



SPECIAL FOCUS/ATTENTION PARTICULIÈRE:

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- African Statistics Day / Journée Africaine de la Statistique, p3.



H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of Republic of South Africa Addressing the 57th International Statistical Institute Congress in Durban / S.E. Jacob Zuma, Président de la République d'Afrique du Sud, s'adressant aux participants du 57^{ième} Congrès de l'Institut International de la Statistique à Durban

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“I like good news. I would like to tell good stories about how well we are performing as a country, but that is not what I need, so I expect statistics to give me what I need and not what I like”

Hon. Trevor Manuel, the Minister of Finance of South Africa (2002)

“J’aime les bonnes nouvelles. J’aimerais raconter de bonnes histoires et dire combien nos performances nationales sont bonnes ; mais de tout cela je n’ai pas besoin et ce que j’attends de la statistique c’est qu’elle me donne non pas ce que j’aime mais ce dont j’ai besoin ”

Hon. Trevor Manuel, Ministre des Finance d’Afrique du Sud (2002)

FROM THE DIRECTOR, ACS - MESSAGE DU DIRECTEUR DU CAS

From the Acting Director of ACS

Welcome to this September issue of the African Statistical Newsletter (ASN). In addition to the usual statistical capacity building activities going on in the region, news and events, this issue features the following main events: the successful completion of the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and related satellite meetings and side events, the workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, and the forthcoming celebrations of the African Statistics Day (ASD).

First and foremost, I would like to seize this opportunity to salute one of the great advocates of statistical development in Africa, Professor Ben Kiregyera, who retired from the services of the United Nations effective 31 July 2009. This is the subject, under news and events, of a number of testimonies on his dedication to statistical development in general and that of the African continent in particular.

Second, as you might be aware, the African continent vibrated to the rhythm of the 57th Session of the ISI that took place in Durban, South Africa, from 16 to 22 August 2009. This ISI session concluded to widespread acclaim from the statistical fraternity. While South Africa was awarded the right to host this first ever meeting of the scientific society in Sub-Saharan Africa, the African statistical community managed to make it a continental event not only in terms of participation by African statisticians but also in terms of contribution by African scholars and practitioners. In fact, as President Jacob Zuma pointed out in his opening speech "... as an African, I'm delighted to notice that for the first time, one-quarter of the participants were from Africa and that the discussions around African development agenda will provide new directions in statistical capacity building in Africa," alluding to the fact that this was an unprecedented participation of African experts in this biennial gathering of one of the oldest world's scientific societies. Moreover, the African sta-



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

Le mot du Directeur par intérim du Centre Africain pour la statistique

Bienvenue dans cette édition du Bulletin d'information statistique africain (BISA). En plus de la présentation des activités de renforcement des activités statistiques en cours dans la région, cette édition est dominée par un certain nombre d'événements majeurs dont : la tenue de la 57^{ème} édition de l'Institut international de la statistique (IIS) et ses réunions satellites ainsi qu'aux autres événements connexes ; le séminaire sur les systèmes d'enregistrement et de statistiques des faits d'état civil; la préparation des célébrations de la prochaine Journée Africaine de la Statistique (JAS).

En premier lieu, j'aimerais saisir cette occasion pour saluer l'un des champions du plaidoyer pour le développement de la statistique en Afrique, le Professeur Ben Kiregyera, qui vient de prendre sa retraite des services des Nations Unies à compter du 31 juillet 2009. Ce sujet fait l'objet de témoignages publiés dans la rubrique 'Nouvelles et événements', de la part de collègues sur son engagement pour le développement de la statistique en général et plus particulièrement dans le continent africain.

En second point, et comme vous en êtes sûrement au courant, le continent africain a vibré au rythme de la 57^{ème} Session de l'IIS qui s'est tenue à Durban, en Afrique du Sud, du 16 au 22 août 2009. Cet événement haut en couleurs et riche en échanges scientifiques a connu la participation de plus de 3000 statisticiens et praticiens de la statistique et de fortes contributions africaines en nombre et contenu, dont le Président Sud Africain, Jacob Zuma, s'est réjoui dans son mot d'ouverture. Alors que l'Afrique du Sud a été honorée de se voir attribuer l'honneur d'organiser la 57^{ème} session de l'une des plus vieilles sociétés scientifiques du monde, venant pour la première fois en Afrique sub-saharienne, la communauté statistique africaine sous la houlette du Comité de coordination des activités statistiques en Afrique (CCASA), a décidé d'en faire un événement africain tant en termes de participation que de contribution. De plus, des stratégies ont été mises

FROM THE DIRECTOR, ACS - MESSAGE DU DIRECTEUR DU CAS

tistical fraternity strategized to ensure that this event leaves a long lasting legacy to the continent namely in terms of building the capacity of young statisticians and women to embrace the statistics career. There are a number of articles on the session itself and related satellite meetings and events.

