specialists in labour statistics in its Sub-regional Offices in Addis Ababa and Abidjan, several professional statisticians at its Headquarters in Geneva, as well as many focal points in other Sub-regional Offices in Dakar, Cairo and Harare. These

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provide services through missions, e-consultations and the development of tools and databases. Member States are encouraged to make use of this expertise to develop and implement their labour statistics programmes and labour market information systems.

Of special reference, it was reported that work on the new International Standard Classification of Occupations, 2008 (ISCO-08) was completed in December 2007 with active participation of African countries, the African Centre of Statistics (ACS) and African Development Bank (AfDB). It is envisaged that countries will be supported in the implementation of the new classification in time for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

StatCom-Africa's attention was drawn to the unique opportunity that will be provided during the forthcoming 18th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), scheduled in Geneva from 24th November to 5 December 2008. The Conference will deliberate on working time statistics and child labour statistics as well as consider other technical issues, in particular labour underutilization, measurement of decent work, and volunteer work. It will also examine procedural issues relating to: (a) improving ILO methods for compiling labour statistics; (b) functions and organization of ICLS – frequency and delegation of authority. It will therefore be a unique opportunity for Africa to influence the establishment of international standards. Information about the Conference is available on <http://www.ilo.org/stat>.

Conclusions

The ILO presentation concluded by inviting StatCom-Africa to resolve to promote the regular annual production of employment statistics collected through surveys and censuses, especially labour force surveys, by 2015 as specified in the political resolutions of the 11th ILO African Regional Meeting (April 2007); and to encourage its members to (i) participate actively and fully at the 18th ICLS; and (ii) take steps for the ratification of the ILO Convention No.160.

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African countries commit themselves to Improving Labour Market Information and Statistics for Poverty Reduction

George Okutho, ILO Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa

Growing amidst poverty!

There is no doubt that the African Continent has witnessed, over the last three or so years, tremendous improvement in annual economic growth rates, averaging in excess of 5 per cent. In fact, in October 2007, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted that, in 2008,

sub-Saharan Africa's real DGP will grow by 6.75% in, versus 7.2% in Asia, 3.2% in Europe and 1.9% in the U.S. This will make the Africa the **second fastest growing economy in the world**.

But what is intriguing about the poverty trend in Africa is that it is continuing despite these recent positive economic growth rates. **So what have been the missing links?** Most analysts argue that poverty reduction in Africa will result from a combination of sustained high levels of economic growth and drastic reductions in inequality to allow poor people to benefit from and contribute to the growth process.

And the most direct and arguably most important channel through which growth will reduce poverty in Africa is employment. Employment income is the main source of revenue for poor people. Whether members of rural households in Africa are wage earners or self-employed, they earn a living from their labour, given the limited number of alternative assets they could depend on, let alone the absence of social (unemployment) security schemes.

New Development Paradigm

At the African Union (AU) Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, September 8-9, 2004), it was also clear that if African countries were to implement policies that would lead to a significant dent in poverty and unemployment, employment creation is critical. It was agreed that employment creation should become the central theme and integral part of the overall development strategies in Africa. Action plans were agreed upon as well as a follow-up mechanism for their implementation.

Recently, the Conclusions of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in 2006 and in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in 2007 emphasized the mainstreaming of employment creation into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. The need for putting in place mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the employment impacts of various policies and strategies; and identifying appropriate employment indicators for evaluating the impact of various growth policies and strategies were also endorsed. It was therefore befitting that the theme chosen for the celebrations of the 2007 African Statistics Day (18 November 2007) was *"Improving Employment and Related Indicators to Better Inform Labour Policies and Programmes in Africa"*.

Understanding the Structural Employment problem in Africa

The problems of employment, unemployment and underemployment in Africa are of a structural nature. The majority of the labour force earn their living from low productivity and low income survivalist-oriented activities in the smallholder or subsistence agricultural sector, and in the informal or micro-enterprise sector. Recent analytical work carried out in Uganda and Ethiopia show that the high incidence of "working poverty" in Africa is largely a function of poor jobs and low returns to self-employment.

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In Ethiopia, paid employment forms less than 10% of the total number of people reported as employed, and even then the proportion declined between 1999 (8.2%) and 2005 (7.9%). The majority of the workers are self-employed and unpaid family workers. Even though employment creation has become a great concern to many Governments in Africa, the issue of the working poor, often represented by the "self employed" and "unpaid family workers" should be of equal concern. Therefore understanding employment concerns in Africa should not only focus on unemployment rates, but also what constitute the employed and underemployed.

The Need for Measurable Employment Indicators

The translation of the objective of employment creation, as well as related objectives, into measurable indicators raises a number of issues concerning the production and use of labour statistics and other labour market information.

Labour markets in Africa have changed profoundly, due mainly to the forces of trade liberalization, privatization, deregulation and globalization of the economies in the region. Technological developments, new systems of production and organization of work, and lately the "brain drain" have also magnified this situation. The need for adequate information to support labour market policies and programmes has always existed, but in many countries the necessary information is unavailable, unreliable, outdated, misunderstood or otherwise inadequate.

Improving Labour Market Information and Statistics in Africa

While in most countries in Africa, there have been attempts to collect and analyse labour market data, these efforts have largely been ad hoc and yet what is required is an institutionalized and sustainable data collection and dissemination system. Moreover, available data sources suffer from lack of uniformity in concepts, coverage, scope and timing, since there is little coordination among the various government units that produce information, with often limited knowledge of what exists among other agencies or potential users.

Improving employment statistics and indicators should have the overall objective of strengthening national capacities to produce and analyse reliable labour statistics and labour market information in order to contribute to the goal of employment creation and poverty reduction monitoring in Africa. The use of labour market information will enhance understanding of the operations of the labour market and therefore the capacity to address distortions and to design growth and poverty reduction strategies. There is a growing voice that employment should be included as a key-indicator, as a governance issue, for the African Peer Review Mechanism.

The ILO will continue to support capacity building efforts and provide technical advisory services in the areas of standards setting, data collection, analysis, and dissemination – building on its recent initiative on African Labour Market Indicators Library Network (ALMIL). This project has helped member countries, on a sustainable basis, to compile, maintain and analyse labour market indicators and meth-

odological information in an efficient and cost-effective manner. It has also encouraged sharing information resources and providing access to information stored in the global Labour Market Indicators Library Network (LMIL) and the Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) database, which captures 20 key indicators covering employment, poverty, education and labour costs. This is in addition to the wealth of data and metadata obtainable from the ILO main labour statistics database, the LABORSTA.

Africa Countries commit themselves to Measurable Targets

During the 11th ILO African Regional Meeting in Addis Ababa, in April 2007, it was agreed by the 53 African member countries that technical assistance and advisory services directed at capacity building are needed in the following areas:

- ensuring the regular collection and dissemination of basic labour statistics;
- improving the quality of labour market statistics and their analysis;
- strengthening the management of labour market information and poverty monitoring systems;
- the dissemination of key national labour statistics and methodological information; and

since labour market information requires networking, the ILO's tripartite partners will need to play an important role in sensitizing their membership to the importance of labour market information.

Specifically, the member countries agreed that: "By 2015 all member States are able to generate basic **annual** data on the size and composition of the workforce. At least half of all African member States have mechanisms in place by 2010 to produce labour market information and statistics for the monitoring of progress on the core dimensions of the Decent Work Agenda."

