



SPECIAL FOCUS/ATTENTION PARTICULIÈRE:

- The Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa / Deuxième réunion de la Commission statistique pour l'Afrique, p.3.
- Featured NSO: Mauritius / Profil de l'INS: Maurice p.44



StatCom-Africa II participants, 17-22 January 2010, United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Les participants au ComStat-Afrique II, 17-22 janvier 2010, Centre des conférences des Nations Unies, Addis Abeba, Ethiopie

African Statistical Newsletter

Bulletin d'information statistique

Volume 4 Issue 1
Numéro 1

March 2010
Mars

INSIDE THIS ISSUE / DANS CE NUMÉRO:

Message from the Director, ACS StatCom - Africa II United Nations Statistical Commission	1 3 33	Message du Directeur du CAS ComStat - Afrique II Commission statistique des Nations Unies
Statistical Capacity Building / Workshops Statistical Development - Selected Areas Featured NSO: Mauritius	36 40 44	Renforcement des capacités statistiques / Ateliers Développement de la statistique - Quelques sujets Profil de l'INS: Maurice
News and Events	47	Informations et événements

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CONTENTS / CONTENU

Message from the Director, ACS / Message du Directeur du CAS	1
The Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa	3
Opening Remarks by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Delivered by Ms. Lalla Ben Barka Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA	5
Opening Statement by Dr. Charles Leyeka Lufumpa, Director, Statistics Department & Acting Chief Economist, African Development Bank Group	7
Opening Statement by Dr. Kouassi N'Guettia, Directeur des affaires économiques Commission de l'Union africaine	8
Welcoming Remarks by H.E. Mr. Berhan Hailu, Minister of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Delivered by Mr. Leggese Alemu.	10
About the African Statistics Award	12
Discours d'acceptation du Prix africain de la statistique, Michel Mouyelo-Katoula	13
Discours d'Acceptation du Certificat de reconnaissance spéciale par ComStat-Afrique, Antoine Simonpietri	15
Acceptance Speech for Certificate of Recognition by StatCom Africa II, Miranda Mafafo	16
Summary of the Keynote Speech Made by Dr. Paul Cheung at the Second Meeting of Statistical Commission for Africa	18
Summary of the Discussions made by StatCom Africa Working Groups	19
Recommendations of the Second Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa	21
Young Statisticians Report	24
Closing Remarks by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa	26
Fourth Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV III) Communiqué	27
Picture Gallery / Galerie de photos	28
Brief note on the 41st Session of the UN Statistical Commission	33
Making the African Voice Heard: the First Meeting of the African Group on the Preparation of the United Nations Statistical Commission	34
Two Regional Workshops for the Closure of the DA Project on "Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment"	36
The first AfricaInfo Database Planning Meeting	37
The African Statistical Yearbook 2010 Validation Meeting	39
Moving Statistical Information Production Forward	40
Information géographique et statistique	42
Featured NSO: Mauritius / Profil de l'INS: Maurice	44
Résultats préliminaires du RGPH de Djibouti	47
The 2009 African Statistics Day Celebration in Nigeria	47
New Appointments	49
National Statistical Offices in Africa	52
National Statistical Associations in Africa	53
Statistical Training Centres	53
Statistics Units in Regional Economic Communities (RECs)	53
Upcoming Events	54
Editorial Policy / Politique éditoriale	55

« J'utilise la statistique pour modéliser les conséquences de mes décisions et ainsi choisir ce qui répond au mieux aux aspirations du peuple. Je me sers aussi des statistiques pour rendre des comptes à mes concitoyens, ce qui leur permet d'évaluer l'action gouvernementale et la transparence des décisions. C'est un indicateur important de bonne gouvernance»

Son excellence Maître Abdoulaye WADE, Président de la République du Sénégal (novembre 2009)

“I use statistics to anticipate the consequences of my decisions and thereby choose what best responds to the needs of the people. I also draw on statistics for accountability purposes; therefore enabling my citizens to evaluate government performance and the transparency in decision-making process. This is an important indicator of good governance”

His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal (November 2009)

FROM THE DIRECTOR, ACS - MESSAGE DU DIRECTEUR DU CAS

The second session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) concluded to resounding acclaims in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 21 January 2010. Building on the momentum observed towards the end of 2009, inter alia, by the hosting of the 10th Anniversary meeting of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the fifth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD), the African statistical fraternity kicked off 2010 by convening in Addis Ababa from 18 to 21 January for StatCom-Africa II under the theme "Harnessing Financial and Technical Resources in Support of the Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals in African Countries." This theme was timely; with only five years to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target date, there was a need to get a clear picture of where the African continent is, what has been achieved, and what remedial measures need to be undertaken where necessary. This gathering was preceded by a Seminar on Statistical Capacity Building and followed by the fourth Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV IV).



**Dimitri Sanga, Officer-in-Charge
African Centre for Statistics**

StatCom-Africa II was attended by more than 230 participants from 44 National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Statistical Training Centers (STCs), National Statistical Associations (NSAs), sub regional, regional, and international organizations. It also witnessed the attendance of representatives of statistics department of some African universities and young statisticians.

The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Acting Chief Economist of the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) who delivered the keynote speech on "Advancing the Global Statistical System (GSS): Perspectives of Africa". The Minister of Justice of Ethiopia and the African Union Commissioner for Economic Affairs were also represented.

The African statistical fraternity bestowed awards on some daughters and sons of Africa to mark their contributions to the development of statistics in Africa. The recipient of the award is Mr. Michel Mouyelo Katoula, Global Coordinator of the International Comparisons programme (ICP). Special recognitions were also made to colleagues who have played leading roles in the development of statistics in Africa. Mr. Antoine Simonpietri, Statistician at the World Bank and Dr. Miranda Mafafo from South Africa were recognized for their contributions to the currently observed trend in statistical capacity building activities on the continent and Dr. Paul

La deuxième session de la Commission statistique pour l'Afrique (StatCom-Afrique-II) vient de se conclure sous les acclamations, ce 21 janvier 2010, à Addis-Ababa, Ethiopie. Poursuivant l'élan observé dès la fin de 2009, avec entre autres, le succès de la réunion marquant le 10ème anniversaire du Partenariat Statistique au service du développement au 21ème siècle (PARIS21) et le 5ème Symposium Africain sur le développement statistique (ASSD), la fraternité statistique africaine a bien démarré l'année 2010 en se rassemblant à Addis-Ababa du 18 au 21 janvier pour la 2ième session de StatCom-Afrique, sous le thème

: « Mobiliser les ressources financières et techniques en appui au pilotage des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement des pays africains ». A seulement cinq ans de la date fixée pour l'atteinte des Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMD), il était nécessaire d'obtenir une image claire sur la situation du continent africain, sur ce qui a été réalisé, et sur les mesures correctives à entreprendre éventuellement. Ce rassemblement a été précédé par un séminaire sur le renforcement des capacités statistiques et suivi du quatrième forum sur le développement statistique africain (FASDEV IV).

StatCom-Afrique-II a bénéficié de la participation de 44 directeurs d'instituts nationaux de statistiques (INS), des représentants des centres de formation statistiques (CFS), des associations statistiques nationales (ASN) en provenance des pays membres de la CEA, ainsi que des représentants des organismes régionaux, sous-régionaux et internationaux, pour un total dépassant 230 participants. La réunion a également été suivie par les départements de statistiques de quelques universités africaines et par de jeunes statisticiens.

Pour la cérémonie d'ouverture, la réunion a été honorée par la présence du Secrétaire exécutif adjoint de la Commission économique des Nations unies pour l'Afrique (CEA), du représentant du Ministre de la justice de l'Ethiopie, de l'économiste principal par intérim de la Banque africaine de développement (BAfD) et du représentant du Commissaire de l'Union africaine, chargé des affaires économiques. La cérémonie d'ouverture a été suivie d'un exposé magistral du Directeur de la Division statistique des Nations Unies (DSNU) sur le thème : « Faire progresser le système statistique global (SSG) : Quelles perspectives pour l'Afrique ».

Afin de marquer sa reconnaissance, la fraternité statistique africaine a décerné des prix à quatre récipiendaires, issus tant du continent que de l'étranger, et qui ont joué, au cours des années passées, un rôle particulier pour le développement des statistiques en Afrique. Il s'agit en premier lieu de M. Michel Mouyelo Katoula, coordonnateur principal du programme de comparaison internationale (PCI) et de M. Antoine Si-

FROM THE DIRECTOR, ACS - MESSAGE DU DIRECTEUR DU CAS

Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) was recognized for his important role in the revival of the statistics function at ECA and his continuing efforts to get all African countries to participate in the 2010 world population and housing census programme. The Awards ceremony is covered at length in this edition of the Newsletter including the statements by the winners.

Following the establishment of Working Groups (WG) during the first meeting of the Commission to deal with issues of special interest to its members, StatCom-Africa II took stock of progress made by different existing WG and created new ones according to emerging needs. Under the leadership of selected countries or organizations, StatCom-Africa WG reported on their work since 2008 and presented their plans for the next two years. Several articles allude to the realizations and plans of the WG. In addition, a group on the harmonization of statistics in support of regional integration in Africa led by the African Union Commission (AUC) has been endorsed.

There is substantive coverage of events surrounding StatCom-Africa II in this edition of the Newsletter.

Under statistical capacity building activities throughout the continent, there are a number of interesting articles including a workshop on Informal Sector and Informal Employment, the African Statistical Yearbook 2010 validation meeting and the first AfricaInfo Database planning meeting. Moreover under the statistical development/Selected areas, the articles include Moving Statistical Information Production Forward and Geographic Information and Statistics.

The 41st session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) took place from 23 to 26 February 2010 in New York. Among the 24 members elected by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) were the following African countries: Botswana, Cameroon, Morocco, Sudan, and Togo. While South Africa was leaving the Bureau of the UNSC, the African region has been honored to see one of its members, Botswana, elected as one of the incoming Vice Chairs. This edition also covers the 41st session of the UNSC with special emphasis on the first meeting of the African Group on the Preparation of the UNSC that took place as a side event on 20 February 2010.

The featured National Statistical Office (NSO) for this edition is the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of Mauritius. You will find a profile containing useful information on this country's NSO. We continue to encourage the statistical community in Africa and outside the continent to send us articles and any information of interest to the statistical development of the continent for publication in the Newsletter. Readers and contributors might also consider sending us reactions to and feedback on the materials we publish. Finally, we are providing in this and future issues the editorial policy of the Newsletter, which provides guidance on how to prepare and submit an article for publication. □

monpietri, statisticien à la Banque mondiale. Des notifications spéciales ont été décernées, pour leur contribution à l'effort actuel des activités de renforcement des capacités statistiques sur le continent, au Dr. Miranda Mafafo d'Afrique du Sud et au Dr. Paul Cheung, directeur de la Division de statistiques des Nations Unies (UNSD). La cérémonie de remise des prix est détaillée dans la présente édition du bulletin.

Suite à l'établissement de groupes de travail lors de la première session de la Commission statistique pour l'Afrique, groupes qui devaient traiter des questions d'intérêt spécifique, StatCom-Afrique-II a examiné les progrès accomplis par ces groupes et en a créé de nouveaux pour répondre aux besoins émergents. Par la voix des représentants des pays ou des organismes porte-parole, les groupes de travail de StatCom-Afrique ont rendu compte de leur travail depuis 2008 et présenté leurs plans d'actions pour les deux années à venir. Plusieurs articles font référence aux réalisations et aux projets de ces groupes. En outre, la création d'un groupe sur l'harmonisation des statistiques en appui à l'intégration régionale en Afrique, animé par la Commission de l'Union africaine, a été approuvée. De façon générale, les événements de la StatCom-Afrique II ont été couverts très largement dans la présente édition du Bulletin.

Sous la rubrique « renforcement des capacités statistiques dans tout le continent », un certain nombre d'articles sont à noter dont les séminaires sur le secteur informel et l'emploi informel ainsi que la réunion de validation de l'annuaire statistique 2010. De plus, sous la rubrique « développement statistique », deux articles traitent de la production de l'information statistique et de la relation entre l'information géographique et la statistique.

La 41^{ème} session de la Commission statistique des Nations Unies (CSNU) a eu lieu du 23 au 26 février 2010 à New York. Parmi les 24 membres élus par le Conseil économique et social des Nations unies (ECOSOC) figurent les pays africains suivants : Botswana, Cameroun, Maroc, Soudan et Togo.

Alors que l'Afrique du Sud quitte le bureau de la CSNU, la région africaine s'honore de voir l'un de ses membres, le Botswana, élu en tant que vice président. Cette édition couvre également la 41^{ème} session de l'UNSC, avec une considération particulière pour la première réunion du groupe africain sur la préparation de la CSNU qui s'est tenue en prélude à la réunion principale, le 20 février 2010.

L'Institut national de statistique (INS) décrit dans cette édition est celui de l'île Maurice. Vous trouverez son profil et toute l'information utile sur cet INS sous la rubrique « Bureau Central des statistiques de l'île Maurice ».

Nous continuons à encourager la communauté statistique d'Afrique et de l'extérieur du continent à nous envoyer des articles et toute information concernant le développement statistique du continent pour publication dans le Bulletin. Lecteurs et contributeurs peuvent également nous envoyer leurs réactions aux articles déjà publiés. A la fin du Bulletin, on trouvera le détail de notre politique éditoriale, fournissant tous les conseils sur la façon dont préparer et soumettre un article pour publication dans ce numéro ou les suivants. □

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

The Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa

Awa Thiongane and Gerard Osbert, African Centre for Statistics

Introduction

The African Centre for Statistics (ACS) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) organised the second meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) from 18 to 21 January 2010, at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The theme of this 2nd meeting of StatCom-Africa was "Harnessing Financial and Technical Resources in Support of the Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals in African Countries." The work of StatCom-Africa II will provide a key input into the global MDGs review taking place in New York in September this year.

StatCom-Africa is the UNECA's subsidiary body that oversees of its statistics sub-programme. It was created to provide a regular forum for discussion and decision making on all aspects of statistical development in the continent. The first meeting of this subsidiary body took place in January 2008 under the theme "Scaling up Statistical Development in Africa". Since then, the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) has successfully been set up. The Committee is made up of the major players in statistical development in Africa, namely the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the African Union Commission (AUC), and ECA. ASCC optimizes the work undertaken by various stakeholders, thereby leveraging on each partner's comparative advantage.

Attendance

The session was attended by delegates from 44 members States of UNECA. The country delegations mainly comprised Heads of National Statistics Offices (NSOs), National Statistical Councils, Poverty Reduction Strategy Units, Young Statisticians and National Statistical associations. The meeting was also attended by observers from non-African states, as well as international, regional, sub-regional and national organisations, training Institutes and statistical associations, United Nations offices, international statistics consultants, and others prominent personalities.

Opening statements were made by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, the representative of the Minister of Justice of Ethiopia, The Acting Chief Economist of the AfDB, and the representative of the Commissioner for Economic Affairs of AUC. Finally, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made a keynote speech.

Awards ceremony

During the present session, African Statistics Award were conferred Mr. Michel Mouyelo Katoula his contribution to the development of statistics in Africa. Special recognitions were made to Mr. Antoine Simonpietri, Statistician at the World Bank and Dr. Miranda Mafafo from South Africa for her contribution to the currently observed trend in statistical capacity building activities on the continent and Dr. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

Election of officers and programme of work

The second meeting of StatCom-Africa elected the following Bureau: Chair: South Africa; First Vice-chair: Morocco; Second Vice-chair: Niger; First Rapporteur: Uganda; Second Rapporteur: Cameroon. The Commission adopted the proposed agenda and programme of work during the morning session. The afternoon session concentrated on reports of the seven working groups on their activities since the first session of the StatCom-Africa (2008).

Reports of StatCom-Africa Working Groups*Data Management*

The meeting received document No: E/ECA/STATCOM/2/5: Report on ECA's activities in the area of data management. ECA made a PowerPoint presentation on the report.

Development Indicators

The presentation was outlined in four main sections: background, activities, challenges and the way forward. Due to financial constraints, the Group has been unable to hold the formal annual meeting.

Gender Statistics

The presentation introduced the Kampala City Group on Gender Statistics (KCG-GS), a forum where African stakeholders and partners can discuss, propose and address needs, and challenges related to the development of gender statistics in line with poverty reduction strategies.

Harmonization of Statistics in Africa

The presentation was supported with a study document entitled "Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa in short SHA-SA." The content was partitioned into four broad topics: (i) background and rationale, (ii) African integration agenda and statistical requirements, (iii) state of the African statistical system and (iv) strategy for the harmonization of statistics.

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

Informal Sector

In January 2008, StatCom-Africa entrusted AFRISTAT with the responsibility to organize and monitor the activities of the Working Group on the Informal Sector in Africa. Despite the fact that its first meeting was not heavily attended, AFRISTAT, in partnership with some other agencies, carried out key activities for the Group.

National Accounts (AGNA)

The System of National Accounts 2008 was adopted by the 39th session of the UNSC. However, the African countries have not yet all ensured the complete implementation of the SNA 1993. The implementation of the SNA 2008 in Africa was therefore conceived as a program mobilizing all stakeholders at national, regional and continental levels. The strategy has been declined in activities to which is added the monitoring & evaluation and reporting.

Statistical Training

The formation and human resources were identified as one of the main challenges to which NSSs of Africa must face. To answer this challenge, a significant number of initiatives, working groups and projects on the statistical training were launched these last years in Africa. However, it can be noted that in 2009, there is still no coordinating body of the activities on statistical training in Africa. In this context, and vis-à-vis the requests of the countries, main Technical and Financial Partners wished to reinforce their dialogue and to create a single mechanism of coordination.

Other ongoing or new emerging issues

The 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses

Under the leadership of the three regional institutions namely ECA, AfDB and AUC and also some leading countries such as South African Republic, a vigorous advocacy for an enhanced participation of African countries during the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (RPHC) has been developed, notably through ASSD.

Civil registration and vital statistics

Though almost all countries have inherited civil registration laws from colonial period, it was indicated that CRVS have been neglected in the past in Africa even by the statistical community; NSDS documents do not adequately reflect CRVS, and some time skip it. Lack or limited political support from national governments was mentioned as one critical area that needs to be addressed within the current initiative.

Global strategy to improve Agricultural Statistics

For the Deputy Director, Statistics Division of FAO, the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics is based on input from a large number of stakeholders including national statistical institutes and ministries of agriculture, plus regional and international organizations. The presentation of FAO covered what the global strategy is, the reasons for the strategy and its key components, the process followed to develop the strategy, capacity building needs and the way forward.

Environment statistics and climate change

ECA has been involved in Environmental Statistics since the late 1980s. Environmental Statistics Unit was established in the then Statistics Division and the work of the unit culminated in the first "African Compendium of Environment Statistics 1991". Since 2007 the ASYB has included indicators on environment statistics such as carbon dioxide emissions per capita in metric tons, percentage of protected area to total surface area, proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities.

Coordination of Statistical Activities

Joint Missions

In total five joint missions were undertaken; two to Djibouti, 2 to Angola, and one to DRC, in 2009. The organizations that participated in the joint missions were ECA, PARIS21, ENSEA-Abidjan, AfDB, World Bank, UNFPA, Statistics South Africa, and INE Mozambique. The missions held consultations with government officials, FTPs, data users, etc. on NSDS and PHC undertaking.

RRSF Implementation

Main objectives of RRSF, its strategies, implementation level and resource requirements were covered. The failure to promote the RRSF was indicated to be the ongoing restructuring during the period 2006-2009 at ECA and AfDB. As a result, the RRSF is not well known especially at country level even though some RRSF recommended strategies and actions have been built into country NSDSs. On the other hand the RRSF generated a momentum for statistical development in Africa that led to restructuring and strengthening of regional organizations. On the other hand, several activities undertaken in context of the RRSF were geared towards the coordination of statistical activities in Africa.

The African Charter for Statistics

The African Charter for Statistics was adopted in February 2009 by the 12th ordinary session of the Conference of the Heads of State and Government of the AU in Addis Ababa. It was then sent to the countries in March for signature and ratification. To date, it has

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

been signed by ten countries.

Millennium Development Goals

Two presentations were made, the first in reference to improving MDGs reporting and the second on a study conducted in relation to monitoring development beyond 2015.

Regional perspective by ACS:

The review listed ongoing efforts in support of the monitoring and evaluation of progress made by African countries towards MDGs.

Presentation of a study on monitoring development beyond 2015

The presenter forwarded a proposal and a recommendation on the need to support and encourage research and study on MDGs and its implication to the whole development endeavour beyond the usual administrative and operational reports.

Statutory Issues and other business

Reporting on statutory issues (ACS):

Summary Report on ECA Statistical activities in 2008-2009 and ACS Programme of work for 2010-2011.