Third, as every year, African countries are preparing to celebrate in great style the ASD. This year's celebrations will be on "Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Support of National Development and the Millennium Development Goals in Africa." The choice of the theme was informed by the discussions and recommendations from the successful Regional Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistical Systems held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania from 29 June to 03 July 2009. Some of the materials prepared for the celebrations of the ASD are presented in this issue of the Newsletter.

Under news and events, there is further announcement of employment opportunities at the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). In the same section, we present the profile of Ms. Agnes Ssekiboobo, the newly appointed Head of the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE) at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, as well as the Acting Director General of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR).

Finally, 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. We also encourage readers and contributors to send us reactions to and feedback on the materials we publish.

As usual, 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.



en place pour assurer que cet événement laisse derrière lui, un héritage durable pour le continent à travers, entre autres, un ambitieux programme de renforcement des capacités statistiques qui durera longtemps après le passage de l'IS. Cette édition du BISA contient un nombre d'articles sur l'IS et ses réunions satellites et autres événements connexes.

En troisième lieu et comme à l'accoutumée, la communauté statistique africaine célèbre la JAS le 18 novembre. Les célébrations de cette année s'articulent autour du thème suivant : 'Le renforcement des systèmes d'enregistrement et de statistiques des faits d'état civil en appui au développement national et aux Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement en Afrique.' Le choix de ce thème découle des recommandations du séminaire régional sur les systèmes d'enregistrement et de statistiques des faits d'état civil qui s'est tenu à Dar es-Salaam en Tanzanie du 29 juin au 3 juillet 2009. On trouvera plusieurs articles sur certains des sujets présentés au cours du séminaire dans cette édition du BISA.

Sous la rubrique 'Nouvelles et événements', nous rappelons les annonces pour les opportunités de recrutement au Centre africain pour la statistique (CAS) de la Commission économique des nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA). Dans la même section, nous présentons le profil de la nouvelle Directrice de l'Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE) de l'Université de Makerere à Kampala, Ouganda, ainsi que du nouveau Directeur Général intérimaire de l'Institut national de la statistique du Rwanda.

Enfin, nous réitérons notre encouragement à la communauté statistique d'Afrique et d'ailleurs à nous faire parvenir des articles pour publication dans le BISA sur tout sujet concernant le développement de la statistique sur le continent. De plus, vos commentaires et suggestions sur les articles présentés dans le BISA sont les bienvenus.

Comme d'habitude, nous présentons dans cette édition et celles qui suivront, la politique éditoriale du BISA qui vous donne des indications sur la manière de préparer les articles pour publication.



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The 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute

Risenga Maluleke, Stats South Africa and Dimitri Sanga, ACS

The 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) took place in Durban, South Africa, from 16 to 22 August 2009. While the Republic of South Africa was awarded the right to host this event, the first ever to take place in Sub-Saharan Africa in the history of the ISI that goes back to 1885, the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC), comprising the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the African Union Commission (AUC), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), strategized to make this an African event both in terms of participation by African stakeholders, discussions on issues pertaining to the statistical development of the continent, and contributions by African scholars and practitioners. Moreover, efforts were made to ensure that this 57th Session leaves a long lasting legacy not only to South Africa as the host country but also to the entire continent.

President Zuma challenges statisticians!

The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal¹, Dr. Zweli Mkhize, the Minister in the Presidency responsible for National Planning, Mr. Trevor Manuel, and the Executive Mayor of eThekweni², Mr. Obed Mlaba. During the opening, the President, addressing more than 2500 delegates from more than 135 countries, mentioned that he was honoured to address one of the oldest scientific organizations in the world. As an African, he was delighted to notice that for the first time, one-quarter of the participants were from Africa and that the discussions around African development agenda will provide new directions in statistical capacity building in Africa. In the view of President Zuma, the capacity of the multilateral financial institutions to respond to the world crisis has been inadequate, therefore, he urged statisticians

¹ South Africa is a unitary state with nine provinces, KwaZulu-Natal is one of the southern and coastal provinces

² ISI 2009 was hosted by the City of Durban which is in the eThekweni Municipality

to contribute to the search for solutions that will benefit all nations. He also mentioned that the importance of statistics for development is a continental priority.