By Mr. George Okutho, Senior Specialist in Labour Statistics and Economics

ILO Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Addis Ababa

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Scaling-Up Support for Improving National Statistical Systems

Misha Belkindas, World Bank

Marrakesh Action Plan for Statistics

Good official statistics underpin development processes, and provide the basis for management for development results. But the availability of trustworthy statistics depends crucially on the institutional capacity of countries to produce and use them. In many developing countries, this capacity is weak, and the need for countries and donors to work to improve statistical capacity has been widely recognized. In February 2004, at the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Results, the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) was agreed which prioritized six actions for the international community and for national governments. This continues to provide the overarching framework for donor action in this area.

The Third International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results

Although good progress has been made in implementing MAPS, its review at the Third International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results in Hanoi in January 2007 demonstrated that improvements in statistical services, based on the implementation of NSDSs, has only taken place in a very limited set of countries.

One of the key constraints identified by countries at the Hanoi meeting was the problem faced in mobilizing sufficient financial resources for NSDS implementation (Action 3 of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics). Despite the increased recognition of the importance of statistics at the international level, many countries have been relatively unsuccessful in securing finance for statistical capacity building on a sustained basis. At the same time, improving the capacity to produce, analyze, and use statistics is still not given appropriate priority in national budgets and in aid programmes. At the meeting, there was a call by countries for increased levels of support by donors. The key requirement is to move from the preparation of plans and strategies (NSDSs or similar documents) to their implementation.

April 2007 Spring Meeting of the World Bank and the IMF

The response to this call has been discussed at the April 2007 Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF, and then at a special meeting of donors convened in Paris in November 2007. The conclusions of these discussions have been that donors are prepared to support increased efforts at country level; that improved monitoring systems are needed; and that coordinated sector-wide approaches should be used. Some donors are also willing to increase their support for statistics and to provide incentives to countries and donors to participate in a coordinated effort.

Scaling-Up Support for Improving National Statistical Systems

In this context, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the World Bank have been working to establish a mechanism to scale-up efforts to mobilize and coordinate resources at the national level in support of improvements in statistical capacity in developing countries, particularly through the implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics. Although this is still under discussion, the broad ideas on the country level processes and the country participation are summarized below.

(i) Country level processes

Based on the experience gained from statistical capacity building programmes in a number of countries, country-level action needs to be based on well-founded principles to be effective. The key components of the country-level process are:

- NSDS, which has a clear political commitment and has been developed by national authorities through an inclusive process involving key stakeholders, and implementation plan agreed with donors at the country level;
- Support for statistical development and statistical processes coordinated across sectors, ideally delivered through a coordinated System or Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) with a lead donor identified to manage the coordination process;
- Mobilization of resources for the implementation of NSDSs at the country level, in consultation with national statistical agencies and national donor coordinating authorities;
- Use of existing resources, such as the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) and the Statistical Capacity Building Program (STATCAP); and
- Global Fund to provide substantial co-financing in case of financing gaps and minimize administrative overheads for national implementing agencies and statistical agencies.

(ii) Participation

All developing countries are invited to participate in the country-level processes described above. In most cases, countries will demonstrate their interest by preparing and then working to implement an NSDS. An NSDS is intended to be an agreed and approved strategy for improving statistical capacity and the provision of priority statistics.

The recommended approach is to develop a national statistics partnership to strengthen national processes for the management and coordination of statistical capacity building programmes. This national partnership will complement the international coordination processes of the existing MAPS partnership. Countries and donors should work to form partnership arrangements using existing structures wherever possible, although new processes (such as donor coordination groups or partnership forums) may be needed. Na-

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tional statistics partnerships will normally need to include representatives from national statistical agencies and associated governing bodies (such as statistical councils), PRSP Units or their equivalent, national donor coordinating authorities, representatives of data users and key donors involved in supporting statistical systems, including those financing statistical work in key sectors.

The roles of national statistics partnerships should include review, agreement, and monitoring of statistical capacity improvement and NSDS implementation plans. Where necessary, they should support work to prepare detailed budgets, financing plans and funding proposals, including the identification and coordination of financial and technical resources for NSDS implementation. In line with good practice and to reduce transaction costs for countries, donor agencies will be encouraged to identify a "lead" agency to liaise with national authorities, to take the lead in promoting coordination and to convene donor consultation processes where required. In general, the process of review and endorsement of the NSDS is intended to result in a coordinated approach by donors to building statistical capacity in each country.

Countries are encouraged to utilize the services of the PARIS21 Secretariat within national statistics partnership activities. PARIS21 provides a forum for interchange between statisticians and policy makers, and the Secretariat provides knowledge and facilitation services to support countries that wish to develop and implement NSDSs and interim statistical capacity improvement plans.

Decisions on the use of the Global Fund will be made by donors, but key criteria are the extent to which grants meet an identified financing gap which cannot be met through other forms of finance and the alignment of the grant to meet the statistical needs for managing for development results. However, these criteria may not be strictly applied to fragile states and countries emerging from conflict, which would require a review on a case by case basis.



World Bank Initiatives in Africa

Misha Belkindas, World Bank

Accelerated Data Program (ADP)

The Accelerated Data Program (ADP) was launched following a recommendation of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics to undertake urgent improvements needed for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals by improving survey programmes in participating countries. The ADP is implemented as a partnership between PARIS21, the World Bank, and other international partners.

The ADP supports developing countries in producing statistical data relevant for policy design, monitoring and evaluation, by making better use of existing data and aligning survey programmes and

statistical outputs to priority data needs. The ADP consists of three types of activities in participating countries. These activities are currently underway in 11 countries in Africa and additional countries are expected to participate in 2008.

Task 1: Microdata documentation and dissemination. Using tools and guidelines developed by the International Household Survey Network, a national microdata archive is established. Following a complete inventory of existing microdata, datasets are documented in accordance with international metadata standards and best practices. The National Data Archive of Ethiopia is an example of a remarkable achievement at the national level and the ADP has supported the creation of the African Association of Survey Data Archives, led by Ethiopia and Uganda. As part of Task 1, a transparent microdata dissemination policy is also defined in line with the national legislation.

Task 2: Assessing and improving the design of the national survey programme. Task 2 activities include detailed assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the data (in terms of reliability, relevance, comparability, timeliness, accessibility) and recommendations for improving the coherence of data collection in the country. Task 2 is expected to start in 2008.

Task 3: Support for data collection. The third type of activity consists of supporting data collection activities where needed. The ADP does not finance full surveys, but complements other sources of funding. This activity is offered only to countries where data gaps are obvious and no other source of funding is available. For example, the Household Budget Survey 2007/8 in Niger was funded by the government with the ADP supporting occasional international assistance.

General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) Project Phase 2

The World Bank, together with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is implementing a three-year project to support the more effective design, implementation, and monitoring of macroeconomic policy and poverty reduction strategies by strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems in participating countries. The project covers 21 Anglophone countries in sub-Saharan Africa and will run until September 2009. It is structured around the IMF's General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) and is financed by a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID).

The project aims to make a sustainable improvement in the quality of official data, to increase awareness of the value of good quality data and their dissemination, to improve regional cooperation on statistical issues and to support data dissemination standards. The IMF is covering key areas of economic and financial statistics and the World Bank is supporting socio-demographic statistics, in particular, in the areas of population, health, labour, justice and se-

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curity, agriculture, GIS, and management of statistical systems.

Within the project, the IMF and the World Bank are supporting seven modules each. A module is a coordinated set of activities designed to help countries achieve specific improvements in the management of statistical activities and in the quality and coverage of statistical data series. Each module focuses on a defined subject area, either covering particular data sets concerned with different sectors of the economy, or particular statistical processes and instruments. In general, each module involves a launch workshop, a series of bilateral technical assistance missions to address particular concerns and a final, closing workshop to review and report on progress.