Preparation on the forthcoming UN Statistical Commission Session (ACS)

Even if StatCom-Africa only meets every two years, the analysis of information will go on through the Working Groups, which will regularly report to the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD).



Opening Remarks by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

delivered by Ms. Lalla Ben Barka Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA



Ms. Lalla Ben Barka, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA

Representative of Mr. Berhan Hailu, Minister of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,

Distinguished Heads of National Statistical Offices of African countries,

Representatives of the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank,

Representatives from sub regional, regional, and international organizations,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am most pleased to welcome you all to the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and to this Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa II). Your presence at this meeting is not only demonstrative of the significance you attach to the work of this body, but is also highly encouraging.

Allow me to first thank Ministers Aliou Sow of Senegal and Berhan Hailu of Ethiopia for their tireless efforts in support of statistical development in Africa.

As you are all aware, StatCom Africa was created to provide a

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

regular forum for discussion and decision making on all aspects of statistical development in the continent and the first meeting of this subsidiary body took place in January 2008 under the theme "Scaling up Statistical Development in Africa".

Today we meet under another equally important theme: "Harnessing Financial and Technical Resources in Support of the Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals in African Countries." This theme is most appropriate as we are only five years away from the MDG target date. We need a clear picture of where things are in order to appreciate what has been achieved and to undertake remedial measures where required. The work of StatCom II will provide a key input into the Global MDGs review taking place in New York in September this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You will recall that StatCom Africa 1 called on African countries to mainstream statistics into national planning and budgeting processes to ensure that statistical activities are adequately funded and seen as a key element in the development process. Development partners on their part were also requested to provide required support to statistical development including for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals. In a related context, this august body called for increased advocacy at the highest level, to ensure the conduct of the 2010 round of population and housing census in African additional emphasis on post-conflict countries.

Since then, in terms of coordination and advocacy for statistical activities in Africa, we have successfully set up of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC). The Committee is made up of the major players in statistical development in Africa, namely the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the African Union Commission (AUC), and ECA. It is optimising the work undertaken by various stakeholders thereby avoiding duplication and leveraging on each partner's comparative advantage.

The ASCC provides leadership within the framework of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF). It has established a repository of data on Africa that is aggregated at the continental and sub-regional levels; as well as for individual countries, through a joint data collection and processing mechanism. One major output of the ASCC was the publication of the first ever Joint African Statistical Yearbook and development of a joint statistical database.

African stakeholders under the leadership of the ASCC endorsed the inception of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST), which is working under the umbrella of StatCom-Africa, to ensure the coordination of activities and initiatives in support of statistical training and human resources development in Africa. AGROST will be reporting on its planned activities

during this very session.

We have also made considerable progress regarding Population and Housing Censuses, where our strategy of advocacy and providing countries with manuals and handbooks for proper census taking and sharing of best practices is paying off. Since the beginning of the Round in 2005, nearly 20 countries have already taken their censuses and the total number is expected to rise to about 35 by 2010 according to commitments already made. If this trend continues, it is more likely that the participation of African countries in the 2010 round will be an improvement over what was observed during the 2000 round when only 37 countries participated in the exercise.

The African Centre for Statistics has developed a number of census materials specific to the African context. These include the Africa Addendum on the Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses, the Handbook on Census Planning, and the Handbook on Census Data Processing. All these manuals were prepared in close collaboration with experts from African countries, and we are happy that their contents have been put to good use.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting is taking place following a series of events aimed at improving the support by partners to the statistical development of our continent. These include the successfully concluded 10th anniversary meeting of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st century (PARIS21) held in Dakar, Senegal in mid-November 2009; and the related Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics as well as the fifth Africa Symposium on Statistical Development and the related Gorée Declaration.

All these gatherings reaffirmed the growing needs for quality statistical information in support of African countries' development efforts. I therefore expect that StatCom-Africa II will build on the success of its first meeting and ongoing capacity building efforts on the continent by taking stock of progress made in various areas, while addressing some of the challenges ahead. Indeed, in spite of the above-mentioned successes, the majority of African countries still do not have statistical systems that can provide the sound data required for evidence-based planning and policy formulation. We are accordingly obliged to scale up efforts in this regard. For its part, ECA with the approval of the UN General Assembly has established six new professional posts in statistics under the Secretary General's development pillar. This will certainly help to reinforce our capacity to better serve member States.

Let me here also salute the French Government for funding a post of Regional Adviser on Household Surveys undertaking in African countries based at ECA. No doubt, these additional resources will deepen ECA work which has been extended to cover emerging

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

issues such as strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems, household survey capabilities, environment Statistics, and agricultural Statistics in line with our 2010-2012 Business Plan.

Finally, let me seize this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment to the development of statistics in Africa and their commitment to working so closely with us to realize a joint vision. We call upon them to deepen the scale of their support in this vital area.

Given the daunting development challenges faced by African States, I also passionately believe that a close working relationship between Africa's leading regional institutions, AUC, AfDB, ACBF and ECA, is key to making a difference in this and other important endeavors.

I thank you for your attention and wish you fruitful deliberations.



**Opening Statement by Dr. Charles Leyeka Lufumpa,
Director, Statistics Department & Acting Chief Economist,
African Development Bank Group**



Dr. Charles Leyeka Lufumpa, Director, Statistics Department

Representative of the Honorable Minister of Justice for Ethiopia, Mr. Berhan Hailu;

Madam Lalla Ben Barka, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA;

Dr. Kouassi N'Guettia, Director for Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission;

Directors of National Statistics Offices;

Distinguished delegates;

Ladies & Gentlemen;

It is my pleasure to extend to you all, on behalf of the African De-

velopment Bank Group, a warm welcome to this second meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa. Allow me also to express our gratitude to the Government and the people of Ethiopia for the warm hospitality accorded to all of us. Let me also express our gratitude to ECA and all those who have made this meeting possible.

This second StatCom meeting comes at a time when Africa is coping with the effects of the financial and economic crisis that beset the world since the latter part of 2008. Under these circumstances, good statistics have become even more imperative to facilitate rational evidence-based decision making so that scarce development resources are optimally allocated and efficiently utilized. Good statistics are indispensable for the design, implementation and monitoring of development strategies and programs. They are essential for measuring development inputs, outputs, outcomes, and impacts and to provide reliable assessments of key economic and social conditions, covering all aspects of development and well-being of our people. Sound statistics therefore represent a key weapon in the battle against poverty and in fostering development. This is the key reason why the African Development Bank has fully committed to support efforts to develop statistical systems and capacity in African countries.

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to just say a few words about what the African Development Bank is doing in the area of fostering statistical development in Africa. In recent years, the Bank has been playing a key role in providing technical and financial assistance to African countries to help strengthen their statistical capacities. Under our Phase I Statistical Capacity Building Program covering the period 2002-2008, the focus was on improving economic statistics, particularly prices and national accounts under the ICP-Africa program. We also focused on helping countries to develop national statistical development strategies; and, we supported the training of country officials through statistical training Institutions and other Bank-organized training workshops.

Under our Phase II Program which covers the period 2009-2010, we have expanded our activities to include support for improving social statistics, MDG monitoring, agricultural statistics, infrastructure statistics, gender and regional integration. Our activities are guided by the principles of the African Statistics Charter; by the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for statistical capacity building in Africa (RRSF); and by the National Statistical Development Strategies, which emphasize country-owned approaches to statistical development.

In implementing our statistical programs, we remain mindful of the immense statistical challenges that still face our countries and we know that the ADB, on its own, cannot do much. It is for this reason that we greatly value the strong partnerships we have forged over the years with various stakeholders within and outside the region. In particular, I wish to mention the ECA and the African Union, with whom we have been working very closely together to coordinate sta-

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

tistical development efforts on the continent, mainly through our African Statistical Coordination Committee. The Forum, which meets at least twice every year, has proven to be an effective mechanism for coordinating our activities and ensuring more effective support to our countries. The partnership with the African Capacity Building Foundation, the sub-regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral institutions, and the African countries themselves, is another critical component of our collaboration that has allowed us to achieve even more than we would working on our own.

Mr Chairman,

A lot is therefore already being done to improve statistical capacity in the region but, as I indicated earlier, substantial challenges still remain and much more needs to be done. This calls for renewed vigour to scale-up our efforts to support sound country-owned initiatives for statistical capacity development.

While there are encouraging signs in current efforts by both donors and countries to meet the increasing demand for reliable and timely data, we note at the same time that support remains largely fragmented and a substantial amount of it is not directly aligned to country priorities. We therefore urge development partners to align their support to the country-owned National Strategies for Statistical Development (NSDS) that provide an essential platform for mapping multiple sources of funding to national priorities and country systems.

We also urge African countries to make concerted efforts to allocate adequate budgetary resources for national statistical development work. Donor resources where needed should only be used to supplement these national efforts.

Mr Chairman,

Permit me to conclude my remarks by welcoming everyone once again to this second meeting of StatCOM-Africa. This Forum represents a big milestone for statistical collaboration in Africa and for ensuring an African voice on various statistical issues of relevance to the region. I call upon all of you to strongly support this effort and ensure that it succeeds.

Thank You.



Opening Statement by Dr. Kouassi N'Guettia, Directeur des affaires économiques Commission de l'Union africaine



Dr. Kouassi N'Guettia, Directeur des affaires économiques Commission de l'Union africaine

Madame Lalla Ben Barka, Secrétaire Exécutif adjointe de la Commission économique des Nations unies pour l'Afrique ;

Monsieur le Représentant du Ministre de la Justice de la République Fédérale démocratique de l'Ethiopie ;

Monsieur Charles Lufumpa, Economiste-Principal par intérim de la Banque africaine de développement ;

Monsieur Pali, Directeur, Président de STATCOM ;

Mesdames et Messieurs les représentants des institutions régionales et internationales

Mesdames et Messieurs les Directeurs Généraux des organisations statistiques nationales, régionales et continentales ;

**Honorables Invités ;
Mesdames et Messieurs ;**

Aujourd'hui, nous sommes encore réunis, pour une seconde fois, dans cette même salle de conférence pour débattre des questions liées au développement, et à l'amélioration des capacités institutionnelles et humaines en matière de statistique au niveau de notre continent.

La rencontre de ce jour constitue, à mes yeux, un rendez-vous pour établir, avec objectivité, le bilan de l'ensemble des actions ou in-

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

tatives entreprises, pour examiner ensemble comment capitaliser les résultats acquis et les leçons tirées des expériences mutuelles ainsi que des difficultés, afin d'en dégager, dans les meilleures conditions possibles, les actions à mettre en œuvre en vue de produire des statistiques crédibles au service du développement de l'Afrique.

Comme vous le savez tous, l'Afrique ne peut évaluer correctement les progrès accomplis sur les chemins de la croissance et du développement, si elle n'est pas dotée d'institutions statistiques fortes, stables et dynamiques ; couplées de ressources humaines compétentes et de moyens matériels et financiers appropriés.

De même, l'Afrique ne peut mesurer, voire appréhender, les résultats de la mise en œuvre de son propre agenda de développement tel que le NEPAD, et des agendas dans lesquels elle est impliquée dans le cadre des solutions à apporter aux défis mondiaux tels que les OMD, si elle n'est pas dotée de structures statistiques qui lui permettent de produire ses propres statistiques sans recourir à celles produites par les institutions internationales. Car, on ne le dira jamais assez lorsque vous ne produisez pas vos propres statistiques, on peut vous en produire et sachez que celles-ci charrient toujours les messages, voire, les désidératas de leurs producteurs.

Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs, Honorables Invités,

Permettez-moi de noter que la Commission de l'Union africaine, consciente de l'importance que revêt l'information statistique dans le processus de développement socioéconomique de l'Afrique, est résolument engagée à trouver des solutions efficaces et durables aux différents problèmes qui minent le développement des statistiques sur le continent. C'est pourquoi, elle a fait adopter par les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement une décision visant à arrimer la production statistique au processus d'intégration africaine à travers l'adoption de la charte africaine de la statistique qui constitue un cadre, et un outil majeur à la disposition de nos pays et de nos régions pour relever les défis liés à l'activité statistique.

La charte vise, entre autres, à réguler l'activité statistique sur l'ensemble du continent, à servir d'outil de plaidoyer pour le développement de la statistique, et à indiquer la voie vers une harmonisation progressive et totale des statistiques en Afrique. Elle constitue donc une somme de valeurs et de bonnes pratiques pour le métier du statisticien africain. A cet égard, elle appelle tous les professionnels de la statistique en Afrique au respect des principes qui y sont énoncés. En outre, elle invite les décideurs politiques africains à faire de l'observation des faits, la base de toute formulation, de tout suivi et de toute évaluation de politiques. Tous les membres du système statistique africain et les partenaires au développement sont donc invités à développer leurs activités dans ce cadre stratégique.

A ce jour, dix pays ont signé la charte. Je voudrais profiter de cette tribune pour lancer un vibrant appel aux responsables de la statistique des pays qui ne l'ont pas encore fait, d'entreprendre les démarches nécessaires auprès de leurs gouvernements respectifs en vue de la signature et de la ratification rapide de la charte.

La Commission avec l'appui de PARIS21, de EUROSTAT et de la Banque mondiale va entreprendre dans les prochains jours l'élaboration d'une stratégie de plaidoyer afin d'accélérer la signature et la ratification de la charte par les Etats membres. Nous pensons que ce document nous aidera à déterminer les voies et les mesures à adopter pour faciliter la ratification de la charte. Nous voudrions donc inviter les autres partenaires à appuyer cette initiative en vue de l'entrée en vigueur rapide de la charte avant la fin de cette année 2010. Car lorsque 15 pays l'auront signée et ratifiée, elle entrera en vigueur pour le bonheur des statisticiens africains et pour les utilisateurs des données statistiques.

Permettez-moi également de souligner que la Commission de l'Union africaine a récemment convoqué l'ensemble des Directeurs généraux des organisations statistiques sur le continent en Afrique du Sud afin de trouver des solutions durables aux différents problèmes liés à l'harmonisation statistique en Afrique. Cette rencontre a permis d'examiner le projet de la stratégie pour l'harmonisation des statistiques. La réunion a demandé à la Commission de l'Union africaine de créer une plateforme de dialogue associant les différents décideurs politiques de nos états au développement et au renforcement des capacités statistiques sur le continent. Dans cette perspective, elle a recommandé la tenue en Février 2010 d'une rencontre entre les parlementaires africains et les responsables des départements statistiques et de la planification des Etats membres pour débattre des questions liées au développement des statistiques nécessaires pour le suivi du processus d'intégration africaine ; des objectifs du millénaire pour le développement ; et du changement climatique.

L'objectif de la Commission en associant les décideurs politiques au débat sur la statistique consiste à les mobiliser en faveur du processus de développement de la statistique car jusqu'à ce jour, nous assistons à une paralysie quasi-totale de la plupart des structures en charge de la production des statistiques dans nos pays. Celles-ci, comme vous le savez, ne sont pas dotées de ressources adéquates leur permettant de jouer le rôle qui leur est dévolu dans la production et la collecte des statistiques fiables, comparables dans le temps et dans l'espace.

Par ailleurs, pour remédier efficacement et durablement au besoin de financement des activités statistiques, la Commission œuvre actuellement à la création d'un fonds africain de la statistique qui sera financé par les Etats membres et par les partenaires au développement qui souhaiteraient soutenir l'Afrique dans son élan du développement de ses statistiques. La charte, la stratégie d'harmonisation et le fonds pour le développement de la statistique constituent donc des actes majeurs posés par l'Union africaine pour remédier à la

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

pauvreté des statistiques en Afrique.

C'est pourquoi, je voudrais inviter tous les acteurs présents sur le marché de la statistique à mutualiser leurs efforts et à œuvrer dans une synergie d'actions pour soutenir ces projets stratégiques ; s'en approprier, et en assurer la mise en œuvre et le suivi. Car, pour l'Union africaine, la bataille du sous-développement de la statistique ne peut être gagnée que dans l'union de nos forces. Ici, toute action individuelle est contre productive. D'autant que ce défi est immense et reste hors de portée de nos institutions prises individuellement et de nos pays pris isolément. Ici, l'effectif croissant des acteurs n'est pas le problème. L'important est la coordination et l'harmonisation de leurs actions selon les principes de subsidiarité et de complémentarité.

La Commission de l'Union africaine estime que le développement de la statistique constitue un des défis majeurs de notre continent au cours de ce 21^e siècle. L'Afrique ne peut pas être victorieuse sur les fronts de l'intégration socioéconomique et politique, si elle ne gagne pas auparavant la bataille sur le front de la statistique.

**Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs ;
Honorables Invités ;**

Je ne peux clore mon propos sans exprimer au nom du Président Jean Ping les vifs remerciements et la profonde gratitude de la Commission de l'Union africaine à la Commission économique pour l'Afrique pour les efforts consentis pour organiser cette rencontre et pour les excellentes conditions de travail mis à notre disposition pour la conduite de nos travaux.

Je voudrais également remercier le Représentant du Ministre pour sa présence parmi nous, malgré les lourdes charges quotidiennement auxquelles il fait face. Monsieur le Représentant du Ministre, votre présence nous honore tous et témoigne de l'importance que votre pays ne cesse d'accorder à l'activité statistique.

Enfin, nos remerciements vont à tous les participants qui ont accepté de prendre part à cette importante rencontre en vue de contribuer à la résolution des problématiques inscrites à son ordre du jour.

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Welcoming Remarks by H.E. Mr. Berhan Hailu, Minister of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Delivered by Mr. Leggese Alemu



Mr. Leggese Alemu, Ministry of Justice, Ethiopia

Hon. Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission;

Hon. the UN Under-Secretary General and the Executive Secretary of the ECA;

Heads of National Statistical Offices and representatives of international and regional organizations;

Invited Guests and Participants of the Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa;

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and privilege for me and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to welcome you all to Ethiopia to participate in the Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa.

Ethiopia is the second home of our African brothers and sisters as it is the Headquarters of the African Union and the ECA. Last year, in June 2009 I was invited by the ECA to attend a regional workshop on civil registration and vital statistics systems in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. For me it was a great opportunity to visualize the dimensions, depth and power of statistics serving as critical instrument in changing the lives of African people, specifically in reaching the huge population residing in the rural and semi-urban areas. As you all aware, Africa is moving from centrally structured administrative set-ups to a more decentralized and client and service oriented management and administration. Such a paradigm shift is bringing new challenges to the African statistical community that is used

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

to be guided with traditionally centrally designed centralized and macro oriented statistical techniques and approaches. Current data and information demands in Africa are urging for more regular, annualized and very much user friendly data and information that are relevant to the lower administrative hierarchy, mainly the local governments and administrations.

I was informed by the organizers that the Statistical Commission for Africa is the highest statistical body that guides the statistical functions and services of Africa. Therefore, I do expect from this important statistical decision making body a thorough analysis and synthesis of the statistical needs of contemporary Africa that is moving towards intensified decentralization and democratization programs and processes that urge for more disaggregated and localized statistics.

After the downfall of the former military dictatorial regime in 1991, Ethiopia has been embarking on new democratic and developmental system registering significant economic, social and political achievements. The democratization process of the country with the popular participation of the general public has encouraging results both in the economic, social and justice sectors. Among others the economy has been registered double digit growth which is on the average 11% per annum for the last five consecutive years that never ever happened in the country's contemporary history. Even at times of the current global financial crisis, despite the challenges of inflation and shortage of hard currency, the economy is expected to grow by more than ten percent this year. The country has also significant performances in the social sector like education and health towards achieving the millennium development goals. This is a significant economic and social development in non-oil producing country, Ethiopia and benefiting the majority of the population, especially the disadvantaged and the rural poor.

The government is also committed to enhance democracy and good governance through its civil service and justice system reform programmes and bring about radical and fundamental change in the country to the advantage of the people. All together these are the efforts and successes of Ethiopians and the efforts and successes of Africans.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Ethiopia is highly committed to work closely with the UNECA and other key development partners to improve the statistical operations and systems of Africa. From the discussions I had with the ECA, United Nations Statistical Division and the African Development Bank officials and representatives of the donor community present in the Dar-es-Salaam workshop, I had the impression that African statistics requires more political support from African governments more than ever. In this respect, the Dar-es-Salaam workshop on civil registration and vital statistics has created a huge momentum in widening the space for policy makers and political leaders in the

Ministries of Justice, Interior, Decentralization and Local Administration which we have witnessed from the Government of Senegal to play their part in changing the African statistical landscape. Accordingly, following the recommendations of the workshop the Ethiopian Government has expressed its commitment and readiness to host the upcoming High-level Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration.