Minister Trevor Manuel, one of the undisputed champions of statistical development in Africa did remind statisticians that the human condition is such that "...*Those who are poor do not allow neither condition of poverty to confine them nor will they allow the desire for improvement to be contained. So, people will travel long distances, cross deserts, swim across crocodile-infested rivers, scale fences or cross oceans in rickety tubs in order to escape poverty. We must therefore measure issues in order to improve and to raise collective responsibility for driving the changes.*" He recalled that in South Africa that is the task the Government has committed itself to. Introducing the President, the Minister mentioned that the latter has "put in place new approaches to measurement of performance and accountability. He is the Chief Executive Officer of the measurement of human conditions in South Africa, and is therefore one of you," he said.

Statistics: our past, present, and future...

The theme of this ISI Session was "*Statistics: Our Past, Present, and Future*". As far as African countries are concerned, our past, present and future in statistical development is a testimony of the long way we have gone as a continent in the quest to build the capacity of our countries to provide users with the required quality information in support of their development efforts.

The past of statistical development in African countries was generally characterized by a gloomy picture. In fact, several assessments of African National Statistical Systems (NSSs) revealed that many of them were trapped in a "vicious cycle" in which the shortage of funds contributed to poor performance and low-quality statistics, which in turn created a negative view of and further lack of support and funding for statistical operations and development. Moreover, many African NSSs were characterized by inadequate statistical awareness; inadequate links of statistical systems to policy processes; lack of statistical plans; lack of coordination; weaknesses in statistical capacity, under-resourcing, etc.

African NSSs had difficulties in applying international standards,

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concepts, methodologies and classifications to African specificities. Equally, there has been low participation by African countries in international meetings and City Groups where international methodologies, standards, classifications and norms are discussed and approved. The lack of adequate cooperation and coordination among African statisticians and within the broader African statistical system also hampered the comparability of data produced by different National Statistics Offices (NSOs). Statistics was not a priority in national development processes and among donor support programmes to countries. At national level, inadequate political commitment to statistical development has translated into low priority for statistics, inappropriate profiles of NSOs in government hierarchy and concomitant under-funding for statistical development. Long-term planning for statistical development was not part of the culture in many NSSs.

Our past can also be summarized in the low participation of African countries during previous Rounds of Population and Housing Censuses (RPHC). Some 17 African countries (about 30% of the total) did not participate in the 2000 RPHC. As a result, about 50% of the African population was not enumerated during this round of censuses leading to the use of outdated data or population projections in many countries to inform national development agendas and to measure progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Our present witnesses a renewed interest and understanding of the importance of reliable, timely and comparable statistics in the development process. In line with this renewed interest, African institutions have strengthened their statistical functions in order to reinforce the capacity of their member states in this regard: the AUC recently set up a new *Statistics Unit* within its Department for Economic Affairs and the ECA re-established its Statistics Division under the denomination *African Centre for Statistics (ACS)*. The AfDB has established a fully-fledged *Statistics Department* with two divisions, one dealing with economic and social statistics, and the other with statistical capacity building, making the organization one of the major providers of statistical technical assistance on the continent.

Our present is also witnessing a reinforcement of coordination, collaboration, and partnership among continental institutions. In this regard, following a meeting of the representatives of the AUC, AfDB, ECA, and ACBF held in Tunis, Tunisia, in September 2007 to discuss the coordination of statistical capacity building work in Africa, the ASCC was established with the objective of leading the coordination of statistical activities on the continent.

On the other hand, African stakeholders have launched a country-led initiative aimed at providing a forum where African countries can discuss issues pertaining to their statistical development on a regionally coordinated basis, that is, the *Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD)*. The latter is organized in African countries on a rotational basis. It considers a number of aspects

relating to developing sustainable statistical systems, addresses the challenges of capacity building, and provides a platform for a comprehensive exchange of practical experiences and best practices among African countries. At this stage, the ASSD focuses on encouraging African countries to participate in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census (RPHC). To date, 17 African countries have conducted their censuses within the 2010 RPHC. There is considerable progress being registered, 23 countries are expected to undertake censuses between 2009 and 2011, while 10 are half-way towards meeting the 2014 deadline.