To date, the following achievements have been made: (i) seven launch workshops held; (ii) background documentation for each module created; (iii) country priorities defined; and (iv) country plans for project implementation prepared. Looking forward, there will be three waves of missions and two additional workshops. The closing workshops are planned for the first half of 2009.

Bulletin Board System for Statistical Capacity

The World Bank has maintained an online database with information on the statistical systems of countries since 2002, called the Country Statistical Information Database (CSID). The database helps inform Bank staff and the wider public about the status of statistical capacity in developing countries.

An important parameter of CSID has been that data are obtained from existing sources, such as metadata in World Development Indicators and databases of international agencies. Countries themselves have not been approached directly to supply information, although in some cases countries have accessed their own information through the website and have submitted updated information or corrections. The restriction of CSID to using information from third party sources has meant that there is no burden on countries, but it has limited database coverage, offering only an indirect measurement of statistical capacity.

The World Bank is currently developing a Bulletin Board System (BBS) to provide information essential in measuring statistical capacity and monitoring progress in statistical development, through closer engagement of countries in updating and maintaining the data. The BBS will be equipped with procedures to allow countries to view and update data on statistical capacity on a regular basis and improve the coverage and relevance of the data on statistical capacity. Data will continue to be collected from existing data sources, but will be supplemented or replaced with data from countries.

The BBS will include information on, and assessment of, institutional framework, statistical methodology, data sources and data periodicity and availability. It will provide user friendly assessment tools, such as a statistical capacity indicator, checklists showing whether countries are meeting specific statistical capacity assessment criteria, and visual presentation of the results of the assessment.

ria, and visual presentation of the results of the assessment.

E-learning Course on Investing in Statistical Capacity

The World Bank, together with other development partners, is committed to supporting the process of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics. Although agencies have been advocating for increased investment in statistics and have developed guidance materials, NSDS implementation requires not only documentation but also staff who are able to develop and manage statistical capacity building programmes and who can provide support to the managers of statistical services in developing countries.

The purpose of the e-learning course, therefore, is to provide managers and other staff in statistical agencies and potential task leaders working for the World Bank and other donors with the background knowledge and skills required to develop and manage successful statistical capacity improvement programmes. Once developed, this self-learning course will promote a broad understanding of the nature and role of statistical systems in developing countries, introduce the tools and processes available for assessing capacity and performance, and explain the main aspects of developing and implementing projects and programmes to improve statistical capacity, based on the NSDS process.

The course will consist of a series of modules, covering the following topics:

- Why statistics matter
- National statistical systems: organization, activities and principles
- Assessing statistical systems: tools and processes
- National strategies for the development of statistics
- Managing NSDS preparation
- Strengthening coordination, management and legislation
- Building statistical infrastructure
- Investing in data collection and dissemination
- Improving administrative data systems
- Human resource development
- Costing and financing statistical development
- Implementation of a capacity building program.

Each module consists of background reading materials, as well as guided exercises and knowledge tests to evaluate readiness

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to progress. The course will be delivered as a self-learning course through the Internet. Participants will work at their own pace, with each module designed to be completed in a few hours, plus background reading.

The course is expected to be completed by July 2008 and will be available in English. Some modules will also be available in French and Spanish.

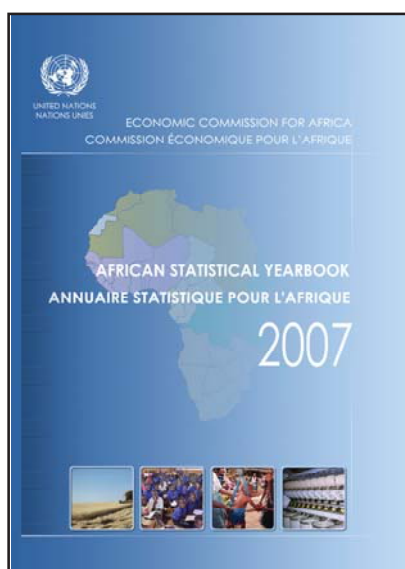
-
- 1) Tools and guidelines are available at: <http://www.surveynetwork.org/home>.
 - 2) The National Data Archive of Ethiopia is available at: <http://www.csa.gov.et/nada>.
 - 3) More information about the GDDS is available on the IMF's Data Standards Bulletin Board at <http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/gdds/gddshome>.



African Statistical Yearbook

ACS

The African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB) is a comprehensive summary of basic statistical information of the 53 African countries covering a wide-range of fields such as Population, National accounts, Agriculture, Industry, Trade, Public Finance, Education and Environment.



The yearbook has two sections: The first section gives a summary of selected indicators with wide coverage of years. The tables are designed to provide comparable data across countries so as to facilitate inter-country comparison. The second section provides more than 34 tables of detailed statistical series covering various thematic areas for each country. The tables generally present the latest nine years data. The 2007 issue covers data for most tables for the years 1998 to 2006 or the latest nine years.

The statistics presented in the Yearbook are in accordance with international recommendations and definitions. Sources of data for this yearbook are National Statistical Offices, UN agencies, and other International organizations. The Yearbook also contains notes about sources and methodologies and abbreviations.

The 2007 issue of the yearbook, the twenty fifth issue of this publication will be available by the end of April 2008 in pdf and xls formats from the Economic Commission for Africa website (<http://www.uneca.org/statistics>). A printed version will be available in due course.

The data produced in the Yearbook and other data sets are also made available in the ECA statistical database.

The next issue of the yearbook, ASYB 2008, will be a joint publication of the Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank and Africa Union Commission.



IV. AFRICA IN GLOBAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Africa takes centre stage at the 39th Session of the UN Statistical Commission in New York: 26–29 February 2008

Ben Kiregyera, ACS

All statistical work in the UN system is based on the needs of member countries. This ensures the relevance of the work of the UN system to statistical development processes in countries. This work is legitimized through appropriate inter-governmental processes. At the global level, there is the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), which is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council. The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) provides the Secretariat to the Commission, which is attended by Chief Statisticians of UN member countries and international organizations. The high level of professional representation makes the UNSC a unique UN Commission. The functions of the UNSC include development of international standards and norms, and development and recommendation of harmonized methodologies mainly in official statistics, censuses and surveys, national accounts and economic statistics, and classifications. At the regional level, we now have the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa).

The 39th Session of the UNSC took place in New York from 26 to 29 February 2008. Africa took centre stage at the UNSC in four respects:

First, Mr. Pali Lehohla, the Statistician General of South Africa (picture) was elected the Chair of the Commission for the next two years. We would like to congratulate Mr. Lehohla, and through him South Africa, on his election and to pledge the full support of the African statistical community to him and members of the bureau of the commission.



Mr. Pali Lehohla, Statistician General of South Africa, new Chair of the UN Statistical Commission

Second, Africa was honoured to be the first region to present a report for discussion at a UNSC session. The ACS report to the commission outlined key issues and challenges confronting African stakeholders in statistical development on the continent as well as current

initiatives aimed at addressing these challenges. The report of the UNSC, which was adopted at the end of the session includes the following:

"The Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report and expressed satisfaction with the re-establishment of a focal point on statistics activities at the ECA with the establishment of the African Centre for Statistics;

(b) Endorsed the proposed recommendations aimed at addressing the challenges facing African national statistical systems as outlined in paragraph 25 of the report;

(c) Congratulated the African region for holding the first Statistical Commission for Africa and recognized that the Commission represents the apex entity of statistical system on the continent;

(d) Noted that problems and solutions thereof, as well as the creation of various institutions for statistical coordination in Africa have relevant lessons for other regions of the world;

Called upon African countries to intensify efforts to develop their national capacities to produce timely and reliable statistics in support of their development effort;

Noted with appreciation the provision of the technical and financial support for statistical capacity building in the African region by various agencies and development partners and urged international agencies and the donor community to strengthen their support to statistical development in Africa."