Such initiatives and readiness, I think would bring a huge encouragement, specifically to the Heads of National Statistical Offices that would in turn require them to proactively coordinate and liaise with their national counterparts.

With this few remarks, I have the honor to welcome you again to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and hope that your respective Ministers and yourselves would be part of the upcoming Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration which is planned to be convened in Addis Ababa in the month of August 2010 in this very venue.

I wish you all a pleasant stay in Addis Ababa and a fruitful meeting.

Thank you.



I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

About the African Statistics Award

Awa Thiongane, African Centre for Statistics

In the recent past, the new focus on managing for results, which is data intensive, has triggered a statistical reawakening in 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 (ACS) was established; the African Union Commission (AUC) in collaboration with other regional partners produced an African Charter on Statistics which was adopted by Heads of State and Government in 2008. The UNECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development endorsed the establishment of a Statistical Commission for Africa (Statcom-Africa) as the apex organ for the development of the African statistical system. StatCom-Africa reports to the Conference 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, the ACS, on behalf of the statistical community in Africa and with the concurrence of the African Statistics Coordination Committee, has decided to honour, with Africa Statistics Award, those daughters and sons of Africa who have over the years played a leading role in the development of statistics in the motherland. The 2010 Award Ceremony will take place during the Second session of StatCom-Africa (18 to 21 January 2010) in the first plenary session also devoted to advocacy for promoting civil registration systems and vital statistics in Africa.

Award Winner

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula is the Global Manager of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) at the World Bank, with 35 years of experience in statistical development, training and governance. Before joining the World Bank, he worked as Manager of the Statistical Capacity Building Division and Regional Coordinator of the ICP-Africa Programme at AfDB. He served as international consultant for various international organizations including DFID at the Department of Statistics, and the Ministry of Finance in Rwanda. He served in several senior positions including Director of Development Plan Preparation, Planistat, Windhoek, Namibia; Director of EuroCost, European

Centre for Worldwide Cost-of-Living Comparisons, Luxembourg; Executive Secretary of CESD-Communautaire, Luxembourg; Expert Statistician-Economist at the Eurostat, European Commission, Luxembourg; Coordinator of the ICP for Africa at the Eurostat/EuroCost Luxembourg; Principal Statistician-Economist at UDEAC, Central African Republic; and Director of the Economic Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Congo. He also served as Visiting Lecturer at the universities of Congo and Central African Republic and Statistical Training Centers in Germany. Mr. Mouyelo-Katoula obtained his BSc in Mathematics and MSc in Mathematics, Probability and Economics from the University of Paris VII, and his Post graduate degree from CESD in Paris, France.

Special Recognition

Antoine Simonpietri has 35 years of experience in statistical development and advocacy, 11 of which spent working in statistical offices in Africa: Chad for the Population Census preparation; Côte d'Ivoire for the Multi Round Household Survey and the Electoral Census; and Central African Republic within the regional economic institution of UDEAC to promote population policies and statistical development in six countries. He is currently a senior statistician at the World Bank (Africa Region). Prior to that he was the Manager of the PARIS21 Secretariat where he designed and implemented advocacy programmes for the use of statistics for development, and launched statistical development support programmes under the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) approach. He also was Team Leader of the Poverty Monitoring Unit and Coordinator in the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) Unit for household surveys of the World Bank, and Statistician at INSEE Regional Bureau in Cayenne, French Guyana on agriculture and population census. Mr. Simonpietri has Diploma from E.N.S.A.E.II in Paris, France.



Paul Cheng is the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. Since joining the UN, he has made statistical development in Africa one of his pre-occupations. In this connection, he played an important role in the revival of the statistics function at ECA; ensured that more African statisticians attend the UN Statistical Commission and other international meetings where international statistical standards, norms and

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

methodologies are set and adopted; and has been in the forefront of the efforts to get all African countries to participate in the 2010 world population and housing census programme, among other contributions. Prior to joining the United Nations, he has served in very high positions in his country and internationally, notably, as Chief Statistician of the Government of Singapore and as President of the International Association of Official Statistics. He has received many national and professional awards including the Von Neumann-Spallart Medal from the International Institute of Statistics and the Pingat Pentadbiran Award from the President of the Republic of Singapore. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the National University of Mongolia. Professor Cheung received his education in Singapore and the United States. He did postgraduate work at the East-West Center, Hawaii, and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



Miranda Mafafo is the Executive Director of Agricultural Development Programmes at the Pan-African Agricultural Business Development Institute, an affiliate of the AU/NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme

(CAADP). She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and Geography from the University of Swaziland; a Masters degree in Development Studies from Queen's University at Kingston, Canada and with a PhD in Development Studies from University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. She worked in the universities of Swaziland and Witwatersrand in the area of post-graduate teaching and research; in the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa; and in Statistics South Africa. While at Statistics South Africa, she dealt with the coordination and management of the SADC Millennium Census Project (Phase II). She was also the Head of the Africa Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD), and worked on the maths4stats programme, and the ISibalo capacity building programme. Recognizing the critical role of capacity development to Africa's statistical development, Dr. Mafafo placed much emphasis on institutional partnerships.



Discours d'acceptation du Prix africain de la statistique

Michel Mouyelo-Katoula



Michel Mouyelo-Katoula recevant son Prix de Mme Lala Ben Barka, Secrétaire exécutif adjoint, CEA

Messieurs et Mesdames les représentants des organisations régionales, sous-régionales et internationales,

Messieurs et Mesdames les représentants des instituts nationaux de statistique,

Messieurs et Mesdames les participants à la présente session de la Commission statistique pour l'Afrique,

Je m'exprimerai en Français, plutôt qu'en Anglais, pour mieux donner la mesure de mon émotion et de mon appréciation de l'honneur qui m'est fait aujourd'hui.

En m'attribuant ce Prix africain de statistique, vous me renvoyez 35 ans en arrière, alors que je n'étais qu'un jeune statisticien riche d'ambition, d'idées, de dynamisme et surtout de rêves pour une statistique africaine d'excellence.

En 1975 ou 1976, je ne sais plus exactement quand, je participai à mon premier rassemblement panafricain, où les statisticiens, démographes et planificateurs africains s'étaient retrouvés à Lomé au Togo pour débattre des questions émergentes d'alors, relatives au développement de la statistique du continent. Je regardais alors ces éminents spécialistes avec admiration, intimidé par leurs 20 ou 30 ans d'expérience. Je ne pensais pas alors que ce jour-ci viendrait où une jeune statisticienne, qui aurait pu être ma fille, déclamerait devant votre auguste assemblée la litanie des faits essentiels de ma carrière au service de l'Afrique.

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

Je vous remercie, Mesdames et Messieurs, de m'attribuer ce prix. Si je le mérite, je le dois aux institutions qui m'ont fait confiance depuis 1974 en me permettant d'apprendre en leur sein, d'y expérimenter diverses approches, et de m'affirmer à force d'échecs, de succès et de recommencements.

Ce prix, je le dois, je l'offre au Congo-Brazzaville, mon pays de naissance, où j'ai eu le privilège de servir la Direction de la statistique d'alors, au sein du Ministère du Plan, où j'ai grandi comme statisticien jusqu'à assumer brièvement la charge de directeur de la statistique.

Je le dois à la défunte UDEAC, devenue CEMAC, à Bangui, qui a donné la première dimension sous-régionale – déjà internationale – à mon parcours. Je le dois à la Commission Européenne et au Grand Duché de Luxembourg, mon pays d'adoption, où j'ai eu le bonheur, de 1983 à 2000, de travailler à EUROSTAT comme expert avant de devenir Secrétaire exécutif du CESD-Communautaire, puis Directeur d'EuroCost asbl.

Je le dois à la Namibie qui m'a permis de relever, en tant que directeur de projet, le défi de la préparation du deuxième plan quinquennal, au sein de la Commission nationale du Plan de ce pays.

Je le dois, je l'offre, bien sûr, à la Banque africaine de développement, où, avant d'être nommé chef de division du renforcement des capacités statistiques, j'ai eu l'insigne privilège de coordonner le plus grand programme régional de statistique, le PCI-Afrique. Le succès de ce programme est sans nul doute l'une des justifications majeures du prix que vous venez de m'accorder. Il aura servi de tremplin essentiel à mon recrutement récent, par la Banque Mondiale, comme coordinateur mondial du PCI. Ce prix, je le dois donc à la Banque Mondiale aussi.

Partout, j'ai travaillé avec des hommes et des femmes, généralement des jeunes, dont le dynamisme aura été le plus grand catalyseur de mon cheminement professionnel. Je leur dédie ce prix. A travers eux, c'est à l'ensemble de la jeunesse statisticienne que je dédie ce prix comme signe d'encouragement à persévérer dans l'effort d'imagination et de construction d'un système statistique africain en phase avec son temps, certes, mais surtout, qui soit un véritable miroir numérique des réalités africaines.

La jeunesse est assurément la meilleure force d'invention d'une statistique du développement. Il s'agit de la mise en adéquation des ressources et des problèmes statistiques, ce qui requiert de concevoir un système statistique politiquement pertinent autour des principaux engagements politiques et économiques d'un pays, d'une région, etc., et de construire une statistique administrative et opérationnelle fonctionnant sur la carte administrative d'un pays, sur ses disponibilités budgétaires et ses règles.

La statistique africaine devrait s'organiser pour anticiper l'avenir du continent et veiller au suivi des phénomènes majeurs de sa dynamique économique et sociale. Elle devrait s'articuler autour de l'intégration régionale que la Commission de l'Union Africaine prend d'ores et déjà à cœur.

La statistique africaine devrait devenir une statistique d'action à tous les niveaux, un levier de mobilisation des énergies. Dans ce cadre, la démarche systémique que j'ai déjà eu à définir dans un article publié dans le Journal statistique africain, pourrait servir de point de départ à la réflexion en vue de la transformation de chaque pays en société de promotion de la connaissance du développement. La multi-dimensionnalité, la complexité et l'immensité du travail de mesure du développement suggèrent que dans chaque pays ainsi qu'au niveau régional, soient établis des réseaux qui aident à traduire les aspects essentiels de la vie collective en systèmes et données statistiques.

A travers ce prix, j'encourage la jeunesse à œuvrer dans ce sens. Je l'encourage à faire en sorte de faire émerger la statistique en tant que langage social. Le langage étant le premier support naturel d'une culture de groupe. Le développement d'une culture d'observation, de mesure, d'analyse et de projection numérique dans l'avenir exige que les membres du groupe, en tant que système vivant auto-organisé, parlent un même langage, et échangent entre eux des informations selon ce langage.

A travers ce prix, j'invite donc la jeunesse à œuvrer pour la rationalisation et la pérennisation de la collecte et de la diffusion de l'information en tant qu'essence du langage statistique.

Je m'adresse une fois de plus à la jeunesse pour qu'elle devienne la composante majeure de la contribution de l'Afrique à la révision des normes et systèmes internationaux.

L'Afrique doit se donner une voix forte et vibrante, active et efficace dans la conception, l'élaboration, le développement des normes et systèmes, en disant ce qu'elle veut, ce qu'elle est, et en décrivant le chemin qu'elle entend emprunter pour atteindre les buts qu'elle se donne. Car c'est elle qui doit définir souverainement sa statistique dans le concert plus large des recommandations internationales.

Mesdames et Messieurs, chers amis et collègues,

Mes propos visent à faire rimer excellence et jeunesse, dynamisme et innovation, pour que le Prix africain de statistique ne soit pas simplement un prix de vieillesse reconnu à ceux qui se seront simplement laissés entraîner par l'inertie du temps, mais un prix d'action et d'innovation qui contribue à replacer la jeunesse au centre de la problématique de développement statistique.

Je vous remercie.



I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

Discours d'Acceptation du Certificat de reconnaissance spéciale par ComStat-Afrique

Antoine Simonpietri



Antoine Simonpietri recevant son Prix de Mr. René Kouassi,
Directeur des Affaires économiques, CUA

Monsieur le Président de la Commission statistique de l'Afrique,

Monsieur le Directeur du Centre Africain de Statistique,

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Mes chers collègues,

Mes chers amis,

C'est avec beaucoup de joie et de fierté que j'accepte ce prix remis par mes pairs. Beaucoup de fierté quand je vois avec qui je partage ce prix aujourd'hui, et ceux qui l'ont reçu l'année dernière. Avec beaucoup d'humilité aussi, car j'ai le sentiment que beaucoup d'autres que moi auraient mérité ce prix, et une bonne partie d'entre eux sont aujourd'hui, ici, avec nous.

Quand j'ai écouté ce résumé de ma vie professionnelle par ce jeune statisticien, 35 ans au service de la statistique africaine, je ne peux résister au lieu commun de dire : « Comme cela a passé vite ! ». Il me semble que c'était hier que je prenais mon premier poste en 1975 à N'Djamena au Tchad pour préparer le premier recensement de la population. Je remplaçais les deux premiers démographes tchadiens, MM Nassour et Tahir, qui n'étaient pas encore sortis de l'IFORD.

J'ai donc fait mes premières missions dans l'Est et le Nord du pays pour évaluer si le recensement de la population pouvait se faire. C'est que j'ai appris dans les montagnes du Guéra, ou les dunes du Kanem, qu'un recensement, beaucoup plus qu'un sim-

ple comptage, est une façon d'identifier un pays, de reconnaître son identité nationale.

Si d'énormes progrès ont été faits, que de problèmes restent non résolus ! Souvent les mêmes : financement de la statistique et dépendance aux bailleurs de fonds, coordination des partenaires techniques et financiers, reconnaissance du métier de statisticien et échelle des salaires, rôle des statistiques dans le développement, etc. A se rappeler les combats menés 20 ans auparavant, on en attrape le vertige tant les problèmes sont similaires. Mais de nouvelles idées se développent qui amélioreront notre compréhension des phénomènes et nous ferons trouver des solutions plus pertinentes.

En particulier, la révolution technologique a bouleversé notre profession. Je me rappelle que nous utilisions avec Michel, mon co-lauréat, à l'UDEAC à Bangui, des instruments dont les jeunes statisticiens ici présents n'ont même pas idée : stencils, ronéos, blanco, correcteur rouge, calques et encre de Chine pour les cartes, etc. Pas d'ordinateur, pas de photocopieur, pas de scanner, pas de Google, pas de téléphone intercontinental, ... Et pourtant nous travaillions, et produisions des résultats que je veux croire tout à fait comparables à ceux d'aujourd'hui. Mais à quelle vitesse, et au prix de quels efforts ! Il faut aujourd'hui que les jeunes entrant dans la carrière utilisent les plus performantes technologies pour faire ce bond nécessaire au développement plus rapide de la statistique en Afrique.

Enfin, je n'aurais pas la grandeur d'âme de mon ami Michel qui a donné très élégamment sa récompense aux jeunes statisticiens, car moi, ce prix, je le garde pour moi, je le ramènerai dans mon village, et il me fera souvenir de mes collègues statisticiens, de toutes ces années passées à la défense de la statistique africaine, au cœur de cette fraternité qui nous unit tous et toutes.

Encore une fois, merci à tous.



I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

Acceptance Speech for Certificate of Recognition
by StatCom Africa II

Miranda Mafafo



Dr. Miranda Mafafo receiving her Award from Charles Lufumpa,
Director of Statistics Department, AfDB

Chairperson of the Statistical Commission for Africa,

Award Winners, distinguished Guests,

Chief statisticians in Africa,

Young African Statisticians,

Development partners from international and regional organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this occasion of StatCom-Africa-II, it gives me great pleasure to stand before this congregation of distinguished statisticians to accept the recognition being made for the contribution I have made towards African statistical development in Africa. I am sorry that Professor Ben Kiregyera is not with us this morning because over the Christmas holidays, I had several debates with him and the Statistician-General of South Africa, Mr. Pali Lehohla on whether I should accept this award or not. For me, being in the backrooms is my preferred option, even where it means going unrecognized. Nonetheless, they were adamant that recognition must sometimes be made public, and so here I am today.

Recognition of my contribution to statistical development, has been made complete by the presence today of African young statisticians at this second session of StatCom-Africa and the presence of mathematics student teachers who I have had the privilege of working with under the ISlballo Capacity Building Programme in our

common endeavour to push back the frontiers of innumeracy in grades 3 to 12. It is for this reason, that in accepting this award today, I would like to address young statisticians present today. My colleagues Michel Mouyelo-Katoula and Antoine Simonpietri, in receiving their awards spoke about having been in the fraternity of statistics 35 years respectively. I only boast 7 years. I was taught by four remarkable men, who raised me professionally and who remain my mentors even to this day, that you must make your mark immediately, wherever you are. It is not about earning a salary or making money, but it is about living your life with purpose and making a long-lasting contribution in the small space that life has assigned to you that will be a life-changing legacy to many people you may never even meet. My sojourn in the field of statistics was only 7 years long and today I believe that the ISlballo Capacity Building Programme, the African Symposium for Statistical Development and maths4stats will have long term effects on Africa's statistical development.

Chairperson, receiving recognition for a contribution made, sometimes makes the false assumption that you did it alone. It would be wrong for me to claim that I did all alone. There were many players who went before me and laid the foundation. Many programmes, some failed attempts and disappointments had been made that served as a basis for what today I too built through earlier versions such as the Addis Ababa Declaration, the Lagos Action Plan, the Marrakesh Plan of action for Statistics, the Regional Reference strategic Framework on Statistical Capacity Building to name a few. I am therefore thankful to the work of the Executive Secretary of the ECA, Dr. Abdoulie Janneh, Professor Ben Kiregyera, Mr. Pali Lehohla, Dr. Dimitri Sanga, Mr. Risenga Maluleke and the Friends of the ECA for how we worked together to revitalize statistics in Africa. It was a time in the history of statistics where we closed ranks, pulled together our competencies as individuals and institutions, whether it was political advocacy, conceptualization of programmes, resource mobilization ... whatever you did best, and worked long tiring hours to wake up the sleep giant that was the ECA to take back its rightful place in driving statistical development in Africa.

That said Chairperson, when I look back now, my sojourn and subsequent contribution to statistical development was pre-determined in many ways by the global development demands of the time: the time-bound Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which formed a broad framework for measuring progress in society in the key areas of poverty alleviation, food security, gender equality, education, health, environment and global partnerships. The role that statistics was to play was not an easily recognized one until the first trimester reporting on MDGs in 2005 which recognized that there was no strategy in place to meet the data demands for reporting on the MDGs. There was also a sudden recognition of the statistical capacity gaps that existed. For me Chairperson, it was a paper delivered by Professor Paul Cheung at the 1st ASSD in Cape Town

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

in 2006 that highlighted the appalling condition and even existence of statistics in Africa. That was my turning point moment.

Chairperson, when they ratified the Millennium Declaration in 2000, African governments in general like other developing countries, were ill-prepared to meet the obligations of the MDGs. Looking back though, one realizes that even the African statistical community was equally ill-prepared. We had no strategy in place. The ASSD was birthed and later, the ISibalo Capacity Building Programme in response to moving this continent forward to world-class standards of measurement. You will recall like I do Chairperson, the mood in the room at a UNFPA census advocacy meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon in November 2005 where the African statistical community sat frustrated yet demanding positive action towards revitalizing statistical development in Africa. It was there that as South Africa we were given the mandate to drive the process going forward. And so the ASSD was born.

Chairperson, we are in the year 2010, when nation-states will once again gather at the UN General Assembly in September for a second trimester review on how well they are doing or how off-track they are in meeting the MDGs. The preparedness of statistics in this review is yet to be revealed. Similarly Chairperson, the theme of this year's StatCom-Africa Session speaks to harnessing financial and technical resources in support of monitoring the MDGs. With the countdown to 2015, the issues to be discussed at StatCom-Africa-II may have come too late.

Having exited the statistics fraternity, as an outsider looking in, if statistics are to be taken as serious and as indispensable as they should be, I want to present three challenges to this meeting:

1. Ground work has been done. Now a strategy going beyond 2015 needs to be put into place.
2. This strategy must take into account dialogue with development practitioners and policymakers whom ideally you serve your statistics to. The days of talking past each other must end.
3. The strategy must look beyond harnessing financial and technical resources, to harnessing human resources. This speaks to the core of the ISibalo Capacity Building Programme which has identified the many gaps in statistical human capital and the need to build the capacity of women, researchers, young statisticians and our young African children. Africa's young statisticians in particular, are the future and it is their responsibility as the next generation to take forward post-2015 strategies for statistical development.

As young people they bring a fresh perspective to the utilisation of statistics as demonstrated by topics they presented at their 1st Conference of Young Statisticians in 2008. They are young, they do things differently. They will sometimes turn upside down the ideas

and way of doing things you have held so dear for so long. They will sometimes show impatience, even irritation for your routine as chief statisticians and the cumbersome reporting lines you love so dearly. They need to be given the space to re-think our noble efforts. As the next generation of chief statisticians, they unfortunately run the risk of being stifled by the very men and women in the room today, their seniors.