Our present is also a series of success stories in different areas of statistical development including the successful participation of African countries in the African chapter of the International Comparison Programme (ICP-Africa), a continent-wide programme involving 52 African countries launched in 2002 with the objective of strengthening the capacity of African countries to provide timely and reliable data including purchasing power parity (PPP) estimates that facilitate cross-country comparisons of price levels, and economic aggregates in real terms. ICP-Africa, like contributions from other regions of the world, will shed some light in the conceptualisation of the global round of ICP which is planned for 2011. This programme was successfully coordinated by the African Development Bank.

Our present has also witnessed the establishment of the *Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa)*, as the apex entity in statistical development on the continent. Under the leadership of the ASCC, effective from 2009, the AfDB, AUC, and ECA are jointly producing the African Statistical Yearbook and developing a joint statistical database. Beside, the publication of the African Statistical Journal (ASJ) and the African Statistical Newsletter (ASN) are some of the major initiatives aimed at facilitating exchange of information and best practices among stakeholders in the African Statistical community.

Our present is finally the mobilization of African institutions for the production of the African Charter for Statistics, a tool that is expected to contribute to the advocacy for statistical development in Africa, promote statistics on integration and serve as a reference for the exercise of the profession of statistics and as a code of professional ethics and good conduct in the production and dissemination of statistics.

Our future will be shaped on what we are doing today and will be better if we not only maintain the current trend but also accelerate its pace. We need to deal with a number of issues including strategic leadership and management, advocacy for our governments to commit to statistical reforms and sustainability of funding statistical activities, continue to inculcate a culture of evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation, strategic planning as well as fostering partnerships for improved availability and use of statistics in our respective countries. Our future will be made of statistical systems that meet user needs, have improved the management and

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organization, and have ensured the sustainability and irreversibility of statistical development. It finally will depend on our capacity to mentor young statisticians and empower them to take charge of the Africa's destiny.

Legacy

The preparations for the hosting of the ISI aimed also at leaving a lasting legacy on the continent. Among the strategies for ensuring this legacy is the *ISibalo "Statistical Capacity Building Programme."* This programme has been designed to facilitate the participation of Africa's statistical community in the debates over key issues on measurement, monitoring and evaluation of development and to encourage the improvement of statistical methodologies and foster innovations. It includes issues such as statistical research and capacity development; training and support for young statisticians; mathematics, statistics and the girl-child; the statistical education programme; and African women in statistics. *ISibalo* aimed at facilitating the broader participation of Africans at the ISI in 2009 and further; developing cadres of statisticians and demographers in Africa; developing statistics education in Africa; promoting research in a science with a fragmented history of African achievement; and promoting statistical data utilization in Africa for evidence-based policy-making and creating a platform for sharing of best practice.

The 57th Session of the ISI in figures

The 57th Session of the ISI was attended by more than 3000 delegates including more than 2500 elected members. There were more than 1600 papers presented on more than 300 themes, forcing organisers to hold 60 different sessions on average a day.

Is the hosting of an ISI a good predictor of the successful bid for a FIFA World Cup?

The hosting of an ISI seems to be a good predictor for getting a successful outcome in the bid for a FIFA world cup, at least in recent times, according to the Statistician General of South Africa in his opening remarks. In fact, France hosted the ISI in 1997 and the FIFA World Cup in 1998; Korea hosted the ISI in 2001 and had the FIFA World Cup in 2002; Germany hosted the ISI in 2003 and had the right to FIFA World Cup in 2006. Therefore, South African's bid for the 57th session of the ISI for 2009 was appropriate as it determined the right for South Africa to host the FIFA World Cup in 2010. It is nevertheless worth noting that although ISI is a good predictor for future FIFA host country, it fares very poorly on predicting who will be the FIFA champion, cautioned the Statistician-General of South Africa, Mr Pali Lehohla.



Address by His Excellency, Jacob Zuma, the President of the Republic of South Africa, at the 57th session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI); Durban, 16 August 2009



Honourable Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Zweli Mkhize
Honourable Minister of the National Planning Commission,
Mr Trevor Manuel

The Mayor of eThekweni Mr Obed Mlaba
Statistician-General Pali Lehohla
The President of the ISI Denise Lieslesley
Chairperson of Statistics Council,

Mr Howard Gabriels
President of South African Statistics Association,
(SASA) Dr Khangelani Zuma

Distinguished delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

I am honoured to interact with members of one of the oldest scientific organisations in the world. We appreciate the fact that you have come to our shores.