Third, two African countries - Ethiopia and Mozambique - shared their experiences in census taking during the seminar on "Recent Experiences in Population and Housing Censuses" organized as a side event to the Commission. The Ethiopian representative mentioned that the third population and housing census of Ethiopia was launched on 28 May 2007. The enumeration of the population and its characteristics was planned to be carried out over a two-week period with the exception of the nomadic population in the eastern part of the country where the exercise was undertaken in November 2007. She gave an overview of the 2007 census with a special emphasis on the enumeration of the nomadic population. The Mozambique third Population and Housing Census after independence was conducted from 1 to 15 August 2007. The 2007 census covered the whole country, and to assure the simultaneity of the census, a time reference for the Mozambique Census was established as 1st August 2007. In 2007, the population of Mozambique was estimated at 20,366,795 inhabitants. The President of the Mozambique National Statistical Office gave an overview of the census 2007 by outlining the administrative organization of the census, which involved the creation of executive organs at the national, sub national, and local levels.

Fourth, Africa was the only region given space during the session to showcase her statistical products. Many statistical products from 27 African countries, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Afristat, the Economic Community of West African

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States (ECOWAS) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) (see table) were displayed including country statistical reports, statistical newsletters, fact sheets, statistical journals, CDs, calendars and maps including MDG maps. Many delegations to the session were pleasantly surprised by the amount and variety of statistical work taking place in Africa. The ACS and UNSD would like to thank African countries and organizations that sent materials to New York for display.

Finally, in 2008, the UNSD and the ACS plan to jointly organize a series of workshops on the 2010 census and economic and social statistics. The ACS would like to record its appreciation to Mr. Paul Cheung, the Director of the UNSD, and his staff for the special focus of the UNSD work programme on statistical development in Africa.

African countries/organizations that supplied materials for exhibition

Country/Organization	Type of material sent to UNSD
Benin	Documents
Bolswana	Documents
Burkina Faso	Documents
Cameroon	Documents
Cape Verde	Documents
Côte d'Ivoire	Documents
Egypt	Documents
Ethiopia	Documents
Gabon	Documents
Ghana	Documents
Guinea	Documents
Guinea Bissau	Documents
Kenya	Documents
Liberia	Documents
Mauritania	Documents
Mauritius	Documents
Morocco	Documents
Mozambique	Documents
Niger	Documents
Nigeria	Documents
Senegal	Documents
Sierra Leone	Documents
South Africa	Promotional DVD
Tunisia	Documents
Uganda	Documents and DVDs
United Republic of Tanzania	Documents
Zimbabwe	Documents
ECA	Documents
AFRISTAT	Documents
ECOWAS	Documents
SADC	Documents

The Paris Declaration Evaluation Thematic Study on Support to Statistical Capacity Building

Ben Kiregyera, ACS

The Paris Declaration, endorsed on 2 March 2005, is an international agreement by one hundred ministers, heads of agencies and other senior officials from developed and developing countries, international agencies and civil society organizations. The declaration lays down an action-oriented roadmap intended to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development. The 56 commitments are organized around five key principles: ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability.

The declaration is under evaluation. The first phase of the evaluation which is expected to be completed in 2008 aims to highlight practical lessons learned through implementation and to contribute to ongoing aid effectiveness policy debates as well as the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness that will be held in Accra, Ghana, in September 2008. As a first step in evaluating the Paris Declaration a thematic study is being undertaken focussing on the support for statistical capacity building. This will feed into further studies and evaluations. It will also inform the scaling-up of investments into national statistical systems and, ultimately, the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The specific objectives of the study are to:

develop a framework to evaluate support for statistical capacity building in a variety of contexts,

provide documented evidence of case studies demonstrating the most effective and sustainable forms of support to capacity building.

A Management Board (MB) for the study, which represents the MAPS Advisory Board, has been set up to, inter alia, provide general oversight and direction to the evaluation and represent a variety of sectors and country experiences, assist the evaluation to make links with other ongoing studies, other relevant materials and evaluations, comment on reports, provide quality assurance, advise on a communication and dissemination strategy, etc.

The Management Board includes:

Ben Kiregyera (Director, ACS, UNECA) (Chair)

Charles Lufumpa (Director, Statistics Department, AfDB)

Antoine Simonpietri (Manager, PARIS21)

Saraswathi Menon (Director, Evaluation Office, UNDP)

Pietro Gennari (Director, Statistics Division, UNESCAP)

Lars Johansson (Evaluator, SIDA)

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Lynn Macdonald (Statistics Advisor, DfID)

Jane Gardner (Secretariat to Management Board, DfID)

The study will include desk research, country case studies of two countries in Africa (Zambia and Mali) and one in Asia (Cambodia), donor case studies of DfID and SIDA, and desk studies of a limited number of countries. The MAPS Advisory Board will review the outputs of the work. This group and the reference group for the full Paris Declaration Evaluation will act as a reference group for this study.



Mexican Ambassador to Ethiopia visits the African Centre for Statistics



His Excellency Hector Valezzi, the Ambassador of Mexico to Ethiopia (right); during his visit to the ACS

His Excellency Hector Valezzi, the Ambassador of Mexico to Ethiopia and His Excellency Mr. Oliver Contla, the Deputy Head of Mission visited and held discussions with the Director and staff of the African Centre for Statistics on South-South cooperation in statistical development in Africa. The visit took place on 9 April 2008. The meeting was a follow-up to the hosting by the Centre of Dr. Gilberto Calvillo Vives, the President of the Mexican National Institute for Statistics, Geography and Informatics (INEGI) and also then the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission. Areas identified for cooperation include the 2010 census (INEGI has great strengths in the use of GIS in Statistical Systems) and informatics. In addition the experiences of Mexico in civil and vital registration systems will be found particularly useful in Africa's efforts to strengthen their systems.



African Centre Chairs the Statistics Cluster of MDG Africa Working Group

Ben Kiregyera, ACS

At mid-point towards the target data for the MDGs, there is concern that progress in Sub-Saharan Africa on MDGs has remained slow and that follow-up on international commitments remains fragmented and does not draw on the full expertise of the UN system and its partners in Africa. It is against this backdrop that the UN Secretary General set up, in 2007, the MDG Africa Steering Group and associated Working Group. The objectives of the Steering Group are to:

- identify practical steps and mechanisms for coordinated MDG efforts,
- concretize aid commitments and improve aid predictability,
- support MDG operationalization at the country level.

The MDG Africa Steering Group is a high-level group that is chaired by the UN Secretary General. It is responsible for agreeing on core deliverables, providing strategic guidance and coordination across member organizations, and engaging in high-level advocacy and outreach to governments to ensure implementation of its commitments. Membership of the Steering Group includes the UN Secretary General (Chair), President of the African Development Bank, the Chair of the African Union Commission, the President of the European Commission, the Managing Director of IMF, the President of the Islamic Development bank, the Chair of the UN Development Group and the President of the World Bank.

The MDG Africa Working Group comprises operational leaders from across the UN system, Bretton Woods Institutions and other multilateral organizations working on development in Africa. This group comprises: The Deputy UN Secretary General (Chair), Chief Economist of the African Development Bank, Vice Chair of African Union Commission, Deputy Director General and Directorate General for Development of the European Commission, Director of the African Department of the IMF, Director of Operations, planning and services Department of the Islamic Development Bank, Chair of OECD Development Assistance Committee, Chair of the Regional Directors' Team and Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the Chair of the UN Executive Committee on Economics and Social Affairs, UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on MDGs, Vice President for Africa at the World Bank.