Yet ladies and gentlemen, it is the responsibility of institutional gatherings like StatCom Africa and heads of statistics at country-level to ensure the innovative continuity and sustainability of African statistical development going forward through harnessing our young statisticians as custodians of our future. For this I will hold you accountable.

In closing Chairperson, my contribution was not possible without the leadership of a man I will always respect and hold in very high regard, Mr. Pali Lehohla. He gave me the space to think and implement my intellectual ideas and theories for developing a science that has so much to offer in Africa's development. My contribution would have not been possible if he never tolerated my disregard and impatience with routine and empty, endless rhetoric. It is to him that I am indebted.

I thank you.



I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

Summary of the Keynote Speech Made by Dr. Paul Cheung at the Second Meeting of Statistical Commission for Africa



Dr. Paul Cheung receiving a Certificate for Special Recognition from Pali Lehola, Statistician General, South Africa

Dr. Paul Cheung, Director of United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) presented a keynote address under a theme entitled "Advancing the Global Statistical System (GSS): Perspectives of Africa".

The keynote speech covered:

- The Global Statistical System (GSS) and its key functions;
- The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and UNSD; and
- Statistical development in Africa, especially in the areas of economic statistics, population censuses and civil registration and vital statistics.

The GSS comprises the National Statistical Systems (NSSs), regional and international organizations with the UNSC as an apex entity.

The main objective of the GSS is to create a strong and cohesive global statistical community producing high quality, objective and internationally comparable statistics.

The key functions of the GSS were also indicated as follows:

- Establish professional norms and values;
- Adopt statistical standards and methods;
- Issue guidelines and recommendations;
- Develops tools to support the collection, analysis and use of

statistics; and

- Provide technical assistance to build production capacity.

The UNSC is a crucial factor in building and reinforcing the GSS, a forum for decisions, a coordination body for statistical activities, and provides intellectual leadership to national and international efforts to establish strong statistical systems.

Furthermore, Dr. Paul Cheung pointed out the mission of the UNSD.

The need for statistical development in Africa is due to weak capacity, despite the support of international and regional organizations. Some African countries remain unable to generate basic information.

In the area of economic statistics African countries have a long way to go in the 1993 SNA implementation, reporting and scope of national accounts data. The main problems include outdated sampling frames, low response rates, low coverage of service and informal sector activities, and inconsistency of collected variables with national account concepts. The scope of national accounts data availability of rapid estimates in African countries is scarce, and quality and content of data vary by country, but in majority of cases are inadequate. Therefore, there is a need to increase the number of staff working on national accounts and limit the high turnover.

With respect to the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, Dr. Paul Cheung noted that the situation is better than the 2000 round but some countries face problems and have already postponed their censuses due to political and/or financial situation.

In the area of civil registration and vital statistics he indicated that Africa still faces serious under coverage and very few countries operate a civil registration system with full coverage for births and deaths.

The challenges for the future are indicated to be the need for strong leadership from Chief Statisticians, improved governance structure and personnel policies, and last but not least support from political leadership.



I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

Summary of the discussions held by StatCom Africa-II Working Groups

Gerard Osbert, African Centre for Statistics

Working Group on Data Management

Around 20 participants attended the meeting. ECA presented a summary of ToR for Data Management functions in ACS, for feedback from member states and partners. Discussion was held on the role of geography and geospatial technologies, notably GIS and GPS in all stages of statistical process, emphasizing the need to run parallel sessions for the geospatial community at future StatCom meetings.

Three technical presentations were made by ECA on: (i) enhancements made to StatBase since StatCom I; (ii) the Gazetteer application being developed in collaboration with UNGEGN; (iii) the African Statistical Knowledge Network Platform.

The ensuing discussion pointed out that there is a need for ACS to:

- Cover all data management features, from data Collection through to data sharing and exchange, including using web 2.0
- survey countries to determine those that have databases and what systems they are using with a view to identifying those that need assistance to implement databases
- convene an expert group to review various database platforms and systems to recommend suitable options with appropriate features

Working group on Development Indicators

The main objective of the group is to support StaCom-Africa in its quest to address challenges facing African countries on MDGs monitoring. The working group had agreed on a number of deliverables including the development of detailed Terms of Reference by the end of 2008.

The group's membership is not restricted to those who attended this particular session. The working group session was attended by representatives from nine countries and ADB, ECA. The Group reviewed the Terms of Reference then recommended the following measures aimed at improving the development and tracking of development indicators:

- conduct of a study on why African countries may not meet some MDG targets and prepare the inclusion of development goals/indicators specific to Africa beyond 2015;

- urge ECA and its partners to develop a handbook on the derivation of development indicators from population censuses and household surveys;
- urge countries to build national databases, which should include MDG indicators;
- promote better involvement of national political authorities (Government, Parliament, Civil Society and the Private Sector) in MDG monitoring.

Working Group on Gender Statistics

The Working Group session was attended by representatives from 7 countries and 4 international organizations.

Gender Statistics Initiatives were presented by the following institutions:

- ECA Time use surveys pilot: Using Ghana and Djibouti as pilot countries, this project is designed to support countries in adapting the world manual on time use survey. The methodology will be shared through GESNET.
- INWENT Statistical Capacity building programme to support training in the region: This is an e-learning program on mainstreaming gender in economic statistics (capturing unpaid work and contribution of women to GDP).
- AFRISTAT's Work Programme 2011-2015: The work programme integrates activities on gender; AFRISTAT is a member of the Expert group on engendering censuses and surveys.
- Uganda-KCG-GS: This is a forum where African stakeholders and partners can discuss, propose, support and address issues, needs, and challenges related to the development of gender statistics in line with PRSP and the MDGs.
- AfDB: AfDB has established a Gender Unit to advise and mainstream gender in all AfDB activities particularly the focal areas of ADF-11 and providing training throughout the Bank on how to integrate gender in various components of the bank's activities.

The StatCom-Africa Gender Working Group (GWG) will support and advise on gender statistical issues, needs and challenges in line with the PRSPs and MDGs.

Working group on Harmonization of Statistics

The group discussed the development and harmonization strategy for the African Statistical System which was validated during the meeting of the general managers of the African NSOs, held on December 10, 2009 in East London, South Africa. The main objective

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

of the strategy is to provide the African Statistical System with a general framework in order to:

- produce statistics of harmonized quality for the definition and implementation of policies and programmes in Africa,
- allow the follow-up and evaluation of development and integration policies in Africa,
- reinforce durable institutional capacity for the system of statistics for Africa.

Concerning the implementation of the strategy, 12 specialized technical groups were identified. Three Technical Commissions will be set up to validate the work of technical groups. The Committee of the directors general of NSOs adopts the Commissions' outcomes and submits them to the ministers in charge of the statistics.

Working Group on Informal Sector

The session of the working group on the informal sector in Africa was attended by 20 countries, all of which expressed their wish to take part with the activities of the action plan 2010-2012.

AFRISTAT and the CAS/CEA presented a draft of the Action Plan centred on the implementation of national mixed surveys (Employment/informal Sector) in pilot countries with the aim to produce an annual balance sheet on employment as well as a satellite account of the informal economy. ECA presented the Terms of Reference of the Working group, putting forward the following points:

- the contextual issues that led to the establishment of the working group on the informal sector
- the activities to be implemented at the regional level
- the selection criteria for the pilot countries reflecting realities of the region

Participants adopted the draft action plan prepared by AFRISTAT and ECA, subject to the following amendments:

- include the suggestions of the countries in the list of activities
- align the TOR and the Action plan
- examine the use of the job input matrices in the development of the national accounts

Countries representatives proposed that a technical note on the recent methodological innovations on the mixed surveys (LFS/ Informal-sector) be disposed of, and called for quick organization of technical assistance to them.

Working Group on Statistical Training

Twenty-four participants from 19 African countries and four inter-

national organisations attended the session, chaired by PARIS-21 and reported by InWent. The agenda was to provide background information on the mission of AGROST initiated in 2009, establishing its permanent Secretariat and its funding; working programme for 2010-2011, defining different levels and kinds of training.

The meeting agreed on the fact that the Permanent Secretariat should be immediately under the umbrella of the ECA. Participants expect ECA to find a solution to the funding problems so that AGROST can start operating. In addition to the proposed list of AGROST activities made in Bujumbura in June 2009, the following tasks were identified:

- Analysis of support of the different FTPs to different levels and modes of statistical capacity building;
- Considering the creation of national STCs and encouraging the STCs to provide more training-of-trainers courses;
- Defining different levels and kinds of training.

Working group on national Accounts

The 15 members (11 countries, 4 international organizations) of the African Group on national Accounts (AGNA) held sessions from 18th to 20th January to finalize the African Strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA. The draft strategy was reviewed and presented for approval to StatCom-Africa. It will next be presented to the board of governors for consideration and funding from partners. Among the questions raised, were the following: (i) appropriateness of the African System of National Accounting (ASNA), (ii) labeling the various national accounts according to the period of production, (iii) national accountant profile, (iv) number of trainees per year, (v) need to have a transitional period for the implementation of the ASNA, (vi) relevance of the national accounts analysis, and (vii) need to set up revised classifications of activities and products.

Monitoring and reporting: all implemented activities will be subject to follow-up and evaluation according to the adopted timeline. The stakeholders for each activity are to be identified. AGNA will prepare bi-annual reports to be submitted to the regional statistical coordinating bodies, namely the ASCC and the Bureau of StatCom-Africa. AGNA will also prepare every two years a report on the 2008 SNA implementation to be submitted to StatCom-Africa. Coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa: the coordinating role is entrusted to AfDB. The five Regional Economic Communities will be sub-regional coordinators, and AFRISTAT will be a technical adviser. AGNA recommended that activities related to organization of workshops, training and development of manuals should be lead by ECA, in collaboration with AFRISTAT, while AUC will take a leading role in advocacy. Implementation at national, sub-regional and regional levels: the review of the LFM was a good opportunity to discuss: (i) the relevance of performance indicators, and (ii) the hypothesis/risks including the

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

mitigating measures. Concerning the calendar, it was asked to propose a suitable period for each activity and the organizations likely to undertake or to support these activities



Recommendations of the Second Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa

Preamble

Acknowledging that the theme of this second session of StatCom-Africa "Harnessing Financial and Technical Resources in Support of the Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals in African Countries" is timely as we are preparing for the second five-year-review of the MDGs;

Considering reports from seven working groups namely on (i) Data Management, (ii) Development Indicators, (iii) Gender Statistics, (iv) Informal Sector, (v) National Accounts, (vi) Statistical Training, and (vii) Harmonisation of Statistics in Support of Economic Integration;

Considering other ongoing and emerging issues namely: (i) the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, (ii) Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, (iii) Improving Agricultural Statistics, (iv) Environment Statistics and Climate change, (v) Coordination of Advisory Services to member States;

Having examined reports on (i) the implementation of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF) and, (ii) the African Charter for Statistics;

Taking cognizance of a number of programmatic issues including (i) the implementation of the 2008-2009 and the planned 2010-2011 work programmes of the African Centre for Statistics (ACS);

Noting with satisfaction the participation of young statisticians and universities in the discussion of the Commission for the first time;

The second session of the Statistical Commission for Africa concluded and recommended as follows:

A. Data Management

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

a. Urges ECA to:

- i. organize an expert group to undertake a comprehensive study of the major data management software tools to draw up a

comparative table of their features to enable National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to select the appropriate ones for drawing up a composite optimum set of features for an African software system for data management and dissemination to be developed as an open source software under the auspices and full ownership of the African Statistics fraternity;

- ii. undertake a survey of database systems and software tools available in countries to determine what databases and systems (if any) they are using with a view to identifying those that need assistance to implement databases;
 - iii. produce a handbook on data management including guidelines on data management policies and Software for analysis, dissemination, archiving, etc;
 - iv. involve its sub-regional offices in making requests/recommendations to member States because these sub-regional offices are closer to the countries and will have to harmonise information coming from those member States;
 - v. involve and collaborate with the regional economic communities (RECs) and other regional institutions in the process of data collection and database updating;
- b. Encourages Professional Statistical Associations to participate in meetings, access and use available data with a view to offering comments and identifying errors, mistakes, and best practices for data management;
 - c. Recommends that the capacity of NSOs be enhanced in the use of geospatial tools to reinforce the combination of geographic and statistical data in development planning and monitoring;
 - d. Encourages ECA to prepare a work programme, in collaboration with United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), that will lead to authoritative national databases, which will be consolidated into a continental database and feed into the global geographical names database.

B. Development Indicators

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

a. Recommends that:

- i. a study be conducted to ascertain which African countries may not meet some MDG targets, and why they may not meet those MDG targets;
 - ii. countries, and regional and international organizations encourage and support research and study initiatives on methodologies that would allow to identify development objectives for African countries as well as indicators to measure them beyond 2015;
- b. Calls on ECA and its partners to develop a Handbook on the derivation of development indicators from population censuses and

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

household surveys;

c. Urges African countries to build national databases which include MDG indicators; set up national focal points and Coordination Committees on MDGs; and promote better involvement of national political authorities in MDG monitoring.

C. Gender Statistics

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

a. Recommends:

- i. the preparation of an African handbook on gender statistics;
- ii. the preparation of Training material on gender statistics;
- iii. the speedy completion of the Compendium on gender statistics; and
- iv. the formulation of a Regional strategy on gender statistics;

b. Calls for the mainstreaming of gender into the themes of all working Groups, and the identification of gender-responsive indicators to monitor Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes (PRSPs.)

D. On the Informal Sector

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. Adopts the Action plan of the Working Group for improving and monitoring informal sector statistics in Africa including the proposed terms of reference for the period 2010 – 2012;
- b. Re-affirms the importance of ECA collaborating with other UN regional commissions on the measurement of the informal economy and urges them to implement an inter-continental project on measuring the informal economy;
- c. Recommends that identified pilot countries finalize their project on information sector surveys and conduct, in collaboration with AFRISTAT, ECA and ILO, regular employment surveys, preferably on an annual basis.

E. National Accounts

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. Adopts the African strategy for the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA); and
- b. Makes it the first pillar of the African Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA);
- c. Urges pan-African institutions, regional economic communities and member States to take ownership of the strategy and mobilize the necessary funds for its implementation; and urges Africa's development partners to support its implementation.

F. Statistical Training

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. Recommends that ECA coordinates the various initiatives and establish a programme on statistical training;
- b. Endorses the inception of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST);
- c. Advocates for the establishment of a permanent secretariat for AGROST at ECA
- d. Requests the African Statistical Coordination Committee to explore funding modalities for the permanent secretariat.

G. Harmonisation of Statistics in Support of economic integration

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. Recognizes the important work of AUC to develop SHaSA, especially advocacy and its strong policy commitment at all levels;
- b. Recommends the establishment of 12 working groups on thematic areas of harmonization, and the assignment of a lead country or institution for each thematic group;
- c. Proposes that the African Statistical Coordination Committee rationalizes the programmed meetings of heads of NSOs.

H. Emerging and Other Issues

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

The Statistical commission for Africa:

- a. Recognizes the importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and the gaps in National Statistical Systems (NSSs) due to the inadequacy of civil registration systems in most African countries;
- b. Recognizes the limited awareness on, and lack of political support for CRVS among governments and political leaders; and
- c. Supports the organization of a high-level ministerial Conference on CRVS.

Agricultural Statistics

The Statistical commission for Africa:

- a. Recognizes the crucial role of agricultural statistics in dealing with the challenges of food security and climate change, and observes that the current arrangement for collecting and managing them are inadequate for these crucial roles,
- b. Supports the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural And Rural Statistics;

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

- c. Recommends that NSDS include provisions for producing agricultural statistics, with technical expertise and funding in the area of agriculture statistics being channelled through the appropriate country institutions that have the infrastructure for producing them.

Environmental Statistics and Climate Change

The Statistical commission for Africa:

- a. Notes with appreciation the work undertaken in the area of environment statistics by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ECA and UNSD to adapt the core list of indicators to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) sub-region for use in national and regional reporting;
- b. Further appreciates the Biodiversity Indicators Capacity Strengthening workshops organized for selected East and Southern African countries by ECA and UNEP – World Conservation and Monitoring Centre;
- c. Reiterates the recommendation of StatCom-Africa I calling on ECA to establish a task force on environment statistics to:
 - i. Streamline the core list of environmental indicators for Africa;
 - ii. Prepare a work programme on environment statistics for the Africa region; and
 - iii. Work closely with the Inter Sectoral Working Group on Environment Statistics
- d. Requests ECA to provide technical assistance to enable countries to develop their environment statistics and indicators and to continue organizing training workshops in the area of environment statistics and accounts; and
- e. Recommends the strengthening of Statistical Training Centres to ensure that they include environment statistics in their curricula.

Poverty Reduction

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. Adopts the recommendations of the PRSP group:
 - i. To improve collaboration between statisticians and planners, including capacity building activities and use of modern software; and
 - ii. To include among its priority the statistics on social protection which are the pillar of PRSP.
- b. Acknowledges the need to develop sectoral statistics in social fields, as well as for infrastructures

Geography and statistics

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. Endorses the view geographic information is essential and should be incorporated more into statistical processes and:
 - i. calls on African countries to ensure that national statistical, planning and cartographic authorities have effective collaboration between them in the development of respective data infrastructures and systems by having National Statistics and Planning Offices represented in the coordination arrangements for the National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) and National Mapping and Planning Agencies represented in the coordination of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics; and
 - ii. requests ECA, with technical support from UNSD and the two United Nations Cartographic Conferences to organize a parallel session for cartographers and geo-information practitioners.

Social Inclusion and Protection

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. Recognizes the importance of social inclusion/protection as an important strategy in the fight against poverty, and for safeguarding Africa's gains in the MDGs in the face of the global financial crisis (particularly rising food and oil prices), and climate change; and
- b. Recommends that the African Statistical Coordinating Committee (ASCC) undertakes the necessary conceptual/technical review and establish modalities for setting up a working group on social inclusion/protection and report back on progress made to the next session of StatCom-Africa.

Coordination

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. Recommends that pan African institutions in charge of statistics improve on the coordination of their respective activities;
- b. Acknowledges that statutory statistical councils/boards constitute major stakeholders in some NSDSs of member States and that these organizations are important players in the enhancement of the development of and coordination of the NSDSs in the countries and agrees that they be represented in StatCom-Africa and other strategic formations in pursuit of statistical excellence in Africa; and
- c. Recognizes the opportunities provided by strategic initiatives within member States such as the 2010 round of population censuses in creating the basis for the implementation of other

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

programmes such as the civil registration, collection of agricultural statistics, employment statistics, etc, and agrees that coordination efforts be mounted in order to create optimum comprehensive statistical programmes in respective states;

- d. Endorses the view that Africa's input into the work of the sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission should be coordinated during forthcoming sessions of StatCom-Africa.



Young Statisticians Report

Habassa Gilbert, Rapporteur

As Young African Statisticians who attended StatCom Africa meeting II, we would like to present a report concerning our participation on that important meeting.

The conference hall of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, sheltered the second meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa from 17 to 22 January 2010 which was structured in three forums:

- A seminar on strengthening statistical capacity building (17th January 2010);
- Statistics Commission for Africa meeting II (StatCom- Africa-II) 18-21st January 2010; and
- 4th meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV-IV) 22nd January 2010.

Young Statisticians took part in all the deliberations and were represented by 10 members from the following countries: South Africa, Cameroon, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Uganda and Senegal.

This participation was an opportunity for us to take note of the work currently undertaken by our countries, regional and sub regional, technical and financial partners, universities, statistical associations and researchers in the production, dissemination and use of statistical information across Africa.

We raised our ideas in many of the sessions during the meeting. It was quite challenging to speak in front of senior Statisticians however we managed to make substantial contributions in the statistical development of Africa.

Lessons learnt in StatCom Africa meeting

Young African Statisticians learnt the following during the meeting:

- The efforts and progress made so far by the statistical community on the African continent and its partners as one of the

pillars of development;

- The challenges in the development of Africa statistical harmonization;
- The opportunities available to Young African Statisticians, especially in the areas of research and Africa statistical development; and
- The responsibility of ensuring the continuity of statistical advocacy in Africa and the rest of the world.