Ladies and gentlemen, the country is mourning the passing on of Professor Thamsanqa Khambule, an outstanding mathematician and accomplished steward of Stats SA. We extend our condolences to his family and to Stats SA and entire fraternity. His contribution to the development of mathematics as a discipline in disadvantaged communities will be eternally appreciated. Let me reiterate that we are truly pleased to host more than 2 500 elected members from more than 130 countries.

We do not take for granted the fact that in 2003 you decided to bring your biennial sitting to sub-Saharan Africa for the first time in

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the institute's 124 year history. This indicates your commitment to African and world statistical progress and to supporting much-needed development in the world. It is wonderful to see that this commitment is finding expression in that, for the first time, one quarter of all delegates is from Africa. The discussions around Africa's developmental agenda must provide a new direction in debates regarding statistical capacity building on the African continent.

Esteemed delegates,

You are assembled here because you seek solutions to the challenges that affect the world today. These include the global economic crisis, food insecurity, poverty, climate change and many others. The solutions can be found through cooperation, global dialogue and, importantly, coordinated action, which is what this conference is about.

There are issues that affect people's daily lives that need to be measured.

These issues include broad demographic patterns, features of urbanisation and the implications for water, sanitation, energy, transport and so on. The world economic meltdown, which began in developed economies, also dictates that statisticians search for solutions which will benefit all nations.

The economic crisis poses serious dangers to the development of low income countries, particularly in Africa. Demand for African exports has dropped, investment flows have declined, the cost of borrowing has increased, and remittances from Africans abroad are expected to decrease.

Unless decisive action is taken, the crisis may set back recent economic and social progress on the continent, including progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Several African countries, including South Africa, have undertaken measures to minimise the impact of the crisis. These include fiscal stimulus packages, revising expenditure, targeting assistance to key sectors, and strengthening financial regulation.

South Africa supports a global response to the crisis to restore stability. A sustainable, longer term response needs to be pursued through the United Nations, IMF, World Bank and other multilateral institutions. In our view, the capacity of the multilateral financial institutions to respond to the crisis has been inadequate. We have therefore called for a significant increase in resources for these institutions, and an increase in the representation of developing countries.

The increase in resources will enable these institutions to provide better forecasting, planning, monitoring and evaluation. This will no doubt include efficient statistical data gathering and analysis to assist recovery, especially in the developing world. Through professionals such as you, we can ensure that the world never again finds itself with problems it should have foreseen. The need for macro-economic and

social information is more important than ever before. These include details of economic growth, price stability, demographics, population dynamics, poverty employment and job creation.

Esteemed delegates,

The importance of statistics for development is a continental priority.

During the 12th Summit of African Heads of State and Government, member states were called upon to sign and ratify the African Charter on Statistics.

The Charter provides a regulatory framework for statistical development on the African continent. Developing countries rely on statisticians to provide trends and information that will guide planning for socio-economic development.

The African Charter emphasises evidence-based decision making to guide the African Union in accelerating integration and to implement development programmes that combat poverty. The African Union (AU) notes that to meet the continental development challenges, member states require a robust statistical data system which provides reliable, comprehensive and harmonised statistical information on the continent.

At a regional level, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) statistics programme aims to ensure the harmonisation of statistics among member states as well as the coordination of regional statistics on many matters.

These include foreign trade, population, commodity prices, gender, agriculture, education, employment and development programmes.

The SADC Human Development Indicators show that the region is characterised by medium human development levels and falling levels of human progress, with poverty constraining the quality of life. Reliable information is therefore needed to enable us to implement strategies towards achieving the ideals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

These include investing in African human capital, which embrace capacity building and reversing the so-called "Brain Drain". The overarching Millennium Development Goal, as most of us know, is halving poverty by 2014 and we need accurate facts.

We all know that your field is fraught with controversy and intellectual wars. Everyone has their own view of what the figures should show on any topic be it education, crime or health. South Africans will tell you about ongoing quarrels over crime statistics, infant or mother mortality rates and other contentious issues.

Governments and politicians rely heavily on official statistics to make

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informed decisions. On the other hand, opposition parties and various pressure groups and non-governmental organisations normally use the statistics to attack governments. This makes the work of statisticians very difficult as their output will always be questioned. A solution should be possible. Improved communication and cooperation between the various role-players will help to build confidence in both statistics and policy-making.