In order to support the above objectives of the MDG African Steering Group, seven thematic clusters have been set up. These are: health, agriculture and food security, infrastructure and trade facilitation, statistical systems, aid predictability and support for MDG operationalization at the country level.

We are happy to inform you that the thematic cluster on statistical systems is co-chaired by the UN Economic Commission for Africa

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(African Centre for Statistics) and the World Bank. Members of the cluster include the African Development Bank, OECD, UN Statistics Division, FAO, IMF and UNDP. The remit of the thematic cluster includes identifying practical ways in which the international system can lend effective support to country-led scaling-up for MDGs during 2007-2015. The focus is on accelerating progress through better coordination, stronger leadership across the international system and clearer implementation mechanisms.

We urge all agencies and organizations promoting statistical development in Africa to share information with cluster members about their current and planned statistical activities in various countries of Africa.



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News from the International Statistical Institute

Denise Lievesley, African Centre for Statistics

ISI membership

We are very happy to announce the election to membership of the ISI of the following African statisticians:

- 1) Said El Melhaoui (Morocco)
- 2) L. Kennedy Nyongesa (Kenya)
- 3) Gane Samb Lo (Senegal)
- 4) Nicholas N.N. Nsawah-Nuamah (Ghana)
- 5) Fredrick Edward Walugembe (Uganda)
- 6) Ibrahim Sorie Yansaneh (Sierra Leone)

We welcome and encourage nominations of African statisticians for ISI membership. The process is really very simple. Download and complete the form to be found at <http://isi.cbs.nl/candidateform.doc> and, with their agreement, include the names of three proposers who must already be ISI members. Then e-mail or post the completed form back to the ISI.

If you have any difficulty with this process please feel free to contact me as I am happy to help. dlievesley@uneca.org

Jan Tinbergen Awards: Competition for Young Statisticians from Developing Countries 2009

A competition is being held among young statisticians from developing countries who are invited to submit a paper on any topic within the broad field of statistics, to win the opportunity to present the paper at the ISI Session to be held in Durban, South Africa, in August 2009.

Participation in the competition is open to nationals of developing countries who are living in a developing country, and who were born in 1977 or later (see <http://isi.cbs.nl/tinbergen/2009papers.htm> for a complete list of the rules). Papers submitted must be unpublished original works, which may include material from participants' university theses. The papers submitted will be examined by an International Jury of distinguished statisticians, who will select the three best papers presented in the Competition. Manuscripts for the Competition should be submitted in time to reach the ISI no later than January 1, 2009.

Each author of a winning paper will receive the Jan Tinbergen Award to the amount of € 2,269 and will be invited to present his/her paper at the Durban Session of the ISI, with all expenses paid.

Mahalanobis Prize for eminence in statistics

A Mahalanobis Prize in memory of this eminent Indian statistician will be awarded in 2009 to a statistician who comes from, and has worked in, a developing country in recognition of a lifetime achievement in statistics and the promotion of best statistical practices. Previous winners include Prof. Benjamin Kiregyera. The Prize will consist the fare and expenses to attend the ISI Durban Session and a prize of US\$ 5,000. The Mahalanobis Committee Jury invites you to propose a candidate to the Committee, with arguments supporting the nomination. Proposals can be sent to Shabani Mehta smha@cbs.nl at the ISI Permanent Office before August 1, 2008 who can supply more information.

Cochran-Hansen Prize 2009: Competition for Young Survey Statisticians from Developing and Transitional Countries

The ISI Section, the International Association of Survey Statisticians awards the Cochran-Hansen Prize every two years to the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a developing or transitional country. Participation in the competition for the Prize is open to nationals of developing or transitional countries who are living in such countries and who were born in 1969 or later.

Papers submitted must be unpublished original works. They may include materials from the participant's university thesis. They should be in either English or French. Papers for consideration should be submitted to the IASS Secretariat to arrive by December 29, 2008.

The papers submitted will be examined by the Cochran-Hansen Prize Committee appointed by the IASS. The author of the winning paper will receive the Cochran-Hansen Prize in the form of books and journal subscriptions to the value of about € 500, and will have reasonable travel and living expenses paid in order to present the paper at the ISI Session in Durban.

For further information and a full description of the rules please e-mail: Claude.olivier@insee.fr

ISI Durban

On pages 48-49 of this newsletter you will find an update on the planning for the next ISI session in Durban. This includes a report from Dr Mafafo concerning the exciting initiatives which Statistics South Africa is leading to involve students and teachers of statistics in the ISI meeting and to use the meeting to leverage improvements in the amount and quality of statistical education at all levels.

The International Statistical Literacy Programme (ISLP) shares similar aims. We are keen to involve more professional statisticians from across Africa in this programme. The benefit of the ISLP from an official statistics perspective is that if children are statistically literate (or at least learn how to find and understand statistics relat-

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ing to their country) we have a strong basis for educating them as to the importance and usefulness of statistics. This enables us to give them some basic concepts as to the role of official statistical and they can help us spread the message that co-operating in surveys and censuses conducted by the official statistical agencies is important. In this way ISLP contributes to educating survey respondents as to why they are being asked questions, and what the data is used for, so as to improve the quality of the data we can collect.

The aim of both the Statistics South Africa capacity building initiatives and the ISLP is to ensure that the first ISI session to be held in Africa south of the Sahara leaves a lasting legacy to the continent.

It is also really important that the scientific programme of the ISI session reflects the interests of African statisticians as well as allowing Africans to showcase their contributions to the discipline and its applications. May I put in a plea, therefore, for all readers of this newsletter to consider whether they or their colleagues can offer a paper for one of the invited paper sessions or can prepare a contributed paper. We will use this newsletter to keep you up to date with the development of the conference programme but for more up to the minute news see <http://www.statssa.gov.za/isi2009/index.aspx>



The 57th Session of the ISI, Durban 2009 ... The Countdown Begins

Pali Lehohla, Statistics South Africa

In every airport of South Africa is a digital timer proudly flashing the number of days left to kick-off for the 2010 Soccer world cup to be held in South Africa in 2010. On Friday the 4th of April 2008, there were 808 days left to kick-off. It is exciting times for South Africa as it prepares to host the world FIFA cup. It is equally exciting times for the statistical community in South Africa and in Africa, as the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) draws closer, hosted by South Africa. There are 499 days left till South Africa opens the doors to the Durban International Convention Centre to welcome the international statistical community to the historic 57th Session of the ISI to be held in Durban, South Africa between the 16th and 22nd August 2009.

Parallel coordinated processes are in place in preparation for the 57th Session of the ISI. The appointment for the first time of a woman president of the ISI marks a very significant milestone in the history of the ISI. Its historic significance reflects that of the fact that an ISI Session comes to sub-Saharan Africa for the first time in 122 years.

The ISI 2009

The writing of history always presents new unforeseen challenges

for the way forward. One of those challenges is ensuring the broadest participation of the African statistical community. Another is to provide space for as much intense deliberation on topics of relevance to the development discourse in Africa as the issues of measurement; monitoring and evaluation take higher priority on the development and planning agenda of Africa. How this space is carved within the 57th Session of the ISI, how it is carved within the traditions and norms of the ISI as a professional association is critical to the recognition of a new legacy Africa is building in its own self-driven and self-governed statistical development.