Issues raised by Young African Statisticians

Young African statisticians raised a number of questions and contributions in plenary and parallel sessions which include among others:

- In the field of training, partnership between universities and statistical training schools Harmonization of statistical training programs in Africa will be supported by the African Group on Statistical Training (AGROST); and
- Establishment of a single statistical database and establishment of regional bodies that collect and harmonize information under Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Other Contributions

- We participated in the working groups during StatCom meeting sessions. We helped in the translation from French into English in the reporting group on data management;
- We suggested new statistical applications, softwares and new practices to be widely disseminated in the African Statistical Training Schools for students to keep up-to-date with new technologies;
- We recommended electrification of the African rural areas in order to achieve better results of civil registration in Africa; and
- Young African Statisticians read citations to the Africa Statistics award winners during the meeting. They were represented by Habaasa Gilbert, Ankouvi Mawoudoudji NAYO, Koleka Rangaza and Adja Mbarka Fall. The award winners included Dr Miranda Mafafo, Prof Paul Cheung, Mr Michel Mouyelo-Katoula and Mr Antoine Simonpietri.

Side meeting of Young African Statisticians

A side meeting was convened on Friday 22nd January 2010 during by Lunch break in breakaway room 6 for all YAS and it was chaired by Habaasa Gilbert of Uganda assisted by Koleka Rangaza of South Africa. Among issues discussed included:

- The memories of Young African Statisticians at ISI 2009 session in Durban;
- Establishment of Young African Statisticians' secretariat at

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

StatsSA;

- Involvement of Young African Statisticians in their upcoming conference in July 2010; and
- Young African Statisticians newsletter among others.

Recommendations of YAS meeting

Members from both Francophone and Anglophone countries agreed to set up regional offices to coordinate the activities of Young African Statisticians in Africa:

1. Members agreed to improve on research methodologies and start preparing their papers to be presented in the upcoming conference of Young African Statisticians in July 2010. The theme of the conference will be "Durban to Dublin: Doubling the Efforts of Young African Statisticians". Miss Koleka said members could still prepare papers in line with MDGs since it is one of the focus areas for Young African Statisticians' activities for the conference and beyond.
2. Newsletter for 2008-2009 was ready for publication and was awaiting approval by StatsSA. This newsletter is for sharing experiences and opportunities among Young African Statisticians and the rest of the world. All Young African Statisticians are encouraged to share their experiences through this newsletter.
3. A web page for Young African Statisticians will be designed with the support of StatsSA as a tool of communicating all the activities relating to Young African Statisticians programme and as a way of sharing information.
4. A database for all Young African Statisticians was already created and will be updated regularly.
5. Call for papers for the July 2010 conference of all Young African Statisticians will be out soon to help in shaping the participation of YAS in the coming ISI2011 session in Dublin, Ireland.
6. Young African Statisticians expressed their need to participate in the organization of their activities and running of the programme so that they gather experience in many circles including administration and lobbying for financial support from financial partners.
7. Work programme 2010-2011 for Young African Statisticians included preparation of Constitution, code of conduct and the establishment of a fully fledged secretariat. Regional offices for YAS are to be set up by 22nd February 2010 to coordinate their activities.
8. Young African Statisticians from both French and English speaking will be catered for in terms of translation in the July 2010 conference of Young African Statisticians however both

groups are urged to learn both languages for harmonization purposes.

Acknowledgements

Sponsors of Young African Statisticians to StatCom meeting in Addis Ababa: INWENT, ECA & AfDB, we thank all other partners for financial and material support they provided. We request them to continue the support to the YAS by inculcating statistical skills, work ethics, and leadership on the entire Africa continent.

Mr Pali Lehohla and the rest of StatsSA team for spearheading ISIBalo Capacity Building Programme and in particular Young African Statisticians' initiative.

Dr Miranda Mafafo, the brainchild of ISIBalo Capacity Building for the brilliant initiative that brought together all Young African Statisticians as future leaders on the African continent.

The African Centre for Statistics for accepting Young African Statisticians in the deliberations and discussions of such high magnitude despite their modest experience.

Thank you all.

NB: These are the inputs from Young African Statisticians who attended the StatCom Africa Meeting II at UNECA conference centre, Addis Ababa Ethiopia from 17th-22nd January 2010.

Annex

Young African Statisticians Delegation to StatCom-Africa-II

1. Mr. Ankouvi Mawoudoudji NAYO , Benin
2. Mr. Tinang Nzesseu Jules Valery, Cameroon
3. Ms. Kouanin Marie-Viviane ADO Gossan, Côte d'Ivoire
4. Ms. Salma Ingabire, Rwanda
5. Ms. Mbarka Fall, Senegal
6. Mr. Mody Diop, Senegal
7. Ms. Akhona Nkenkana, South Africa
8. Ms. Koleka Rangaza, South Africa
9. Ms. Rosinah Senona, South Africa
10. Mr. Victor Thabiso Sebuthuma, South Africa
11. Mr. Gilbert Habaasa, Uganda



Closing Remarks by Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa



Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, United Nations Under Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

Chairperson of the Statistical Commission for Africa;

Representatives of the African Development Bank;

Representatives of the African Union Commission;

Representatives from sub regional, regional, and international organizations;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me thank you for the successful conclusion of this second meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa.

Following the tradition started with the first Session of the Commission, the African statistical fraternity recognized those sons and daughters of Africa as well as colleagues from outside the continent who in a way or another made a significant contribution to the development of statistics in our region -- Mr Michel Mouyelo Katoula, Dr Miranda Mafafo, Mr Atoine Simonpietri, and Professor Paul Cheung – in the presence of the next generation of African statisticians attending the Commission meeting for the first time.

This second meeting of the Commission brought together a mix of statisticians, policy makers, national statistical associations, PRSP units' representatives, statistical training centers, universities, young statisticians, regional economic communities and technical and financial partners. This mix led to very intensive and varied discussions

The opening remarks by representatives of Ministers of Justice of

the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Minister of Decentralization of Senegal set the tone and were quite inspiring namely on the importance of revitalizing dormant civil registration and vital statistics systems.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The programme we put together turned around the working groups and it was quite inspiring to see what was achieved in a relatively short period of time by various groups: strategies on national accounts, harmonization of statistics for regional integration, etc.

While it could clearly be observed that efforts were made to deliver on the agreed upon activities by various groups, It worth noting here that some groups made remarkable progress as compared to others and there are some indications that resources put into the work of some groups might have contributed to the observed differences. I will reiterate accordingly, the call for technical and financial partners to support various groups in the delivery of their activities.

Ladies and gentlemen;

The reports by various groups and the discussions we had on a number of issues demonstrated that we have made some progress in terms of coordination of statistical activities on the continent. Nevertheless, there are still a number of issues to address in nurturing the coordination as voiced by some of the participants. We take as a learning process and as we are moving along the learning curve, this shall be improved.

We had a unique opportunity to not only reflect on the improvement of our capacity to report on progress or lack of progress in the monitoring of the MDGS but were also exposed to an innovative and provocative attempt to monitor development beyond the 2015 deadline.

Finally, it is worth noting that partnership was key in organizing and successfully concluding this second meeting of the StatCom-Africa. Let me, once again seize the opportunity to salute here pan African institutions-AfDB, Afristat, and AUC- and technical and financial partners for their support to the event.

Tomorrow we will have the opportunity to listen to our technical and financial partners on their support to statistical capacity building in Africa.

Thank you for your attention and contribution!



Fourth Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV III) Communiqué

Recalling the endorsement of the report of FASDEV-III held on 24 January 2008, by all stakeholders of statistical development in Africa;

Recalling the main objectives of FASDEV to: (i) have an overview of statistical activities, including assistance, and training in Africa; (ii) set up a permanent system for the monitoring of statistical development in Africa; and (iii) strengthen modalities for cooperation with a view to leveraging on each partner's comparative advantage;

The meeting:

- a. Appreciated the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB), to organize this fourth meeting of FASDEV;
- b. Noted with satisfaction the reporting mechanism through the Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) and express the need for more comprehensive reports to PRESS;
- c. Expressed the need for country based reporting system and partner support to statistics;
- d. Noted with appreciation the progress made by active working groups of StatCom-Africa, however expressed concern at the slow progress made by other working groups of StatCom during the last two years after their establishment, including the working groups on training (AGROST) and on data management;
- e. Noted the progress of coordination of partners at country level and expressed the need to extend the coordination to all countries;
- f. Expressed concern at imbalances and lack of resources for statistical activities across the national statistical systems, including line ministries and national statistical association.
- g. Expressed concern at the lack of coordination and alignment between core activities of NSOs and donors support, leading to multiplication of initiatives and duplication of efforts;
- h. Noted the decreased funding for scholarships for students in statistics;
- i. Discussed various issues relating to statistical development in Africa, with particular emphasis on:
 - Donors' initiatives;
 - Financing of statistical development in Africa;
 - Reporting mechanisms of funding from partners and activities from countries

The participants:

1. Request ECA, in collaboration with World Bank and partners to improve the format, participation and agenda of future meetings of FASDEV, including opportunity of support to NSOs and sharing of best practices.
2. Request ECA to prepare a comprehensive report on the status of statistical development in Africa using tools such as the African Statistical Development Index and the World Bank Statistical Development Bulletin Board for presentation to StatCom and FASDEV.
3. Request ECA and World Bank to scale up their support and funding for activities of the seven working groups of StatCom-Africa, in the implementation of their respective work programmes.
4. Call upon partners to support the immediate establishment of the African Group on Statistical Training (AGROST) and the pooling of funding for its Statistical Training Programme the STPA.
5. Request partners to improve their collaboration at country levels, in order to support the entire national statistical systems, including adequate funding for statistical operations of line ministries and national statistical association, especially by setting up and participating in groups of partners devoted to statistics.
6. Request governments, partners and donors to provide budget support to the national statistical offices (NSOs) and to align their supports to the core activities of NSOs and line ministries through contribution to the pool of funding.
7. Urge governments, partners and donors to implement NSDS with adequate funding for statistical operations, including those of line ministries and increased participation in the 2010 Round of Population Censuses.
8. Request countries to fund national scholarship of their students admitted to the Statistical training Centers (STCs) and request partners, especially the World Bank (WB) and AfDB to make every effort to allocate international scholarships for the students studying at the STCs, through the permanent secretariat of AGROST and its STPA;
9. Request development partners to increase funding for the use of statistics and bridge the gap between data development and their analysis and use;
10. Call on all stakeholders to support FASDEV and implement the above recommendations.
11. Request ECA, in close collaboration with the AfDB, the PARIS21 Secretariat and the World Bank, to convene the next meeting of FASDEV, as pre-StatCom III meeting, preferably in early 2012.

The sponsors of the draft recommendations commit themselves to amending them according to the participants' comments and distributing the official amended version by the end of March 2010. □

I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II

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I. STATCOM – AFRICA II - COMSTAT - AFRIQUE II



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II. UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION – COMMISSION STATISTIQUE DES NATIONS UNIES



Brief note on the 41st Session of the UN Statistical Commission

Yacob Zewoldi, United Nations Statistical Division

The UN Statistical Commission, which serves as the apex of the global statistical system, held its 41st session from 23-26 February 2010 in New York. The Commission emphasized the critical role that solid statistical information plays in advancing the development agenda as well as in addressing the contributions of official statistics in emerging issues, such as rapid economic estimates, improved monitoring of food production and framework of environment statistics.

The 41st session was attended by over 130 countries with representation from Heads of National Statistical Office and by representatives of 40 international and regional agencies. Some of the highlights of the Statistical Commission's work were:

- a. World Statistics Day. The Commission approved for the first time in the history of official statistics to observe a World Statistics Day. It will be held on 20 Oct 2010 (20-10-2010). The World Statistics Day will celebrate the many achievements of official statistics, anchoring on the values of service to the nation and to the world, integrity, and professionalism. It has requested a letter from the Secretary General to all Heads of Governments to convey the importance of official statistics, the need to strengthen national statistical system, and to request for the observance of the World Statistics Day.
- b. Methodological developments. The Commission worked on new methodological developments in four high priority policy areas. The Commission (i) approved the global strategy on the development of agriculture statistics, as a means to monitor food production and prices; (ii) approved manuals on the compilation of trade flows in both merchandise trade and in trade in services, and on water statistics; (iii) agreed to foster the development of global geographic information management and endorsed a development plan on this issue; and (iv) approved the work on a quality assurance framework and a global inventory on statistical standards to assist countries to improve the quality of their work.
- c. Monitoring of development indicators and the progress towards

the MDGs. With respect to the monitoring of development indicators and the progress towards the MDGs, as mandated by the General Assembly, the Commission reviewed and expressed satisfaction with the technical work of the Interagency and Expert Group on MDG indicators, which is led by DESA. The work of the IAEG is particularly important as it prepares the MDG data base for the 2010 MDG review. It asked the IAEG to continue its work on data availability and discrepancies and to report back to the Commission annually.

- d. Statistical capacity building. The Commission once again stressed the urgency of statistical capacity building at the national level. Further assistance to developing countries is needed to build and strengthen their capacity to produce and disseminate quality data on economic, social, demographic, and environmental issues. The Commission asked the Statistics Division of DESA (UNSD) to intensify its capacity development activities.
- e. Statistical development. The Commission welcomed the work done by the UN agencies as well as Bretton Woods institutions and regional entities, led by UNSD, in the area of statistical development. The collaboration of all agencies had truly facilitated the development of national statistical systems in member states and made the functioning of the global statistical system smooth and effective.

The four day official session was accompanied by an extensive programme of side events which began almost a week before the commencement of the Commission sessions. Over 40 side events were held on the margins of the Statistical Commission sessions. The major events of substantive nature which were open to all participants were:

- ◆ Seminar on Emerging Trends in Data Communication and Dissemination, 19 February 2010
- ◆ High Level Forum on Official Statistics: "Are national Statistical Systems Effective?", 22 February 2010
- ◆ Learning Centre on Dissemination of Census Results with CensusInfo, 22 February 2010
- ◆ Learning Center on Environment Statistics and Environmental Accounting, 22 February 2010

II. UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION – COMMISSION STATISTIQUE DES NATIONS UNIES

- ◆ Learning Centre on Country Practices in SDMX, 22 February 2010
- ◆ Measuring Property Prices - Seminar in memory of Svein Longva (former Director General of Statistics Norway), Lunch time 23 February 2010
- ◆ Modernization of Statistical Production Process, Lunch time, 24 February 2010
- ◆ Population Censuses in Post-Conflict Countries, Lunch time, 25 February 2010
- ◆ Seminar on International Trade Statistics: Finding answers for a changing world, new challenges and opportunities, Afternoon of 25 February 2010

The speakers at the various events and during the official sessions underlined the importance of national statistical systems in meeting the needs of policy makers and other users. Continuous innovation of the ways data are compiled and disseminated is crucial to maintain official statistics relevant. The importance of the Commission as a technical body addressing statistical issues was emphasized.

A 5-day exhibition, 22-26 February 2010, was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) in collaboration with the member countries of the region and UNSD. The exhibition focussed on statistical developments and achievements in Latin America and the Caribbean. Statistical publications including books, posters, brochures, and CDs as well as promotional material on statistical activities were displayed at the exhibition. The exhibition was an overwhelming success.

For more information, please visit <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2010.htm>



Making the African Voice Heard: the First Meeting of the African Group on the Preparation of the United Nations Statistical Commission

Dimitri Sanga, African Centre for Statistics

In response to a request from member States during the just concluded session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa), the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) organized the First meeting of the African Group on the Preparation of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in its quality of the Secretariat of StatCom-Africa. This meeting was sought in view of the increased participation of African countries in the work of the UNSC versus its effectiveness. Moreover, it was legitimate to wonder whether African delegations were in a position to influence the decisions taken during the UNSC (as a region/continent), and if they were properly prepared to do so and coordinate their interventions.

Objective

The objective of the meeting was to discuss and agree on a permanent mechanism aimed at coordinating the preparation of UNSC meetings by African countries participating in the work of this apex body on statistics and statistical development. Moreover, it aimed at briefing African new participants on the rules and regulations surrounding the conduct of the UNSCC. Finally, it offered the opportunity for African countries to strategize on their interventions on a number of issues of interest to the African region among the issues to be tabled at the 41st Session of the UNSC.

Attendance

The meeting was attended by more than 30 participants namely Heads of African National Statistical Offices (NSOs), representatives of African regional institutions (AfDB, AFRISTAT, and ECA), and African statisticians working in other international organizations.

Some of the outcomes of the meeting

The following issues were agreed upon:

- Continue to advocate for the improved participation of African countries in the work of the UNSC. In this regard, partners who are supporting countries especially the AfDB were commended and encouraged while other partners were called upon to contribute to this effort.
- In order to ensure an effective contribution and influence the decisions taken at the UNSC, there is a need to improve the participation of African countries in international WG, Inter Secretariat and Working Groups (ISWGs), Inter agency and Working Groups (IAEGs), and City Groups etc. One of the ma-

II. UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION – COMMISSION STATISTIQUE DES NATIONS UNIES

for impediments to this was meeting the attendance cost of African participants. The African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) and partners are therefore called upon to come up with a sustainable mechanism to support the participation of countries in this regard.

- here is a need to ensure that some of the organizations and countries sitting on StatCom-Africa WG be also representing Africa in international fora on the same themes/subjects to have a link and influence the work conducted by the said fora and by the same token what will feed into the UNSC.
- One of the major impediments to the contribution to the work in international fora is the language barrier. Many documents are in English only. It is only when they are adopted at the UNSC that they will subsequently be translated into other languages. Participants therefore called upon the ASCC to ensure the translation of these documents into French at least (even if they are still in progress) to allow for effective contribution of non-English speaking countries.
- Africa shall also aim at bringing some of the issues discussed through StatCom-Africa WG on the agenda of the UNSC and other international fora to avoid limit itself at contributing to issues initiated by other regions. Some areas such as informal sector measurement are suitable for Africa to initiate discussions based on ongoing work and experience of African practitioners.
- There is a need for better consultations between African countries and international organizations to ensure proper representation and benefit from various meetings. In this regard, African countries were called upon to send the right persons to attend meetings and ensure that they brief and share what they learned during the meetings with other members of the NSO. As regards official meetings such as StatCom-Africa and UNSC, Heads of delegation should brief their respective Ministers and if possible Prime Ministers in order to garner support to the statistical development of their country.
- Call upon the Secretariat and the ASCC to continue to convene this kind of preparatory meetings just before the UNSC session in order to fine tune the interventions and potential common positions if any. To ensure this, the Bureau of StatCom_Africa shall in collaboration with the Secretariat identify potential issues emanating from the current session on which Africa should concentrate in preparation of the following one. These issues will then be distributed to relevant StatCom-Africa WG to work out potential common positions and prepare interventions for countries to attend the following UNSC session. It was also mentioned that on some of the issues there might not necessarily be a common position but a diversity of positions. These should also be presented on behalf of Africa including the diversity of the situation.

Some areas of focus for the 41st Session

Participants discussed a number of papers that were for discussion at the 41st session of the UNSC and that were of special interest to the African continent. These included discussions on the Friends of the Chair on Agricultural Statistics (introduced by ACS), the International Comparizon Programme (introduced by AfDB), National Accounts (introduced by AfDB), World Statistics Day (introduced by ACS), Development Indicators (introduced by ACS), Population and Housing Censuses (introduced by ACS), and environment and climate change statistics (introduced by Cameroon). The discussions culminated in a number of broad lines around which the interventions of African countries had to be articulated during the UNSC session.

Conclusion

The First Meeting of the African Group on the preparation of the UNSC concluded on resounding acclaims. Participants congratulated the Secretariat for organizing such a meeting in line with the request from StatCom-Africa. The attendance was tremendous as it went far beyond African countries and included African statisticians from international organizations all mobilized to ensure an effective contribution of the African region to the work of the UNSC.

It has clearly been decided that the preparations for the contribution to the work of the UNSC should start by a good and effective representation in international fora feeding the UNSC. Therefore the need to ensure that StatCom-Africa WG are the starting point for discussions on potential subjects/issues to be tabled at the UNSC. The WG should be linked to international fora working in the same areas/themes. The outcomes of the discussion of StatCom-Africa WG should then be shared with the Bureau and countries that will be attending the UNSC. Finally, the meeting of the African Group on the preparation of the UNSC shall aim at fine turning the interventions.



III. STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING / WORKSHOPS - RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITÉS STATISTIQUES / ATELIERS

Two Regional Workshops for the closure of the DA Project on "Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of Informal Sector and Employment"

Gerard Osbert, African Centre for Statistics

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), (leading agency), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in close collaboration with UN Statistics Division, International Labour Organisation, the Delhi Group, the Asian Development Bank and WIEGO, implemented a Development Account Project on the measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment. The five countries involved were Mongolia, Philippines, and Sri Lanka (ESCAP), Palestine (ESCWA) and Saint Lucia (ECLAC).