In our view, there is nothing that stops statisticians in academia and other areas from working with government statisticians to advance methods of collection, compilation and interpretation of statistics. This would be done for the good of the country concerned. In this way, official statistics would not be questioned by pressure groups in a manner that challenges their credibility and hampers their use. Another point to ponder is the fact that information in the world is moving at a very fast pace. Questions continue to be asked about whether statisticians can measure up to the pace at which demand for information manifests itself.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You are meeting during Women's Month in our country. Last week we commemorated an important milestone in our history. On 9 August 1956, about 20 000 women marched to the seat of government, the Union Buildings in Tshwane, Pretoria.

They marched in protest against the then hated system of pass laws. As a country we continue to work tirelessly to improve the status of women in our society. This conference reminds us of an area we must still work on much more vociferously, that of promoting mathematics and statistics among girl children in schools from a very early age.

It is important therefore to make the subject attractive to the youth.

The manner in which you, as statisticians, illuminate and communicate the complex subject of statistics should be simplified. This would help us all to interest young people in studying this subject and related ones such as mathematics, geography, economics, science and technology. We therefore urge you not to frighten children!

We are pleased that ISI 2009 will serve as a springboard for leaving a lasting legacy of statistical development on the African continent. It is thus significant that more than 300 promising young delegates from the statistical community in developing countries have been funded to attend ISI 2009.

We also commend your contribution through the work of the International Association for Statistics Education in organising the ISIBalo International Statistical Literacy Competition. This will help to promote and increase the interest of the youth in statistics education. We are already encouraged by the fact that more than 7 000 South African pupils from 126 schools, comprising of primary and second-

ary schools, sat for the first phase of the ISLP competition in July 2008.

It was equally significant to see more than 2 000 young people from 17 high schools from six countries, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Swaziland, in the SADC region participate in this competition.

Such developments will boost the new interest in statistical development by African countries.

You have quite an intensive programme ahead of you. You will generate mountains of information, as 1 600 papers will be presented on more than 300 themes. Your areas of focus are very crucial at this time in the world from Statistics in Finance; to Statistical issues relating to climate change; Biostatistics in Health; Sport Statistics and Statistics in Africa.

It is not surprising that you will be running 60 different sessions a day, in order to cover all these very important issues. We are confident that this conference will respond positively to the needs of the peoples of the world.

It will make a significant contribution to the fight against poverty and hunger, and the ongoing struggle for peace, stability and development.

At this juncture, I should perhaps take the liberty to remind you that this city is one of the proud hosts of the 2010 FIFA World Cup tournament. Your host province, KwaZulu-Natal, is the first in South Africa to launch a provincial 2010 FIFA soccer tournament website, which will be most useful to you for information on provincial attractions.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the country next year to enjoy one of the best soccer World Cup tournaments the world has ever seen.

Esteemed delegates,

It is my pleasure and honour to declare the 57th Session of the ISI open.

Let me also take this opportunity to wish Ireland well as it takes over the baton as host for 58th Session to be held in Dublin. I wish you successful deliberations.

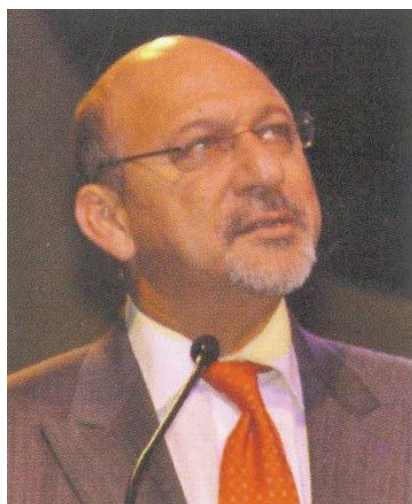
I thank you.



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Ministerial Address to the Opening Ceremony, 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute, Durban, 16 August 2009

Trevor A Manuel, MP, Minister in the Presidency: Planning



Programme Director

His Excellency, The President of the Republic of SA, Mr Zuma

The Premier of KwaZulu Natal, Dr Mkhize

Statistician General of South Africa, Mr Lehohla

President of the ISI, Prof Denise Lievesley

His Worship, The Executive Mayor of eThekweni, Councillor Mlaba

ISI Executive Board Members

Distinguished Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Heads of International Statistics Offices

ISI Members from 135 countries

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

All protocol observed

Welcome to this 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute. Our invocation to all delegates is to maximize the output of this rare, highly representative and exceedingly important conference. In order to successfully measure, yes even that output, by next Saturday, all of us, yes even you statisticians need a dose of humility. Let us all accept that we measure (or sometimes deploy you to measure on our behalf) because we don't know the answers

or we don't know nearly enough.