Durban International Convention Centre

The event to take place 16-22 August 2009 is being carefully managed under the dedicated and watchful eye of the new project manager; Professor Jacky Galpin whose is relentlessly ensuring that all planning for the event is going according to plan and schedule. The Session's second official announcement and invitation is scheduled to go out in May 2008. Registration for the Session will open in July 2008. The 57th Session of the ISI promises to be a vibrant, stimulating Session that will reflect a very strong African renaissance in statistics and statistical literacy and the warmth of a rainbow nation.

South Africa once again takes this opportunity to invite you to the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute in Durban in August, 2009.

For more information on the 57th Session of the ISI, please contact Professor Jacky Galpin at jacky@galpin.co.za.



ISibalo Capacity Building Programme

Miranda Mafafo, Statistics South Africa

As the host, South Africa has positioned its strategy for the ISI Session in 2009 to re-enforce and strengthen the legacy of statistical development in South Africa and in Africa. A number of programmes and activities are already in place ahead of the ISI 2009 that knit together towards building a legacy of African statistical development through the ISibalo Capacity Building Programme which is being managed by Dr. Miranda Mafafo.

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Through ISlbalo, relevant African topics have been identified for presentation at the ISI Session in 2009. Potential African session organizers will be contacted to start preparing the African Sessions, bringing in as much experience, on-the-ground knowledge and best practice from Africa as possible. To mobilize and build capacity of young statisticians on the continent, the 1st Africa Conference for Young Statisticians will be held 1-3 July 2008 in South Africa. This meeting of young statisticians will be opened by the Honourable Minister Trevor Manuel and already has 104 registered papers from young statisticians from South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, Egypt, Malawi and Zambia. The meeting will bring together research and official statisticians with a view to exposing them to presenting scientific papers in preparation for their participation at the ISI Session in 2009 at a proposed ISI Young Statisticians Olympiad which will give them an opportunity to interact with other statisticians from all over the world.

At another level, also in preparation for the ISI Session in 2009, the International Statistical Literacy Project Competition has caught fire in southern Africa. This competition first International Statistical Literacy Competition of the International Association for Statistics Education (IASE) opened registration in September 2007. Students of the age 10-18 years old at the time of registration will be able to participate under different categories, according to their level of statistical literacy. Participation is free and training materials are free and posted online for anyone to use or mailed to the teachers where necessary. To participate, a teacher must register and represent the students.

In a bid to increase statistical literacy and awareness as South Africa prepares to host the 57th Session of the ISI, the ISLP Competition



Adopt-a-School Ceremony, Our Lady of the Rosary School for Girls, Ndwedwe, South Africa

forms a part of the ISlbalo Capacity Building Programme which will promote the scholarly participation of Mathematics learners from all over the world at the 57th Session of the ISI to be held in Durban, South Africa, 16-22 August 2009. To date over 285 South African schools have registered for the competition. Training workshops for

educators in preparing for the competition were undertaken in the past three weeks using the training material that is available on the website. **For more information on the ISLP competition, contact Dr. Juana Sanchez at jsanchez@stat.ucla.edu**

In an effort to support and increase the participation of the girl-child in mathematics and statistics at high school, in October 2007, Statistics South Africa adopted a school, Our Lady of the Rosary School for Girls. A mathematics and statistics Activity Centre was opened at the school which was resourced with computers, statistical software, textbooks, and other resources needed to make teaching mathematics and statistics easier at the school. The occasion was graced by the president of the ISI, Professor Denise Lievesley who took part in a ceremony of honoring girl-child achiever in mathematics at Our Lady of the Rosary School.

The next fourteen months will see an aggressive intervention strategy to provide support to the girl-child in South Africa in the area of mathematic and statistical education. A number of research reports will also be commissioned during this period to help understand the core factors and issues affecting the education and in-take of the girl child in mathematics and statistics. A preliminary report on the findings will be submitted to the ISI Executive Committee.

Mathematics student teachers from the University of Pretoria are also coming on board to do their part by volunteering to help give extra lessons in mathematics and statistics over the weekends, at winter school and summer school. This is testimony to the important role of partnerships in building this legacy in the nation in of South Africa.

Other exciting programmes lined up for the ISI Session in 2009 include the mathematics soccer programme; a programme designed for learners to have fun while learning the key principles of geometry and trigonometry. A mathematics soccer festival will held on Friday 22nd August 2009 for young and old statisticians, learners and educators to celebrate the ushering in of the 2010 Fifa world cup tournament to be held in South Africa.

For more information on the ISlbalo Capacity Building Programme, please contact Dr. Miranda Mafafo at mirandam@statssa.gov.za



VI. NEWS

Autonomy for Botswana Central Statistics Office

African Centre for Statistics

The government of Botswana has taken a decision to make the Central Statistics Office (CSO) autonomous. The authority to transform the CSO into an autonomous agency was given in a Presidential Directive of June 2007. In February 2008, there was a Presidential Directive to amend the current Statistics Act of 1967. Presidential Directives are resolutions taken during Cabinet meetings.

The African Centre for Statistics would like to congratulate the CSO on this new status, which we expect will make the CSO more effective and efficient, and will enhance the credibility and impartiality of official statistics the CSO produces. We pledge our full support to the Government of Botswana to ensure that the transition to autonomy is smooth. □

Parliamentarians in Tanzania challenged to use statistics

ACS

On a recent joint AfDB-UNECA mission to selected SADC countries, the mission comprising Dr. Charles Lufumpa, Director of the Statistics Department and Mr. Robert Ngong, Principal Statistician at AfDB, and Ben Kiregyera, Director of the African Centre for Statistics at UNECA undertook a number of activities including discussions with high level government officials (Ministers and Permanent Secretaries), Governors of Central Banks, managements of NSOs, NSDS design teams and development partners. In Tanzania, the mission also conducted a seminar for Parliamentarians.



Ben Kiregyera addressing Parliamentarians in Tanzania

The objectives of the seminar were to:

- challenge Parliamentarians to demand and use better statistics in their debates, budgeting and oversight/monitoring development functions. In particular, they were challenged to demand that

ministries submit their annual performance reports together with their budget submissions (as per 2007/08 budget guidelines);

- drum up support for reforming the National Statistical System and in particular, to make the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) an autonomous agency of government to enhance the credibility and impartiality of official statistics (and to be seen to do so) and, also, to make production, management and dissemination of official statistics more effective and efficient; and
- support mainstreaming statistics into national development processes and increasing resources for statistical capacity building and production.



From left: Mr. Robert Ngong (AfDB), Ben Kiregyera (ACS), Hon. Zitto Kabwe (Chairman of Public Organizations Committee), Dr. Abdalla Kigoda (Chairman of the Parliamentary Finance and Economic Affairs Committee), Ms. Albina Chuwa (Director General of the National Bureau of Statistics) and Dr. Samuel Nyantahe (National Consultant on NSDS)

The seminar which was attended by about 30 Members of Parliament was headline news on radio and TV on the day it was held and was also extensively covered in the daily newspapers the following day. The following gives the coverage of the seminar in The Daily News (one of the leading dailies in Tanzania) of Wednesday, 26 March 2008.

It is also worth reporting that on the day of the seminar, the Tanzania Independent Television (ITV) carried out an opinion poll as part of its popular daily opinion poll programme (Kipima Joto in Kiswahili) on current issues. In this poll, the question was: "Will the problem of unavailability of timely and reliable statistics will be better handled if the National Bureau of Statistics is autonomous and answerable to Parliament rather than to Government?".