The project, which ran from September 2006 to December 2009, had the following objectives:

- i. To increase the availability of data on informal sector and informal employment and
- ii. To improve the analysis of this data to calculate the contribution of informal sector to employment and to GDP.

As a matter of fact, not taking into account measurements of informal sector activities and informal employment, leads to underestimate the size of economy (GDP), employment rates, and women's participation and contribution to the economy. It may also lead to biased assessments of related issues such as those on social protection and decent work. The project implemented a data collection strategy which features a two-phased mixed survey approach (the "1-2" system), which starting point is identifying, as informal sector enterprises, a subset of household unincorporated enterprises with at least some market production (HUEMs).

Workshop on measuring the informal sector and informal employment

The Statistics Division of ESCAP has organized this regional workshop under the above-mentioned DA Project, from 30th November to 2nd December 2009. The body of knowledge created and lessons learned from designing and conducting the '1-2' surveys, processing and analyzing the survey estimates were shared with a broader group of countries. Main objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- 1) To raise awareness on the importance and use of sound and up-to-date informal employment data and measures of informal sector production for micro- and macro- economic analysis;

- 2) To enhance the understanding of the statistical challenges in measuring informal sector and informal employment and informal sector production;
- 3) To build technical capacity on the '1-2' survey method and to integrate the value added estimates of the informal sector into their national accounts;
- 4) To create a network of national stakeholders advocating for and contributing to improving measurement of the informal sector and of informal employment.

The workshop featured presentations by resource persons including the country experts implementing the DA project. Workshop sessions covered the following topics:

- Review of statistical concepts, definitions and internationally recommended guidelines on informal sector and informal employment;
- Indicators and analysis framework in support of evidence-based policy making on informal sector and informal employment issues.

The DA project confirms that the phase 1 survey attached to a household labour force survey (LFS) can be used to identify owners of HUEMs, provided that the survey frame for the LFS is kept up-to-date.

As far as phase 2 is concerned, participants are generally in favour of using labour matrix approach for national accounts on informal economy, to:

- estimate labour productivity by economic activity, both in terms of persons employed and working hours from phase 2 data;
- use phase 1 data to estimate value added per unit of labour for years that phase 2 is not conducted, assuming that HUEM labour productivity remains constant through time.

With that type of project, it can be ascertained that social statistics will be aligned with national accounts.

Workshop on Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment (3-4 December 2009)

The objective of this 2nd workshop was to conclude the Project "Interregional Cooperation on the Measurement of Informal Sector and Informal Employment". The DA-project adopted an integrated approach with five distinct but interlinked components: advocacy, statistical capacity building, data collection, data analysis, and knowledge management. The workshop aimed at reviewing and evaluating the substantive processes in order to consolidate lessons learned and, to identify areas for further work at the sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels.

III. STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING / WORKSHOPS - RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITÉS STATISTIQUES / ATELIERS

The workshop brought together implementing agencies and project countries including survey statisticians and national accountants who were directly involved in design, implementation and management of project activities; it featured presentations by implementing agencies and project country teams. Resource persons and a project evaluator facilitated the exchange of experiences and group discussions. These included:

- Review of the rationale, expected accomplishments, strategy and activities of the project;
- Addressing encountered problems and solutions applied by regional implementing agencies and countries for different components and stages of the project;
- Results and lessons learned in the implementation of the "1-2" Survey and in the estimation of value-added to GDP, and identification of good practices; and
- Further work that could be undertaken in improving the measurement of the informal sector and informal employment.

Main results of the workshop can be summarized as follows:

- The 1-2 Surveys should lead to a substantial improvement in employment policies;
- Poverty alleviation supposes to distinguish within informal sector those creating HUEM for surviving from those looking for business opportunities;
- Public attention should be drawn on the conditions of work of women and men in the informal economy;
- Adequate statistical information should be collected to understand how the informal economy works and to monitor the changes in it over time;
- The measurement of informal economy should be mainstreamed in the national accounts and labour statistics;
- All these aspects, including better governance of informal economy, should also be evaluated using policies' impacts measurement method.

General Conclusions and Recommendations

There is a need for UN Economic Commissions to continue that experience of using '1-2' surveys to measure informal employment and produce satellite accounts on informal economy.

As soon as ECA/AFRISTAT Plan of action 2010-20102 on informal economy is approved, ECA would prepare a renewed intercontinental DA project to be launched in 2010. More specifically:

- To assure sustainability, countries will be advised to go for annual labour force surveys (see recommendation from last StatCom-Africa meeting in January 2010);

- There is a need for developing standards and sharing methodological progresses in the measurement of informal sector and informal employment and UN Commissions should pool their efforts in this respect;

ECA should take the lead for this second DA project, using all available materials from previous interregional project as inputs, in the best South-South technical cooperation spirit.



The first AfricalInfo Database Planning Meeting

Yeo Dossina and Thiekoro Doumbia, African Union Commission

Introduction

The African Union Commission (AUC), together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), organised a meeting on 12 February 2010, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the AUC Conference Centre, as part of the planning process for the establishment of AfricalInfo database.

Based on UNICEF's DevInfo technology, AfricalInfo aims at responding to data and statistical needs of the African Union, its organs, its Member States as well as all interested actors/parties across Africa. It will provide tools for the monitoring of commitments made by governments in the implementation of national, regional and continental decisions and policies.

The objectives of the planning meeting were twofold: (1) to discuss the timetable for the establishment of AfricalInfo, as well as responsibilities of stakeholders; and (2) to agree on financial support from various stakeholders.

Attendance

- ◆ Participants from the following AUC Departments/Directorates/Divisions and partner organisations attended the meeting:
- ◆ Economic Affairs Department (EAD)
- ◆ Department of Human Resource Science and Technology (HRST)
- ◆ Department of Strategic Planning, Programme Monitoring

III. STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING / WORKSHOPS - RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITÉS STATISTIQUES / ATELIERS

and Evaluation, and Resource Mobilisation (SPPMERM)

- ◆ Department of Social Affairs (DSA)
- ◆ Peace and Security Department (PSD)
- ◆ Women and Gender Development Directorate (WGDD)
- ◆ Management and Information System (MIS) Division
- ◆ Information and Communication Division (ICD)

The meeting was also attended by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) - African Centre for Statistics (ACS)

Recommendations

After deliberating on various items of the agenda (see attached programme of work—A2), participants agreed to the following:

1. That there is an immediate need to develop and establish AfricalInfo Database housed at the AUC Headquarters, fully owned and with the leadership of the AUC.
2. That AfricalInfo shall be tentatively launched in November 2010 during the Meeting of the Committee of Directors-General (DGs) of National Statistical Offices (NSOs).
3. That a core Working Group (WG) shall be established, led by the Department of Economic Affairs of the AUC, and comprising focal points from all Departments of the AUC, and focal points from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).
4. That the WG shall work on the basis of the following recommendations:
 - a. That the WG shall develop its own Terms of Reference (TOR) and be guided by the draft Timetable already prepared and hereby annexed, for realising the formal establishment of AfricalInfo. The WG shall meet to decide on the following, but not limited to:
 - i. The development of statistical, as well as monitoring and evaluation (M&E) indicators to feed into the database.
 - ii. The establishment of qualitative and quantitative databases that links with other databases.
- iii. The management of the database to avoid the multiplicity of data.
- iv. The integration of all database initiatives, including gender, sectoral and cross-sectoral databases at the AUC Departments in Addis Ababa.
- v. The alignment of all relevant databases initiatives, at continental, regional and national levels.
5. That outcomes from discussions of the WG shall be presented at a higher level technical meeting (second AfricalInfo planning meeting) in which the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) will be involved.
6. That the management of AfricalInfo database shall be formally transferred from UNICEF's East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) in Nairobi to the AUC in Addis Ababa at a mutually agreed date in 2010.
7. That all AUC Departments shall receive adequate orientation, sensitisation and information to ensure their full involvement from the highest level in the establishment of AfricalInfo.
8. That the AU Member States shall be the primary source of data and consequently, their capacity should be built accordingly.
9. That the AUC Departments shall consider seeking appropriate funding internally, in partnership with UNICEF, AfDB, UNECA and others, to support the full development of AfricalInfo for a period of at least two years.
10. That training sessions shall be organised for selected AUC personnel who shall be involved directly in the management of the AfricalInfo.
11. That a database manager/administrator shall be hired for a minimum period of one year.



III. STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING / WORKSHOPS - RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITÉS STATISTIQUES / ATELIERS

The African Statistical Yearbook 2010 validation meeting

Molla Hunegnaw, African Centre for Statistics

Background

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Union Commission (AUC) have joined hands for the second year to produce the joint African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB). This joint publication was one of the recommendations implemented by the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) to achieve synergies among pan African institutions in building Statistical Capacity in Africa. The joint effort of producing the ASYB has resulted in reduced burden of African countries in responding to data need by international organizations and improved harmonization of statistics produced by the three institutions.

The second issue of the joint ASYB also witnessed a single common mechanism in place for the compilation of data. Over 30 countries have responded to the questionnaire this year. Among these, 20 countries were invited to participate in the validation process.

Objectives

The overall objective of the workshop was to produce the second issue of the ASYB and specifically to (i) review the data submitted by countries, (ii) validate the data by countries, (iii) complete data gaps from other sources and (iv) make the necessary verification and correction of data for the production of the Yearbook. The workshop also discussed the data collection mechanism put in place, quality control of data, metadata and definitions of variables and new ways of disseminating the ASYB.

Participation

The meeting was attended by 17 countries and representatives of the three pan African institutions in Addis Ababa at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) from 1-10 March 2010. The following countries were represented: BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CHAD, CONGO, COTE D'IVOIRE, DJIBOUTI, THE GAMBIA, KENYA, LESOTHO, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, SWAZILAND, ZAMBIA and ZIMBABWE.

The meeting

The three institutions met in Kampala in October 2009 to launch the preparation of the second issue of the yearbook and established an elaborated plan and identified focal persons to lead the various statistical domains to be included in the Yearbook. The Kampala meeting had also agreed to include two major tables to

satisfy emerging data needs. The two tables are "Environment" and "Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)" statistics.

This validation meeting took place after a series of teleconferences and electronic information exchanges among the three institutions and with the first draft of the yearbook ready. The three institutions made welcoming remarks and presented the objectives of the meeting. The meeting discussed the questionnaire which was used for data collection by countries and discussed how the mechanism can be improved in the future. The draft yearbook was also presented for discussion. The presentation looked at the two main parts: summary tables and country profiles. The summary tables were presented by selected sectors. Each table presented indicators for all African countries for comparison purposes. The indicators are grouped in five main sectors: Social and demographic indicators; Economic statistics; Monetary and financial statistics; Economic infrastructure and investment climate; and MDGs. With regard to country profiles are concerned, they include for each country, indicators grouped into nine main sectors namely: Social and demographic indicators; Economic statistics; Prices; Agricultural production; Mining production; Energy production; Financial and monetary statistics; External trade and balance of payment; Tourism and infrastructure, Environment and ICT.

The meeting discussed the draft document in terms of content (data and metadata), format, printing and dissemination strategies.

The meeting was divided into four working groups to deal with specific data tables. The groups were: Social and Demography - Millennium Development Goals; Economic Statistics: National Accounts and Sectoral Statistics; Monetary & financial Statistics and prices; and External Sectors. The four groups were lead by the three institutions focal points and discussed and validated represented countries data.

The findings of the three working groups were presented during a plenary discussion. The findings were incorporated into the draft yearbook.

After the validation meeting, focal points of the three institutions continued on working into the working groups to harmonize data and fill data for the rest of countries.

The way forward

The meeting concluded on 10 March 2010 after setting up plans to finish the rest of tasks to print the second issue of the yearbook. The meeting also agreed to continue this concerted effort of producing the joint yearbook and to also embark on developing a common statistical database which the yearbook can be drawn from. The meeting agreed to improve the data collection mechanism in place and to produce e-book version of the year book to reach a larger audience. The meeting also agreed to start the work of the 2011 yearbook early enough to avoid delays in data compilation. □

IV. STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT - SELECTED AREAS - DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA STATISTIQUE - QUELQUES SUJETS

Moving Statistical Information Production Forward

Biyi Afonja, Olabisi Onabanjo University

In 1998, I was given an FOS (Father of Statistics, not Federal Office of Statistics) Award by the University of Ibadan Chapter of the National Association of Statistics Students (NASS). Since then, many of my statistical children, professors among them, have produced eminent statisticians. I am therefore standing before you as a grandfather of statistics. I thank the organizers for giving a grand old man the opportunity of offering a goodwill message at this year's celebration of African Statistics Day. It gives me particular pleasure to use this opportunity to go down memory lane and to recall my involvement in the preparation of The Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa adopted in 1990 by the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for planning and development, which gave birth to the idea of African Statistics Day. I was then a senior statistician and statistical adviser at the UNDP, New York, following an earlier stint at the UNECA as chief statistical training adviser. The Plan was followed by two detailed publications by UNDP emphasizing the importance of African Statistics Day. The two publications are: Strategy for the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s and an abridged version of the main document. [I am happy to note that the NBS has prepared its own National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)] About the same time, the Statistical Capacity Building programme (STATCAP) was also being developed by the World Bank. To further strengthen the collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders, notably donor agencies and countries, a Coordinating Committee on Statistical Development in Africa (CASD) was formed in 1992. Shortly after, I made my exit from the UN System. The culmination of all these international initiatives was the founding, in November 1999, of the programme "Partnership in Statistics for development in the 21st century" - PARIS 21, as it is usually referred to. The consortium of founders comprises: the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) Commission, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). The goal of the programme is:

"To develop a culture of evidence-based policy making and implementation which serves to improve governance and government effectiveness in reducing poverty and achieving the MDG"

With all these initiatives, the wind of statistical revolution began to blow across the entire African continent with most countries now seeing the preparation of statistical master plans as a sine qua nom of statistical development. Nigeria's Statistical Master Plan with which I was somehow associated formed a basis for the new Statistics Act.

At this juncture, it is apposite to offer my hearty congratulation to His Excellency, Ambassador Greg I Mbadiwe (MFR) for his appointment as the Chairman of the Governing Board of The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics. We have noticed the enthusiasm and dynamism with which he intends to bring not only the NBS but the entire statistical system into greater lime light. The recent advertorial in the daily papers on the outcome of the inaugural meeting of the Board bears ample testimony to this. I personally see that publication as a very eloquent and effective advocacy strategy. Although Chief Samu'ila Danko Makama, CON, the chairman of the NPC has been around for a couple of years, if it is too late in the day for me to congratulate him for his appointment, it is certainly not too late to offer my hearty congratulations to him for seeing the country through the 2006 Census exercise. He has creditably done what has always been a most Herculean task, without prejudice to some not unusual complaints about the results.

In a country with a very high level of illiteracy and predominantly rural population, record keeping of vital statistics is a rare phenomenon. The realization that civil registration of such events as births, deaths, etc provide necessary ingredients for arriving at accurate census figures can go a long way in reducing skepticisms surrounding census figures. Because census data, however viewed, is but statistical information, the theme of this year's celebration is most appropriate and timely, just as the choice of the guest lecturer in no less a person than the chairman of the NPC is most welcome. He will surely elaborate on the vital link between statistics and census; and how past experience and the present status can help with meeting future challenges and hence moving statistical information production forward.

Since the Ministers' Addis Ababa declaration, Nigeria has for the most part dutifully celebrated the day, even if without much publicity. In my key note address delivered in 2001 during the grand finale of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Nigerian Statistical Association (NSA), I drew attention to the rapidly increasing statistical awareness by the public and the need for the association along with other appropriate agencies and stakeholders to continue to sensitize the citizenry of the importance of statistics without which all government planning, implementation and monitoring of developmental programmes will always remain a shot in the dark. Since then, the awareness has increased at a most welcome rate. Lawyers now go almost out of their ways to use unassailable statistics to argue their cases. The unprecedented use of copious electoral statistics by lawyers at the various election tribunals go to confirm this assertion. The courts have to a large extent been guided by these statistics, taking due cognizance of other relevant non statistical evidence. Also, you only need to see how figures, especially those related to financial matters, with sophisticated charts (thanks to the ICT revolution) are being freely used in the news media to get readers well informed on many issues that affect their lives. On the radio and television, hardly a day goes by without the expression

IV. STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT - SELECTED AREAS - DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA STATISTIQUE - QUELQUES SUJETS

'statistics show that'. Any overuse of that expression only goes to demonstrate the power of statistics.

What is being done today is yet another giant step in increasing statistical awareness. This awareness will go a long way in facilitating the work of agencies (including INEC the official producer of electoral statistics) charged with the responsibility of statistical information production (collection, storage, retrieval, analysis, dissemination). It will also help in eliciting necessary cooperation of the suppliers of data, with users being more confident of the reliability of the statistics produced. The advice of the NBS Board in the aforementioned advertorial that "NBS should commence effective publicity of statistical developments....." is thus one in the right direction.

I must not fail to congratulate the Federal government for enacting the Statistics Act which has given birth to the NBS (a combined erstwhile FOS and NDB) with a measure of autonomy and independence. Getting this far has been through a long and tortuous road with which I can claim some familiarity. When, three decades ago, the National (Advisory) Council on Statistics under my chairmanship did recommend, among others, the upgrading of the office of the Director of FOS to a Director-General level, the reaction of the supervising ministry was that such title was alien to the Civil Service. Not many years after, the title, Director-General, became the norm in ministries even though it became a political appointment at some stage. Eventually, FOS was not left behind; its head was redesignated a Director-General, many years after our recommendation. By the Act, we now have a Statistician-General. And why not? We've had Accountant-General, Auditor-General, Solicitor-General etc for quite a while. Let me congratulate Dr V.O. Akinyosoye, for being the first person to occupy the exalted position of Statistician-General and for joining the enviable rank of an army of non uniformed generals in the public service. This army, through its performance or non performance, can make government win or lose its various battles against, poverty (low income level), illiteracy (low or zero level of educational attainment), low life expectancy (poor health status), unemployment, corruption etc, etc. All these are but different manifestations of underdevelopment. In 1990, the UNDP developed a measure of the level of human development—The Human Development Index. The index is a combination of indicators of income, life expectancy and educational attainment. Thematic indices such as Gender Development Index have since been developed. The sad story is that, with all our reservoir of resources, both human and natural, Nigeria is currently ranked very low in human development, about three quarters of countries in the world and half of African countries being ranked above us. I don't know how we can satisfactorily explain this paradox which looks like suffering in the midst of plenty. Suffice it to say that the magnitude of the battle facing government in lifting the country from an abysmally low level of the development index to some respectable level cannot but be a formidable one.

Back to Dr Akinyosoye. Your antecedents at the UI, the Nigerian Data Bank which fortuitously is now together with the NBS as was once recommended in one of my reports to the government, and your achievements so far as Director-General and now Statistician-General depict you as a performer. The combination of your good self and that of the chairman should go a long way in moving the production and use of statistical information not just forward but indeed to enviable heights. But, Mr. Chairman, and my dear Statistician-General, I want to make a humble request. The headquarters of the African Statistical Association which I vigorously labored to have located in Nigeria seems to be sleeping. Please wake it up from its slumber so that the association can come alive again. I remember, with nostalgia, that the first scientific conference of the association was hosted by Nigeria in 1989 when I was its president. The then president of our great country, General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, was gracious enough to be with us. It was a glorious occasion of an assembly of international statisticians which included Professor Gunar Kuldorf of Sweden, the President of The International Statistical Institute with headquarters in The Hague, The Netherlands. Let it not be said that Nigeria killed the African Statistical Association

Before I end my message, I have a word for statisticians. First, as already indicated, they should be less shy of publicizing themselves and their good work. Secondly, they should be more proactive, playing active and not passive roles in all discourses about development in the country. How do we explain a situation whereby very serious and important development bodies such as the various Vision committees cannot boast of statisticians in them, if any? Where there are gaps in the knowledge and proper use of statistics, they should intervene positively, even if they are not asked to do so. Don't wait. Statisticians should scrutinize important documents such as the Constitution, the Electoral Bill etc for statistical vagueness, inconsistencies, etc. Perhaps the time has come for a high-level stakeholders' forum! For now let me wish all of us a happy African Statistics Day.

Thank you for your patience in listening to me.



IV. STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT - SELECTED AREAS - DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA STATISTIQUE - QUELQUE SUJETS

Information géographique et statistique

Claude Obin Tapsoba, Directeur général Institut géographique du Burkina (IGB)

Introduction

Le Dr Mahathir Mohamed, ancien premier ministre de Malaisie disait : « ce n'est pas un fait du hasard si aujourd'hui il n'y a aucun pays économiquement riche et développé qui soit pauvre en matière d'information et aucun pays riche en information qui soit pauvre et sous développé ». Cette assertion est vraie aussi bien pour l'information géographique que la statistique, deux disciplines désormais indissociables qui améliorent la prise de décision et participent à l'atteinte des objectifs de bonne gouvernance.