I once saw a slogan that read, "In God we trust, all others must produce statistical support." We should all share in the view that we can never measure for its own sake. As you gather here in Durban, every session, even those that have exceedingly high-falutin titles are focused on measuring the human condition, or the impact of decisions on people. So, the principles and standards that you will use need to be both agreed upon and further developed. There is also the thorny issue of the ability to maintain your impartiality in the face of people like me. As Winston Churchill once remarked to a statistician in the Home Office, "I gather young man, that you wish to be a Member of Parliament. The first lesson that you must learn is, when I call for statistics about the rate of infant mortality, what I want is proof that fewer babies died when I was Prime Minister than when anyone else was Prime Minister." So, reluctantly we will concede that your impartiality is important.

What is also important is that you all appreciate that improving on the human condition means that the sharing that takes place between yourselves here must contribute significantly to the objective that will see end-to-end coverage of the human condition in every part of the world. A profound difficulty that policymakers across the world share is that those parts of the world most in need of development are also sorely in need of an adequate number of statisticians to measure progress. The reality of global inequality is confirmed by the 2009 Progress Report on the Millennium Development Goals which was released by UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon about 5 weeks ago. When Heads of State and Government convened in New York at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, he made a commitment on their own behalf and on behalf of all of their peoples that the measurable ravages of poverty and inequality will be lifted by 2015. Sixty percent of that time has already elapsed and some of the world's poorest regions - our own in Sub-Saharan Africa and that of Southern Asia may actually find itself, in some respects, in a worse position than they were in 2000. Part of the difficulty is that neither the United Nations nor we can confirm with any degree of certainty - the report carries the health warning, "Depending on the indicator, the latest information could date back as early as 2005, or as late as 2009." What is imperative, though, is the understanding that world leaders took those decisions freely, about the condition of people across the world, regardless of nationality, because they considered that the human condition was a blight on all of this generation and a failure to attain the MDG's would be a collective failure of all of us. But in order to know, we must be able to measure the human condition. And that is where you enter the equation.

It is also worth reminding ourselves that the human condition is such that people who are poor do not allow their condition of poverty to confine them, nor will they allow their desire for improvement to be contained. So, people will travel long distances, cross deserts, swim across crocodile-infested rivers, scale fences or cross oceans in

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rickety tubs in order to escape poverty. So, policymakers must know, and be encouraged to act correctly. Development is not quite a zero-sum game; it has been and will remain a shared responsibility.

In the face of the recent setbacks in the global economy, this shared responsibility becomes even more important. The collapse of commodity prices, the rapid increases in the prices of basic foodstuffs, and the ravages of climate change all converge to produce this setback. We must know in order to improve and to raise the collective responsibility for driving the changes.

Here in South Africa, this is the task that the new government has committed itself to. The CEO of South Africa Inc has made that commitment repeatedly. He has ordered his Ministers, Premiers and Mayors to spare none of themselves in that joint endeavour to improve on the quality of life of all of South Africa's people. It is early in his tenure - he has served 5.422% of his 5-year term of office.

He has put in place new approaches to the measurement of performance and accountability. He is the Chief Executive of Measurement of the human condition in the Republic of South Africa and so, he is one of you. It is my pleasure to request our CEO, His Excellency Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, to address you now. Mr President.

Thank you.



Statistician General Pali Lehohla's opening ceremony speech at the 57th session of the International Statistical Institute 2009, Durban, 16 August 2009.



Programme Director

His Excellency, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr Zuma

Minister in the Presidency: Planning, Mr Manuel

The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Mkhize

President of the ISI: Professor Denise Lievesley

His Worship, the Executive Mayor of eThekweni, Councillor Mlaba

ISI executive board members

Their Excellencies, the ambassadors and high commissioners

The consuls general from the various countries

Distinguished heads of International Statistics Offices

ISI members from 135 countries

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

All protocol observed

Mr President this is a journey. Allow me therefore to take you President, distinguished delegates ladies and gentlemen through this journey. Mr President when your government decided on the journey to bid for the FIFA Soccer World Cup for 2010, I was worried that we had as yet not performed the statistical ritual and that would reduce our chances of succeeding in this journey of winning the bid.