The following were the results:

68% Yes,
20% No
12% do not know

VI. NEWS

MPs challenged to use statistics effectively

By JIANG ALIPO

MEMBERS of Parliament (MPs) have been challenged to ensure effective use of official statistics to facilitate budgeting and monitoring of development activities.

The challenge was posed yesterday by the Director for African Centre for Statistics, Dr Ben Kiregyera, when briefing members of the Parliamentary Finance and Economic Affairs Committee on the importance of statistics.

"One of the things that make Africa remain poor is that people who are supposed to demand and use the data for developmental purposes are neither demanding nor using the statistics," explained Dr Kiregyera.

Dr Kiregyera said MPs

should be able to get detailed statistics for their specific constituencies, for effective planning for the development of their respective areas.

He also urged the legislators to call for statistical reforms aimed at making the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) an autonomous body.

"We can have better statistics when we reform NBS and make it perform independently, away from the Ministry of Finance and Planning. That will enhance credibility and impartibility of official statistics," he said.

The committee's Chairperson, Dr Abdallah Kigoda assured Dr Kiregyera that the MPs were supporting the idea of making NBS an autonomous body.

Chief Executive of the Information Centre for Health and Social Care (U.K), Director of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics based in Canada, Director of the UK Data Archive and Professor of Social Research Methods at the University of Essex (UK), Director of the Permanent Office and the Research Centre of the ISI, and Assistant Director (then Acting Director), Survey Methods Centre, Social and



Prof. Denise Lieslesley

The number of viewers who responded was not given.



African Centre for Statistics hosts Prof. Denise Lieslesley, President, International Statistical Institute

The African Centre for Statistics is proud to host Prof. Denise Lieslesley for six months beginning 16 March 2008. Denise is the current President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), the premier statistical association and one of the oldest international scientific associations functioning in the world. Its first congresses were convened in 1853 and it was formally established in 1885 to develop and improve statistical methods and their application through the promotion of international activity and cooperation. The ISI is composed of more than 2,000 individual elected members who are internationally recognized as the definitive leaders in the field of statistics together with a number of specialist sections catering for the interest of particular groups of statisticians.. Its membership crosses all borders, representing more than 133 countries worldwide. The ISI has its office in the Netherlands and has consultative status with the United Nations.

Prof Lieslesley is also a former President of the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) and the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) and until recently, was the International Representative on the Board of the American Statistical Association. She is a former

Community Planning Research (UK)

Denise brings to the Centre extensive experience of statistical associations at national and international level, statistical organization and management, household survey design and execution, data archiving, statistical training and international cooperation in statistics. She will help the Centre think through its rather ambitious programme to offer advisory services and technical assistance to African countries, focusing particularly on the creation and maintenance of national statistical associations; ensuring the maximum availability of data consistent with protecting confidentiality, and ensuring the preservation of data; promoting the role of women in the statistics profession through increasing the recruitment of girls into mathematics and statistics, through mentoring and supporting female staff in statistical agencies and through creating strong peer groups for senior women statisticians; development of partnerships for statistics with an especial focus on supporting the creation of strong user/producer relationships.

She will also be assisting South Africa and regional institutions to mobilize Africa to fully participate in the 57th Session of the ISI to be held in Durban, South Africa from 16 to 22 August 2009. This will be the first time the ISI is being held in a sub-Saharan African country and Africa is determined to make the session the best attended ever.



VI. NEWS

New appointments of Heads of National Statistics Offices

This newsletter aims to keep Director Generals of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) informed about what is happening to their peers across Africa. In this connection, we will appreciate receiving information from NSOs about retirements and appointments of new Heads of the offices.

Angola



Maria Ferreira dos Santos de Oliveira

Angola has a new Director General of the National Statistical Institute. She is Ms. Maria Ferreira dos Santos Oliveira (picture), who was previously the Deputy Director of the Institute. She replaces Mr. Joaquin Flavlo de Sousa Gouto.

She brings the number of female heads of national statistics offices in Africa to eight (8).

Seychelles



Jude Padayachy

Mr. Jude Padayachy is the new Chief Executive Officer of the National Statistics Bureau and the Chairman of the National Statistics Council of Seychelles. Mr. Jude Padayachy was appointed by the President and assumed duty on December 2007.



VI. NEWS

Heads of National Statistical Offices in Africa

Country		Name
Algeria	M.	Mohammed Boumati
Angola	Ms.	Maria Ferreira dos Santos Oliveira
Benin	Mr.	Cosme Vodounou
Botswana	Ms.	Anna Majelantle
Burkina Faso	Mr.	Ouattara Bamory
Burundi	Mr.	Déogratias Buzingo
Cameroon	Mr.	Joseph Tedou
Cape Verde	M.	Francisco Fernandes Tavares
Central African Republic	M.	Félix Moloua
Chad	M.	Ousmane Abdoulaye Haggar
Comoros	M.	Bastoin Msoma
Congo	M.	Samuel Ambapour Kosso
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr.	Mathieu Meleu
D.R. Congo	M.	Marcel Nyumbaiza Malungu
Djibouti	Mr.	Amareh Ali Said
Egypt	Mr.	Abou Baker M. El- Gendy
Equatorial Guinea	M.	Luis Ondo Obono
Eritrea	Mr.	Aynom Berhane
Ethiopia	Ms.	Samia Zekaria
Gabon	M.	Louis Martin Wora
Gambia, The	Mr.	Alies. S. N'dow
Ghana	Dr.	Grace Bediako
Guinea	M.	Oumar Diallo
Guinea-Bissau	M.	Carlos Mendes da Costa
Kenya	Mr.	Anthony K.M. Kilele
Lesotho	Ms.	Liengoane Mthoweso Lefosa
Liberia	Dr.	Edward Liberty
Libya	Mr.	Salem Abu-Aisha
Madagascar	M.	Rakotomalala Andriamampianina
Malawi	Mr.	Charles Machinjili
Mali	M.	Seydou Moussa Traoré
Mauritania	M.	Baba Ould Boumeiss
Mauritius	Mr.	Harish Bundhoo
Morocco	Mr.	Jamal Bourchachen
Mozambique	Mr.	Joao Dias Loureiro
Namibia	Mr.	Fanuel Hangula
Niger	M.	Abdollahi Beidou
Nigeria	Mr.	Vincent O. Akinyosoye
Rwanda	Dr.	Louis Munyakazi
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	M.	Albano Germano de Deus
Senegal	M.	M. Babakar Fall
Seychelles	Mr.	Jude Padayachy
Sierra Leone	Mr.	Joseph A. Lawrence Kamara
Somalia	Mr.	Nur A. Weheliye
South Africa	Mr.	Pali Jobo Lehola

Sudan	Prof.	Awad Hag Ali Ahmed
Swaziland	Ms.	Isabella Hlophe
Tanzania	Ms.	Albina Chuwa
Togo	M.	Kokou Yao N'guissan
Tunisia	M.	Khalifa Ben Fekih
Uganda	Mr.	J.B. Male-Mukasa
Zambia	Ms.	Efrida Chulu
Zimbabwe	Mr.	Moffat Nyoni