L'information géographique à l'instar des données statistiques est vitale pour optimiser l'exploitation des ressources d'une nation. Elles aident à mieux véhiculer leurs avantages comparatifs et contribuent à la promotion des investissements en réduisant le risque pour l'investisseur.

L'objectif de développement durable poursuivi par nos gouvernements nécessite l'accès aux données statistiques géoréférencées pour la compréhension des phénomènes climatiques, environnementaux de même que les données socio-économiques dans le but de prévenir ou de riposter à la survenue de tout événement malheureux mais surtout de planifier l'avenir.

L'information géographique est généralement présentée sous la forme de carte pour en faciliter la compréhension.

Avantages de la disponibilité de l'information géographique

Plus de 80% de l'activité humaine se réfèrent à un lieu d'où l'importance pour chaque Etat de disposer d'une infrastructure cartographique adéquate. Celle-ci est utilisée par la quasi-totalité des secteurs de développement. La disponibilité de l'information géographique procure des dividendes à chaque état parmi lesquels on peut citer :

- une capacité à identifier ses faiblesses et à mieux définir ses besoins ;
- une meilleure compréhension des phénomènes naturels ;
- une optimisation de la rentabilité de l'exploitation des ressources naturelles ;
- une définition des avantages comparatifs entre les projets ;
- une promotion des investissements et une attraction des capitaux étrangers ;

- une réduction des risques et des coûts de transaction pour l'investisseur ;
- un renforcement de la capacité de réaction en situation d'urgence accrue ;
- une efficacité des opérations gouvernementales ;
- une transparence accrue des décisions des pouvoirs publics.

Apport de l'information géographique à la statistique

S'il est vrai que l'information géographique est une discipline transversale utilisée par divers secteurs thématiques, il convient de reconnaître que son lien s'est accru avec les statistiques. En effet, l'information géographique est requise à toutes les étapes de la production statistique dont :

- 1- la préparation des travaux : les cartes et les plans des zones de collecte sont utilisés pour planifier les interventions. L'information géographique permet ici de rationaliser le temps et les moyens mis en œuvre, une bonne répartition du travail et un bon choix des itinéraires car donnant une image synoptique de la zone d'intervention ;
- 2- la collecte des données : toute donnée collectée est en relation avec une entité géographique qui peut être un point, une ligne, un polygone ou encore une adresse. Le lien géographique est déterminé entre la donnée et son entité dans le système cartographique national pour permettre un échange de données avec les statistiques sectorielles ou leur intégration à d'autres sources de données à référence spatiale. On observe de plus en plus une utilisation des récepteurs GPS pour le relevé des coordonnées et la détermination des longueurs ou des surfaces des entités renseignées par les statisticiens ;
- 3- le traitement des données: le développement des outils géospatiaux favorise l'exploitation des données statistiques à travers les Systèmes d'information géographique (SIG). Le but est de sceller le lien entre les données statistiques tabulaires et géographiques dans le but de réaliser des traitements selon les entités territoriales souhaitées ;
- 4- l'analyse des données : Elle ne peut se faire sans tenir compte de l'influence d'une entité géographique sur les entités voisines. Les outils géospatiaux vont aussi permettre le croisement des données statistiques avec ceux d'autres secteurs pour mieux renseigner le décideur politique. Ils permettent aussi de réaliser des analyses spatiotemporelles par la superposition de données de périodes différentes ;
- 5- la présentation des résultats : Les données statistiques servent à éclairer l'autorité politique dans le planification du développement. Disposer de données statistiques géoréférencées permet entre autres la prévention des risques divers, l'aménagement adéquat du territoire et la gestion rationnelle

IV. STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT - SELECTED AREAS - DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA STATISTIQUE - QUELQUES SUJETS

des ressources d'un état. Le lien entre la donnée statistique et l'information géographique va permettre de présenter les résultats selon les limites territoriales souhaitées et sous forme de cartes, toute chose qui va améliorer la lisibilité, la compréhension et l'exploitation des résultats.

La collecte des données géostatistiques doit alors répondre à une norme établie dans chaque Etat pour en faciliter l'échange, le partage et l'intégration. Dans cette optique, un référentiel cartographique unique doit servir à tous les acteurs producteurs de données à référence spatiale. Il convient alors de renforcer la collaboration entre les services nationaux en charge des statistiques et de la cartographie dans le but d'offrir au politique une information efficiente pour des décisions justes et transparentes.

Ce lien permettra le renforcement des capacités des instituts de statistique pour l'utilisation des nouvelles technologies en matière de géo-information tels que les récepteurs GPS, l'imagerie satellitaire et les systèmes d'information géographique pour la production de données normalisées utilisables par tous les acteurs du développement. Il permettra aux instituts de cartographie de bénéficier des données géographiques ainsi recueillies dans les normes pour alimenter la base nationale de données topographiques, référentiel cartographique unique, pour la mise en œuvre des programmes et projets nationaux.

La disponibilité de données géostatistiques collectées dans les règles sera un atout majeur à la mise en œuvre des stratégies nationales pour le développement durable du continent africain et l'émergence d'une société juste. A cet effet, gouvernements et partenaires techniques et financiers, soucieux d'un développement cohérent et durable de l'Afrique doivent faire de la statistique et de la cartographie des domaines prioritaires pour éclairer davantage leurs décisions.

□

V. FEATURED NSO - PROFIL DE L'INS

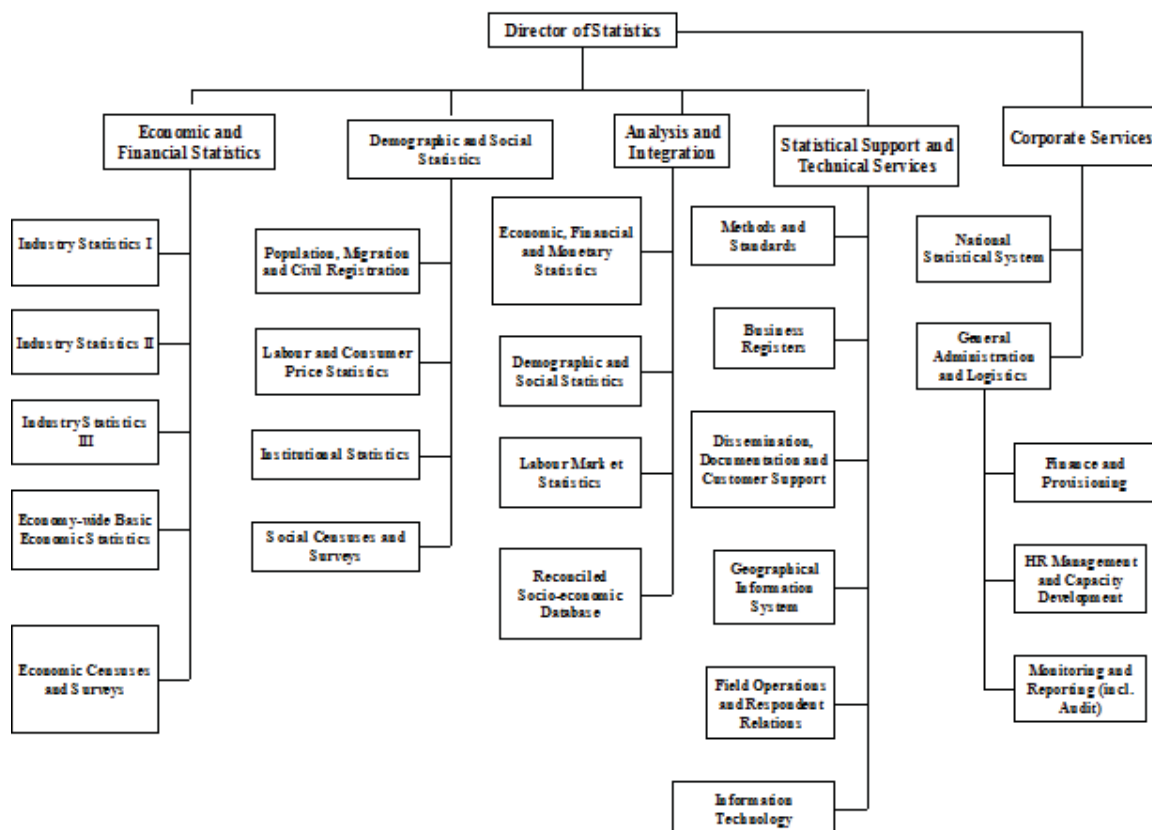
Central Statistics Office (CSO) - Mauritius

Name of NSO	Central Statistics Office (CSO)			
Head of NSO	Director of Statistics			
Employees (Sex disaggregated) as at end January 2010		Male	Female	Total
	Professional Statisticians	19	14	33
	Semi-Professionals	44	75	119
	Support Staff	15	16	31
	Total	78	105	183
Date of establishment of CSO	1945			

Organizational Structure

The CSO is headed by a Director and comprises three Divisions, each falling under the responsibility of a Deputy Director. The three Divisions are (i) Economic and Financial, (ii) Demography and social and (iii) Support. The activities carried out in the Office are grouped under five programmes as given in the chart.

Structure of Central Statistics Office



V. FEATURED NSO - PROFIL DE L'INS

Main Publications

List of Economic and Social Indicators

Topic	Frequency
Agricultural and Fish Production	Bi-Annual
Business Activity Statistics	Annual
Construction Price Index	Quarterly
Consumer Price Index	Quarterly
Continuous Multipurpose Household Survey	Quarterly
Crime, Justice and Security Statistics	Annual
Education Statistics	Annual
Energy and Water Statistics	Annual
Environment Statistics	Annual
Export Oriented Enterprises	Quarterly
External Trade	Quarterly
Import & Export Price Indices	Quarterly
Information and Communication Technology Statistics	Annual
International Travel & Tourism	Quarterly
Labour Force, Employment and Unemployment	Quarterly
National Accounts Estimates	Quarterly
Population & Vital Statistics	Bi-Annual
Producer Price Index - Agriculture	Quarterly
Producer Price Index - Manufacturing	Quarterly
Productivity and Competitiveness Indicators	Annual
Quarterly Index of Industrial Production (QIIP)	Quarterly
Quarterly National Accounts	Quarterly
Quarterly wage Rate Index	Annual
Road Transport and Road Traffic Accident Statistics (Island of Mauritius)	Bi-Annual
Social Security Statistics	Annual
Survey of Employment and Earnings in Large Establishments	Annual

List of Reports

A. Regular Reports

Publication	Year First Published	Latest Report Available
Annual Digest of Statistics	1966	2008
Business Activity Statistics	1997	2007/2008
Digest of Agricultural Statistics	1984	2008
Digest of Crime, Justice and Security Statistics	2009	2007
Digest of Demographic Statistics	1985	2008
Digest of Educational Statistics	1984	2008
Digest of Energy and Water Statistics	1998	2008
Digest of Environment Statistics	2002	2007
Digest of External Trade Statistics (formerly External Trade Statistics)	1977	2007
Digest of Industrial Statistics	1984	2007
Digest of International Travel and Tourism Statistics (formerly International Travel and Tourism Statistics)	1974	2008
Digest of Labour Statistics (formerly: Bi-annual Survey of Employment and Earnings in large Establishments)	1966	2008
Digest of Productivity and Competitiveness Statistics (formerly Productivity and Competitiveness Indicators)	1998	2008
Digest of Public Finance Statistics	1988	2008
Digest of Road Transport and Road Accidents Statistics (formerly Road Transport and Road Accidents Statistics)	1984	2008
Digest of Social Security Statistics	2002	2007
Digest of Statistics on Rodrigues (formerly Abstract of Statistical data on Rodrigues)	1994	2008
Mauritius in Figures (pocket size)	1995	2008
National Accounts of Mauritius	1983	2008

VI. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

B. Occasional Reports

(i). 2000 Housing and Population Census

(a) Results

- Vol. I Housing and Living Conditions
- Vol. II Demographic Characteristics
- Vol. III Economic Characteristics
- Vol. IV Educational Characteristics
- Vol. V Household Characteristics
- Vol. VI Geographical and Migration Characteristics
- Vol. VII Disability Characteristics

(b) Analysis Reports

- Vol. I Census Methodology
- Vol. II Housing and Household Characteristics
- Vol. III Population Data Evaluation and Projections
- Vol. IV Population Distribution and Migration
- Vol. V Disability
- Vol. VI Health and Quality of Life, Morbidity and Mortality
- Vol. VII Education: Characteristics, Prospects and Implications
- Vol. VIII Economic Activity Characteristics
- Vol. IX Nuptiality and Fertility
- Vol. X Population Ageing and the Elderly

(ii) Household Budget Survey 2006/07 & The Updated Consumer Price Index,

- (a) Methodological Report
- (b) Household Budget Survey 2006/07, Analytical Report
- (c) Poverty Analysis 2006/07

(iii) (a) Census of Economic Activities: 2002

- Vol. I Small Establishments - Methodological Report

- Vol. II Small Establishments - Analytical Report

Large Establishments - Analytical Report

(b) Census of Economic Activities: 2007

Small Establishments 2007: Methodological and Analytical Report

- (iv) Agricultural Cost of Production Survey 2005
- (v) A Guide to the Central Statistics Office

4. Legislation:

- **Statistics Act 2000**

5. Best practices at the CSO

- High statistical awareness and use of statistics for evidence-based policy and decision-making at different levels in government and non-governmental agencies
- Existence of a modern Statistics Act (2000) in line with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- CSO is the recognized authority in statistics
- Existence of different data sources
- Existence of a Common Statistical Service in which all staff manning Statistics Units in Ministries belong to CSO
- Existence of a publication programme
- Existence of National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
- The country participated in the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) of the IMF in 2001 and is working towards subscription to the more stringent Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS).

Central Statistics Office, Mauritius, February 2010



VI. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

Résultats préliminaires du RGPH de Djibouti

Sous la Présidence de Son Excellence, **Monsieur ISMAÏL OMAR GUELLEH**, Président de la République et Chef du Gouvernement, a eu lieu ce **Mardi 16 mars 2010, la 9^{ème} Séance** du Conseil des Ministres.

Ont été examinés et approuvés les textes suivants :

MINISTÈRE DE L'ECONOMIE, DES FINANCES ET DE LA PLANIFICATION, CHARGE DE LA PRIVATISATION

1) Projet de Décret portant publication des résultats du 2^{ème} Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat de 2009

Ainsi, à l'issue du Recensement, l'effectif total de la population de la République de Djibouti est de **818 159** habitants. Celui de la population de la ville de Djibouti s'élève à 475 322 habitants soit 58,1% de la population totale soit 6 personnes sur 10. Le recensement fournit les effectifs des différentes composantes de la population notamment la population urbaine vivant à Djibouti ville et dans les cinq chefs lieux de régions qui représente 70,6% de la population totale soit 7 personnes sur 10 et la population rurale et nomade estimée à 30% de la population totale. La population des jeunes de moins de 15 ans représentent 35% de la population totale.

Tableau I : Population résidente par région

Région	Population totale	Population ordinaire urbaine	Population rurale sédentaire	Population nomade	Population particulière
Djibouti ville	475 322	353 801			121 521
Ali Sabieh	86 949	22 630	11 977	37 033	15 309
Dikhil	88 948	19 347	22 510	41 552	5 539
Tadjourah	86 704	12 157	23 482	48 402	2 663
Obock	37 856	9 933	9 780	16 370	1 773
Arta	42 380	11 043	11 345	17 775	2 217
Total	818 159	428 911	79 094	161 132	149 022



The 2009 African Statistics Day Celebration in Nigeria

Vincent O. Akinyosoye, Nigeria

The 2009 African statistics Day celebration in Nigeria was held in Abuja on Wednesday 18th November, 2009. The celebration was in conformity with the tradition of promoting the subject matter of Statistics on a particular day of every year. The objective of the celebration is to ensure the creation of awareness on the important role of statistics in all aspects of social and economic life of a nation. The celebration in Nigeria is coordinated by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) which normally marks the day with series of activities such as workshops, Jingles on Television and Radio and distribution of postals.

The celebration was anchored on a Public Lecture titled: "Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Nigeria". It was delivered by the Chairman, National Population Commission (NPopC) – Chief Samu'ila Danko Makama. The occasion was chaired by Ambassador Greg Mbadiwe, Chairman Governing Board, NBS, who also gave the welcome address, while the Chairman, House Committee on National Planning, Honourable Samuel Azamu Egya gave the opening remarks and declared the event open.

Professor Biyi Afonja, who is popularly referred to in Nigeria, as the "Grandfather of Statistics", gave the first goodwill message. He went down memory lane of his involvement in statistical development in Africa which gave rise to African Statistics Day. The second goodwill message was given by the Senior Special Assistant to Mr. President on Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), Hajia Amina Az Zubair, ably represented by J.O. Gillis-Harry. The MDGs Office supported data management agencies because of the role statistics play in programme, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. She urged the participants to discuss extensively the issues of accuracy and dearth of data in Nigeria. The senior special Assistant also reported that some appreciable progress was made in the implementation of MDGs, even though, a lot more needed to be achieved.

Public Lecture

The Chairman, National Population Commission, Chief Samu'ila Danko Makama, delivered the lecture, He defined Vital statistics as an outcome of Civil Registration which involves continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of vital events pertaining to the population as stated by the law of a country. According to him, Civil Registration is important to both the society and the individual. To the Society, it serves as a source of information on fertility, mortality, causes of deaths which could be used for policy intervention, population projections and planning as well as, monitoring of popu-

VI. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

lation dynamics. It is a source of legal and documentary evidence to certify a person's existence, legibility for health care, access to social benefits among others.

He asserted that the coverage of registration of vital events in Africa, Nigeria in particular, is low and lacked uniformity of operations and continuity.

He traced the history of Civil registration to the colonial era in Nigeria. However, there was no proper framework for its operation until 1979 when the National Population Commission was established and charged with the responsibility of generating vital statistics in the country. The Commission started Vital registration System on an experimental basis with Economic Commission for Africa in 1988. Since then, the coverage of vital registration continued to expand and to the present status of 2,773 Registration Centres in 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs). Specifically, the Commission achieved births registration coverage of 35 and 45 percents in 2007 and 2008 respectively with a targets of 60 and 100 percents in 2010 and 2015 respectively. Only births, deaths and stillbirths are currently registered with the commission. It is compulsory for all births and deaths in Nigeria to be registered within 60 (sixty) and 30 (thirty) days respectively free of charge. However registration of both events between the prescribed periods and 12 (Twelve) months was subject to payment of fees as contained in the rules and regulations. These fees had been waived for the meantime by the commission to encourage unfettered registrations at the centres.

The Guest Lecturer attributed the low level of Vital registration to; inadequate registration centres; low level of publicity; insufficient cooperation of Nigerians; gender preference among the public in favour of male children than females. The commission planned to increase the coverage of Vital Registration through; direct electronic data capture; a sustainable public enlightenment and advocacy programme; strengthening of collaboration among stakeholders; capacity building and clearing of back log of unregistered events. With these effort, it was hoped that, Goals two, four and five of MDGs would be measured and assessed.

He concluded his lecture by saying that, political will by African leaders was required to make Vital Registration a priority among government programmes.

Challenges

Various statistical challenges faced by the NPopC in Nigeria include; the absence of electronic data capture to enhance prospects for the timeliness and accuracy of vital statistics; and low level of capacity for field activities.

Contributions from the Audience

During the proceedings, participants made the following comments and profer some recommendations:

- ◆ The use of statistics in decision making, policy formulation and implementation is key to the realizing Federal Government's 7-Point Agenda and Vision 2020 Goals as well as monitoring of the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- ◆ Civil Registration has not been given adequate attention by a large proportion of the citizenry of Nigeria;
- ◆ There is a need to emphasize collaboration among data generating agencies in the country;
- ◆ Instead of creating different registration centres which may be expensive in terms of human and material requirements, there is a need to make the hospitals and maternity homes as registration centres since significant proportion of all births/deaths occur at these places.
- ◆ There is need for greater awareness among all citizens that birth and death registrations are free for the time being from the National Population Commission (NPopC).
- ◆ There is the need for the deployment of Information and communication technological (ICT) infrastructure to enhance e-vital registration.
- ◆ Since registration centres are inadequate in number and there are long distances between towns and villages, there is need for the involvement of village heads to complement the efforts of the NPopC registrars.
- ◆ There is an urgent need to bring the concept of Public Private Partnership (PPP) to bear into the programme of civil registration in Nigeria.
- ◆ There is the need for adequate funding to NPopC to manage the vital registration programme in the Country.