National Statistical Associations in Africa

Country	Association	Name		
Burkina Faso	Association des Statisticiens et Démographes du Burkina Faso	M.	Some Nibene Habib	President
Cameroon	Association des Statisticiens du Cameroun	Mr.	Isaac Njiemoun	Contact person
Congo	Association des Statisticiens	Mr.	Bolide Ntumba	Contact person
Equatorial Guinea	Association des statisticiens	Ms.	Angeles Ngongolo	Contact person
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Statistical Association	Dr.	Emmanuel G. Yohannes	President
Gabon	Association des Statisticiens du Gabon	Mr.	Jean Nestor Nguema	Contact person
Ghana	Ghana Statistical Association	Mr.	Nicholas Nsowah-Nuamah	Contact person
Madagascar	Association Malgache des Ingenieur Statisticiens	Mr.	Eric Raktomanana	Contact person
Malawi	Statistical Association	Dr.	Lawrence Kazembe	Contact person
Malawi	Statistical Association	Dr.	Tobias Chirwa	Contact person
Mali	Association de Malienne Statistlique	M.	Aboumediane Toure	Contact person
Mauritania	Association des Statisticiens de Mauritanie	M.	Cissoko Mamadou	President
Niger	Association des Statisticiens et Démographes du Niger	Mr.	Alichina Idrissa Kourguéni	President
Senegal	Association Sénégalaise pour la Statistique	Mr.	Amadou Talla Gueye	President
South Africa	South African Statistical Association	Dr.	Khangelani Zuma	President
Tanzania	Tanzania Statistical Association	Mr.	Peter C.T. Mayeye	Contact person
Togo	Association des Statisticien et Démographes	Mr.	Kponton Anani Théodore	Président
Uganda	Uganda Statistical Society	Mr.	Owino Abraham Yeyo	President

Request:

ACS will appreciate it if it can be kept updated about changes in the leadership of NSOs and National Statistical Associations.



VI. NEWS

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK

M.SC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR IDB LEAST DEVELOPED MEMBER COUNTRIES (LDMCs)

ANNOUNCEMENT

(Academic Year 1429H /2008-2009)

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is pleased to announce the 11th Academic Year (1429 H/2008-2009) of "The M.Sc Scholarship Programme in Science and Technology for IDB Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs)", starting in September 2008.

This Programme offers scholarships in **Science & Technology** fields of study relevant to the needs and national development programmes of the IDB LDMCs, leading to an M.Sc degree (in 2 years) in institutions in the IDB member countries. There are approximately **50 (fifty) scholarships available for the A.Y. 1429H/ 2008-2009**. Applicants may apply for studies in "Science, Engineering, Technology and Medical Sciences". Also, a limited number of scholarships will be **offered for Statistics and related fields, such as Applied Statistics, Demography, Operational Research, Econometrics, etc**, for which candidates should meet additional conditions as outlined in the box below (*).

1. The Programme is open to students from **20 IDB Least Developed Member Countries (LDMCs) (**)** who meet the following eligibility criteria:
2. Citizens of any of the eligible LDMCs (see footnote);
3. Not more than 30 years old at the closing date of application;
4. In possession of a B.Sc in Science/Technology;
5. Above average academic standing/grades;
6. Nominated by scientific/academic/research institutions of their countries;
7. Committed to returning to their countries upon completion of their studies;
8. Not in receipt of any other scholarship; and
9. Medically fit and willing to undertake medical tests after selection.

(*). Candidates for Statistics and related fields, the additional criteria are as follow:

1. Statisticians who are already working in national or regional statistical institutions in member countries;
2. Such statisticians must have worked for at least a year and be a permanent staff in their institutions; and
3. Be committed to return to their institutions upon completion of their studies.

The scholarship covers the tuition fees, living allowance, clothing, books allowances, medical coverage and a return air ticket. It also covers research fees for those who do their studies by research.

To apply, please submit a completed Application Form with 2 passport-size photographs, birth certificate, diploma/transcripts and three letters of reference and admission from an institution in IDB member countries (not those in the West) are required.

The application must be sent through the Office of the IDB Governor in the country concerned to be forwarded to the IDB not later than April 30, 2008.

Islamic Development Bank, Office of the Scholarship Programme

P.O. Box 5925, Jeddah 21432, Saudi Arabia; Tel: 636-1400; Fax: 646 6887; e-mail: scholar@isdb.org or LKadkadi@isdb.org

(**) Eligible LDMCs: Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, Uganda & Yemen.



VI. NEWS

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Organisers	Location
APRIL TBD	Expert group meeting on censuses planning and enumeration for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses	UNECA	TBD
April 2	17ème Réunion du Conseil des Ministres d'AFRISTAT	AFRISTAT	Paris, France
April 7 - 11	Atelier régional du PCI-Afrique sur l'élaboration d'une série chronologique améliorée du produit intérieur brut (PIB) pour la période 2003-2007 / ICP-Africa Regional Workshop on the Compilation of an Improved Gross Domestic Product (GDP) time series for the period 2003-2007	AfDB	Lusaka, Zambia
April 10 - 12	African Association of Statistical Data Archivists (AASDA): Inaugural Meeting	PARIS21 /ADP	Cape Town, South Africa
April 21 - 25	Conference on Climate Change and Official Statistics	UNSD	Oslo, Norway
April 21 - 25	IMIS (système intégré de gestion des données)	AFRISTAT	Bamako, Mali
April 21 - 25	Séminaire conjoncture Afrique de l'ouest	AFRISTAT	Bamako, Mali
April 22 - 24	General Data Dissemination Standard (GDDS) Phase II project	IMF	Cape Town, South Africa
April 28 - 30	Accra High Level Forum regional preparatory meeting for Africa		Kigali, Rwanda
April 28/04 - 10/05	Formation à la création et à la gestion de site web	AFRISTAT	Bamako, Mali
May TBD	Workshop on Environment Statistics for ECOWAS member states (UNSD, UNEP, UNECA, ECOWAS)	UNSD	TBD
May TBD	Sub-regional workshop training on purchasing power parities (PPP) computation and analysis	AfDB	Dar-Es Salam, Tanzania
May TBD	Atelier sous-régional sur le calcul et l'analyse des parités de pouvoir d'achat (PPA)	AfDB	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
May 6 - 8	Conférence « Promotion internationale des standards et coordination dans le domaine des comptes nationaux pour la croissance durable et le développement »	EUROSTAT / UNSD	Luxembourg
May 12/05 - May 13/06	Measuring Democracy, Governance and Human Rights, 2008: E-Learning on the InWEnt Global Campus	InWEnt	Global Campus (InWEnt e-learning platform)
May 19 - 23	Atelier régional sur les indicateurs du marché du travail et de la pauvreté	AFRISTAT	Bamako, Mali
May 19 - 23	Séminaire conjoncture Afrique centrale	AFRISTAT	Bangui, Rép. Centrafricaine
May - June	Measuring Progress: Statistics for MDG Indicators, 2008: E-Learning on the InWEnt Global Campus	InWEnt	Global Campus (InWEnt e-learning platform)
June TBD	Workshop on censuses planning and enumeration for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing census (RPHC)	UNECA	TBD
June TBD	Atelier sous-régional sur le calcul et l'analyse des parités de pouvoir d'achat (PPA)	AfDB	Yaoundé, Cameroun
June TBD	Sub-regional workshop training on purchasing power parities (PPP) computation and analysis	AfDB	Kampala, Uganda
June 5 - 6	PARIS21 Steering Committee	PARIS21	Paris
9-10 June 2008	First Regional Workshop on Gender Responsive Statistics		
11-13 June 2008	Second International Conference on Statistics for Emerging Global Concerns		
June 17 - 20	Atelier des Nations Unies sur les statistiques de distribution	AFRISTAT	Bamako, Mali
June 18 - 28	Measuring Democracy, Governance and Human Rights, 2008: Joint Classroom Training in Namibia	InWEnt	Windhoek, Namibia

Other Events

Date	Event	Organisers	Location
14-18 July 2008	First Regional Workshop on NSDS	ECA/AfDB/PARIS21/WB	TBD
16-22 August 2009	The 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI 2009)	Statistics South Africa	Durban, South Africa