During the proceedings, participants profer the following recommendations:

- ◆ Governments of African countries, especially Nigeria government, should support the production of Vital Statistics through Civil Registration so as to ensure the existence of adequate, timely and reliable statistics to enable the countries realize and monitor progress made in achieving some of the Millennium Development Goals.
- ◆ African Governments should sensitize their citizens to ensure that births, deaths and marriages are registered in order to plan effectively,
- ◆ African Governments should develop programmes for statisti-

VI. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

cal capacity building and encourage collaborative arrangement amongst agencies producing statistics in their countries.

- ♦ All relevant stakeholders in the Nigerian Statistical System should support the Celebration of African Statistics Day as it provides an opportunity for a synergy in statistical production.



From (L-R): Veteran Broadcaster/Communicator, Mr Taiwo Obileye(M.C); Statistician-General, National Bureau of Statistics(NBS), Nigeria, Dr Vincent.O Akinyosoye; The Chairman, Governing Board NBS, Ambassador Greg Mbadiwe,MFR;and finally the Head of Department of Corporate Planning/Technical Coordination, NBS,Alhaji



R.A.Sanusi. During the Public Lecture of African Statistics Day Celebration in Nigeria on 18th November, 2009.

From (L-R): The Chairman, Governing Board of NBS, Ambassador Greg Mbadiwe,MFR;Chairman, National Population Commission, Chief Samu'ila Danko Makama, CON(Guest Speaker); and Chairman, House Committee on National Planning & Population Commission, Honourable Samuel Azamu Egya.



New Appointments

Botswana elected as Vice Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission



Ms Anna Majelantle made her entrance in the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission as Botswana was elected as Vice Chair of the said Commission. Below is a summary of Ms Majelantle's biography.

Ms Anna Majelantle has twenty-seven (27) years experience working in a statistical organization, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) - Ministry of Finance and Development Planning in Botswana. She moved through the ranks as Head of Health Statistics Unit, Head of Social Statistics Division which comprised Health Statistics, Education and Demography Units; Deputy Government Statistician to the current Government Statistician (Director) position.

She holds MPH – Bio-Statistics (Tulane University; New Orleans (USA) - 1987); and BA Statistics (University of Botswana-1982).

She is an expert in formulating statistical strategies and policies; directing the execution of systematic collection, processing, analysis, interpretation, storage and dissemination of official statistics covering population and housing censuses, social statistics and demographic data, macro economic statistics, environment and agriculture statistics, business and household surveys. She is responsible for the provision of development indicators for National Development Strategies and MDGs. She influences decisions regarding software and hardware acquisition for official statistics data processing.

She provides professional advice and coordination of production and use of statistics to Government, Private sector, Civil Society and researchers for evidence based decision making, policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation purposes in the Country.

She chairs Departmental meetings and other specific inter-departmental committees e.g. Household Surveys Reference Groups and Census committees. She serves as a member of several high level committees for effective policy decision and appropriate use of statistical information. She represents the Country in international conferences and committees like the Annual UN Statistical Commission in USA, the Annual SADC Statistical Committee where she is a substantive Chairperson, and attends other African ad hoc committees and workshops to ensure Botswana's adherence to international statistics standards and best practices. The African statistics fraternity wishes to congratulate Botswana and Mrs. Anna N Majelantle for this election.

New Staff Joins the African Centre for Statistics

Mrs. Fatouma Sissoko holds a Master of Science in Demography (Montreal University -Canada): 1995 and Maitrise in Econometrics (National School of Administration -Mali): 1989

Mrs Fatouma Sissoko is a gender statistics specialist. Her experiences encompass research and advisory services related to the Integration of gender dimension into African countries policies and programmes. She also contributed to the development of indicators to measure gender dimension in the development agendas as well as the dissemination of tools and methodologies for the collection, the production and the analysis of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex.

She also took part in many demographic surveys in African countries and was in this respect involved in surveys design, data collection, data set cleaning and recoding, and data analysis. She participated in the production of core documents of many of these surveys and coordinated fieldwork.

Mrs. Sissoko undertook a number of demographic studies and analysis relating to gender, reproductive health, infant and child mortality in Africa, as well as studies on child labor, the interrelation between Family Dynamics and Children Education. She also took part in the review of the implementation of some global agenda in Africa such as MDGs and the International conference on population and development (ICPD+10 and ICPD+15). She also contributed to the evaluation of progresses made by African states in the implementation of gender policies and programs, including the Beijing platform of action; as well as the evaluation of reproductive health programs and services.

Before joining the African Centre for Statistics, Mrs. Sissoko worked as Population Affairs Officer at the Population Division of the United Nations (DESA) in New York and at the population section of the Sustainable Development Division of UNECA. She joined ACS from the UNECA Sub regional office for West Africa based in Niamey, as economic affairs officer, in charge of gender.



Un nouveau staff vient de rejoindre le centre Africain pour la statistique

Mme Fatouma Sissoko est titulaire d'un Master of Science en Démographie (université de Montréal - Canada) : 1995 et d'une Maitrise en Econométrie (Ecole Nationale d'Administration - Mali) : 1989 .

Mme Fatouma Sissoko est spécialiste en statistiques de genre. Son expérience englobe le domaine de la recherche et les services consultatifs relatifs à l'intégration de la dimension genre dans les politiques et programmes de pays africains. Elle a également contribué au développement d'indicateurs permettant d'évaluer la prise en compte de la dimension genre dans les agendas de développement ainsi qu'à la dis-

sémination d'outils et de méthodologies pour la collecte, la production et l'analyse de statistiques de genre et de données désagrégées par le sexe.

Elle a également participé à beaucoup d'enquêtes démographiques dans les pays africains. A cet égard, elle a été impliquée dans la conception d'enquêtes, la collecte de données, le nettoyage et la codification des données, ainsi que l'analyse des données. Elle a participé à la production des principaux documents de la plupart de ces enquêtes et a coordonné les activités sur le terrain.

Mme Sissoko a entrepris un certain nombre d'études et d'analyses démographiques relatives au genre, à la santé en matière de reproduction, à la mortalité infantile et juvénile en Afrique, ainsi que des études sur le travail des enfants, l'interrelation entre la dynamique familiale et la scolarisation des enfants. Elle a également pris part à l'examen de la mise en œuvre en Afrique de certains agendas globaux tels que les OMDs et la Conférence Internationale sur la Population et le Développement (CIPD+10 et CIPD+15).

Elle a également contribué à l'évaluation des progrès faits par les Etats africains dans la mise en œuvre des politiques et des programmes en matière de genre, y compris la plate-forme d'action de Beijing, ainsi qu'à l'évaluation des programmes et des services de santé en matière de reproduction.

Avant de rejoindre le Centre Africain pour la statistique (CAS), Mme Sissoko a travaillé en tant fonctionnaire en charge des questions de population à la Division Population des Nations Unies (DESA) à New York et à la Section Population de la Division Développement Durable de la CEA à Addis Ababa. Avant de rejoindre le CAS, elle travaillait au Bureau Sous-régional de la CEA pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest basée à Niamey, comme Economiste en charge des questions de genre.



StatCom-Africa-II observed a Minute of Silence in Memory of Earthquake Victims in Haiti



V. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

Heads of National Statistical Offices in Africa / Les Directeurs des Instituts Nationaux de Statistique (INS) en Afrique

Country/Pays	Name/Nom	URL
Algeria	Mohammed BOUMATI, Directeur général	www.ons.dz
Angola	Maria Ferreira dos Santos de Oliveira, Director general	
Benin	Cosme Zinsou VODOUNOU, Directeur général	http://www.insae.bj, http://www.insae-bj.org
Botswana	Anna MAJELANTLE, Government Statistician	www.cso.gov.bw
Burkina Faso	Bamory OUATTARA, Directeur général	http://www.insd.bf
Burundi	M. Nicolas NDAYISHIMIYE, Directeur Général	
Cameroon	Joseph TEDOU, Directeur Général	http://www.statistics-cameroon.org
Cape Verde	Antonio Does Reis DUARTE, Président INE	http://www.ine.cv
Central African Republic	Issen MUSTAPHA, Directeur Général	http://www.stat-centrafrique.com, http://www.minplan-rca.org
Chad	Ousman Abdoulaye HAGGAR, Directeur général	http://www.inseed-ichad.org
Comoros	Ahmed Djoumoi, Directeur	
Congo	Samuel AMBAPOUR KOSSO, Directeur général	http://www.cnsee.org
D.R. Congo	Grégoire KANKWANDA Ebulelang, Chargé de Mission	
Cote d'Ivoire	Mathieu MELEU, Directeur Général	http://www.ins.ci
Djibouti	Amareh Ali SAID, Directeur	http://www.ministere-finances.dj/statist.htm
Egypt	Abobakr Mahmoud EL-GENDY, President	www.capmas.gov.eg, interoz.com/economygoveg/index.htm
Equatorial Guinea	Luis ONDO OBONO, Directeur Général	http://www.dgecnstat-ge.org
Eritrea	Mr. Aynom BERTHANE, Acting Head/DG	
Ethiopia	Samia ZAKARIA, Director General	http://www.csa.gov.et
Gabon	Francis Thierry TIWINOT, Directeur Général de la Statistique	http://www.stat-gabon.ga
Gambia (The)	Alieu S.M. S. N'DOW, Statistician General	http://www.gambia.gm/Statistics/Statistics.htm
Ghana	Grace BEDIAKO, Government Statistician	
Guinea	Oumar DIALLO, Directeur	http://www.stat-guinee.org
Guinea-Bissau	Carlos MENDES DA COSTA, Directeur Général	http://www.stat-guineebissau.com
Kenya	Anthony K. M. KILELE, Director General	www.cbs.go.ke
Lesotho	Liengoane Mothweso LEFOSA, Director	http://www.bos.gov.ls
Liberia	Edward T. LIBERTY, Director General	http://www.lisgis.org/
Libya	Salem ABU-AISHA, Director-General	
Madagascar	Paul Gérard RAVELOMANANTSOA, Directeur Général	www.cite.mg/instat/index.htm
Malawi	Charles MACHINJILI, Commissioner for Census and Statistics	www.nso.malawi.net
Mali	Seydou Moussa TRAORE, Directeur Général	http://www.dnsi.gov.ml
Mauritania	Baba Ould BOUMEISS, Directeur général	www.ons.mr
Mauritius	Li Fa Cheung Kai Suet, Acting Director	http://ncb.intnet.mu/cso.htm
Morocco	Mohamed TAAMOUTI, Directeur	http://www.hcp.ma
Mozambique	João Dias LOUREIRO, President	www.ine.gov.mz, www.ine.gov.mz/Ingles
Namibia	Fanuel S.M. HANGULA, Government Statistician	http://www.npc.gov.na/cbs/index.htm
Niger	Abdoulahi BEIDOU, Directeur Général	http://www.stat-niger.org/
Nigeria	Vincent Doyin Akinyosoye, Director General	http://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng/index.php
Rwanda	Yusuf MURANGWA MAGO, Directeur Général par intérim	www.rwandastat.org.rw
Sao Tome and Principe	Elsa Maria da Costa CARDOSO CASSANDRA, Directrice nacional	http://www.ine.st/home.html
Senegal	Babakar FALL, Directeur Général	http://www.ansd.sn, http://www.ansd.org
Seychelles	Jude PADAYACH, Chief Executive Officer	http://www.nsb.gov.sc/, http://www.misd.gov.sc/
Sierra Leone	Joseph Aruna Lawrence KAMARA, Statistician General	http://www.statistics.sl
Somalia	Nur Ahmed NUR A. WEHELIYE, Director General	http://www.moic.somaligov.net/about.html
South Africa	Pali Jobo LEHOHLA, Statistician General	www.resbank.co.za, www.statssa.gov.za
Sudan	Yassin Haj ABDEEN, Director General	http://cbs.gov.sd/
Swaziland	Amos ZWANE, Acting Directo	http://www.gov.sz/home.asp?pid=75
Togo	Kokou Yao N'GUESSAN, Directeur Général	http://www.stat-logo.org/
Tunisia	Khalifa Ben FEKIH, Directeur général	www.ins.nat.tn
Uganda	John Baptist MALE-MUKASA, Executive Director	www.ubos.org
United Republic of Tanzania	Albina Andrew CHUWA, Director General	http://www.nbs.go.tz, www.tanzania.go.tz/statistics.html
Zambia	Efreda Chulu, Director Census and Statistics	www.zamstats.gov.zm
Zimbabwe	Moffat NYONI, Acting Director	http://www.zimstat.co.zw/html/about.html

ACS will appreciate it if it can be kept updated about changes in the leadership of NSOs / Le CAS apprécierait d'être tenu informé des changements parmi les directeurs d'INS

V. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

National Statistical Associations in Africa / Les Associations Nationales de Statisticiens en Afrique

Country/ Pays	Association	Contact person
Burkina Faso	Association des Statisticiens et Démographes du Burkina Faso	M. Some Nibene Habib
Cameroon	Association des Statisticiens du Cameroun	Mr. Isaac Njemoun
Congo	Association des Statisticiens	Mr. Bolide Ntumba
Equatorial Guinea	Association des statisticiens	Angeles Ngongolo
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Statistical Association	Dr. Emmanuel G. Yohannes
Gabon	Association des Statisticiens du Gabon	Mr. Jean Nestor Nguema
Ghana	Ghana Statistical Association	Mr. Nicholas Nsowah-Nuamah
Kenya	Kenya Statistical Society	Dr. Leo Odongo
Madagascar	Association Malgache des Ingenieur Statisticiens	Mr. Eric Raktomanana
Malawi	Statistical Association	Dr. Lawrence Kazembe
Mali	Association de Malienne Statistique	M. Aboumediane Toure
Mauritania	Association des Statisticiens de Mauritanie	M. Cissoko Mamadou
Niger	Association des Statisticiens et Démographes du Niger	Mr. Alichina Idrissa Kourguéni
Rwanda	Association Rwandaise des Statisticiens	Mr. Nzayisenga Canisius
Senegal	Association Sénégalaise pour la Statistique	Mr. Amadou Talla Gueye
South Africa	South African Statistical Association	Dr. Khangelani Zuma
Tanzania	Tanzania Statistical Association	Mr. Peter C.T. Mayeye
Togo	Association des Statisticien et Démographes	Mr. Kponton Anani Théodore
Tunisia	Tunisian Association of Statistics and its Applications	Mr. Malika Charrad
Uganda	Uganda Statistical Society	Mr. Mr. Moses Y. Lubaale



Statistical Training Centres in Africa / Les Centres Africains de Formation Statistique

Centre	Location	Contact person
Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre	Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	Mr. Michael Sindato
Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique	Dakar, Senegal	Mr. Bocar Toure
Ecole nationale de statistique et d'économie appliquée	Rabat, Morocco	Mr. Abdelaziz El Ghazali
Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques	Yaoundé, Cameroon	Mr. Augusto Roku Mesani
Institut national de statistique et d'économie appliquée	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. Koffi Nguessan
Institut supérieur de statistique et d'économie appliquée	Yaoundé, Cameroon	Mr. Akoto Eliwo Mandjale
Regional Institute for Population Studies	Legon, Ghana	Mr. Stephan Owusu Kwankya
Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics	Kampala, Uganda	Mr. Jonathan Ochocho Odwee



Statistics Units in Regional Economic Communities (RECs) / Les Unités Statistiques des Communautés Economiques Régionales (CER)

Centre	Location	Contact person
Common Market for Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA)	Zambia, Lusaka	Mr. Anthony Walakira
Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)	Tripoli, Libya	
East African Community (EAC)	Arusha, Tanzania	Mr. Robert Maate
Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)	Libreville, Gabon	Mr. Louis Sylvain Goma
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	Nigeria, Abuja	Mr. Mahamadou Yahaya
Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD)	Djibouti, Djibouti	
Southern African Development Community (SADC)	Gaborone, Botswana	Mr. Ackim Teudulo Jere
Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA)	Morocco, Rabat	Mr. Habib Boulares



VI. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

Upcoming Events / Événements à venir
(April 1 - June 30 2010)

Date	Event/ Événement	Organisers/Organisateurs	Location
16-18 avril	21ieme Réunion du Comité de direction	Afristat	N'Djamena, Tchad
26-29 April 2010	Joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems	UNECE/Eurostat/OECD	Daejeon, Republic of Korea
24-25 May	Third Global Conference on Agricultural and Rural Household Statistics	FAO	Washington, United States
2-4 June	PARIS21 Steering Committee Meeting	PARIS21	Paris, France

Other Events/Autres événements

Date	Event/ Événement	Organisers/ Organisations	Location
18 November 2010	African Statistics Day	African NSOs	All African Countries



ACS will appreciate it if it can be kept updated about changes in the leadership of National Statistical Associations and Statistical Training Centres. Le CAS apprécierait d'être tenu informé des changements de Direction des Associations Nationales de Statisticiens ou des Centres de Formation Statistique.

VI. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

African Statistical Newsletter Editorial Policy

The Newsletter: The African Statistical newsletter aims to supplement the efforts of the African Statistical Journal to provide a platform for sharing knowledge and information about statistical methodologies and their application to solve practical problems in Africa. It covers all activities and news deemed to be of interest to the African statistical community, ranging from statistical advocacy to institutional development including capacity building and technical assistance, to specific statistical activities like censuses and surveys.

Target Clientele: The Newsletter is intended for the statistical community, across the whole of Africa as well as development practitioners with an interest in Africa's development.

Frequency: The African Statistical Newsletter is a quarterly periodical published four times a year. Issues are generally released within two weeks after the last day of the quarter. Material should be submitted to African Centre for Statistics email (statistics@uneca.org) by 15th day of the last month for publication in that quarter's newsletter.

Source of Articles and Photos: The articles and photographs published are written and submitted by experts practicing statistics in Africa and the rest of the world who are interested in statistical development in Africa. All articles must comply with the standards and technical publishing requirements. Generally, articles should not exceed 4 pages and should be of general interest to the statistical community. The editorial board carries out minor editing of the articles and reserves the right to determine the content of the newsletter.

Language: The Newsletter is bi-lingual –English and French. Articles are published in the language in which they are submitted. If an article is deemed to be of especial interest across the continent, we aim to publish it in both languages of the Newsletter.

Accessibility: The African Statistical Newsletter is posted on the Internet and is also published in hardcopies for limited distribution. An electronic version in PDF format is also emailed to all contacts maintained by the African Centre for Statistics - to be added to this database send your contact details to statistics@uneca.org.

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Bulletin d'information statistique Africain

Politique éditoriale

Le Bulletin : Le Bulletin d'information statistique africain vise à compléter les efforts du Journal statistique africain en fournissant une plateforme pour partager les connaissances et les informations sur les méthodologies statistiques et leurs applications pratiques en Afrique. Il couvre toutes les activités et nouvelles d'intérêt pour la communauté statistique africaine, depuis le plaidoyer statistique pour le développement institutionnel en passant par le renforcement des capacités et l'assistance technique, jusqu'aux activités statistiques spécifiques comme les recensements et les enquêtes.

Clientèle ciblée : Le bulletin est orienté vers la communauté statistique à travers toute l'Afrique ainsi que vers les praticiens du développement marquant un intérêt pour le développement de l'Afrique.

Fréquence de parution : Le Bulletin statistique africain est un périodique trimestriel édité quatre fois par an. Les parutions s'effectuent en général dans un délai de deux semaines suivant la fin du trimestre. Les contributions doivent être soumises au Centre africain pour la statistique par email (statistics@uneca.org) le 15ème jour du dernier mois pour une publication dans le bulletin du trimestre.

Source des articles et des photos : Les articles et photographies publiés sont écrits et soumis par des experts pratiquant la statistique en Afrique et dans le reste du monde, intéressés par le développement statistique en Afrique. Tous les articles doivent être conformes aux normes et aux conditions techniques d'édition. Généralement, les articles ne doivent pas excéder 4 pages et représenter un intérêt pour la communauté statistique. Le comité de rédaction effectue des corrections mineures mais se réserve le droit de déterminer la teneur du bulletin.

Langue : Le bulletin est bilingue, anglais - français. Les articles sont publiés dans la langue dans laquelle ils sont soumis. Si un article est considéré comme étant d'un intérêt particulier pour le continent, nous cherchons à l'éditer dans les deux langues du bulletin.

Accessibilité : Le bulletin d'information statistique africain est posté sur Internet et édité en copie papier pour une distribution limitée. Une version électronique en format PDF est envoyée par e-mail à tous les contacts du Centre africain pour la statistique. Pour être ajouté à cette base de données, envoyez vos coordonnées à statistics@uneca.org.

Souscription : Le bulletin d'information statistique africain est gratuit.

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