So in 2003 when the Cabinet of South Africa asked the Statistician-General to lead the bid for the 57th session of the ISI in Germany, I knew that the first step of a successful journey of winning the FIFA bid would be performed. The statisticians before you here can confirm that the hosting of an ISI is a good predictor for getting a successful outcome in the bid for a FIFA World Cup, at least in recent times.

France hosted ISI in 1997 and hosted the FIFA world Cup in 1998, Korea hosted the ISI in 2001 and had the FIFA world cup in 2002, Germany hosted the ISI in 2003 and had the right to FIFA World Cup in 2006, so your decision to ask the Statistician General to lead the bid for the 57th session of the ISI was appropriate as it determined the right for South Africa to host the FIFA world Cup in 2010. Although ISI is a good predictor for future FIFA host country, it fares very poorly on predicting who will be the FIFA champion. So Mr President do not ask me as to who will win the 2010 FIFA world cup.

Mr President, statistics are not only about powerful predictions but they are also about political journeys. Mr President, politics have robbed us of the head of Statistics Slovakia. Mr Fisher has since April to May this year become the Prime Minister of Slovakia. There is also life beyond statistical journeys.

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Mr President, the ISI is an important signpost in a long journey of statistical development on the continent. The journey starts in January 2006 to address the issue of how many people are on the African continent. Convened by Minister Manuel in January 2006 we launched the 53 year journey of Africa Symposium for Statistical Development (ASSD).

Each year for an African country, since then we have not looked back. The journey took us to the second ASSD in 2007 in Rwanda under the theme "Africa counts: towards a complete enumeration of African populations during the 2010 round of population and housing censuses". The journey then took us to Ghana for the third ASSD at the end of 2007. The fourth ASSD held in February 2009 was in Angola under the theme "data processing and census data in the 2010 round of population and housing censuses".

African countries and development partners will gather again in Dakar, Senegal, later this year under the theme "information and communication technology in data dissemination: bringing suppliers and users closer to the 2010 round of population and housing censuses."

There is considerable progress being registered; 23 countries are expected to undertake censuses between 2009 and 2011, while ten are half-way towards meeting the 2014 deadline. Mr President, our journey has successfully restored statistics at the economic commission for Africa.

We are aware that disrupting this journey, are armed conflicts currently, while many more are disrupted by post-conflict consequences on the continent. Under the auspices of the African symposium for statistical development, the friends of the ECA, met in Kigali, Rwanda, in May this year to further unpack and understand an in-conflict and post-conflict state and implications for statistical development and especially for census taking. We were joined during such a meeting by colleagues from Cambodia and Afghanistan.

The challenges for official statisticians is not only censuses, therefore we continue to work closely with development partners on other areas of statistics. With the active support of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Africa has concluded the first round of the International Comparisons Programme (ICP-Africa). We are encouraged by the increasing use of purchasing power parity by academics, researchers, and international organisations as well as by their useful feedback on areas to improve data quality. Under the United Nations statistical commission, which South Africa chairs, we plan to hold an ICP data users' conference in 2010 so that feedback from such a conference can be incorporated into the next global ICP of 2011.

In what we could say in Kiswahili, tumendeleya pole pole, small progress, step by step. We are well aware that what is expected from us are not small steps but giant leaps on this journey. It is

for this reason that we have put in place a programme of ISibalo Capacity Building which will be our legacy programme beyond the 57th session of the ISI. Our journey on developing young statisticians in Africa should be accomplished.

The establishment of the ISI in 1885 coincided with the Berlin conference which gave rise to colonial supremacy as colonial masters scrambled for the control of Africa. This ISI not only makes yet another mark in Africa but also serves to restore the dignity of African people on matters statistics, intellectual and academic excellence, and statistical application.

In South Africa our journey is made more difficult by our history, for, the then Minister of Native Affairs, who would later become Prime Minister of the minority government of South Africa then, Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, addressing Parliament on 17 September 1953 said, "What is the use of teaching a bantu child mathematics if it cannot use it in practice?" This statement set a trail of events that we are redressing to this day and will continue to redress in an unrelenting manner.

The burden of our journey has been greatly lightened by the leadership of Minister Trevor Manuel and the chair of Council Mr Howard Gabriels. The AfDB, Department for International Development (DFID), Swiss Development Cooperation, the World Bank, InWent and PARIS21 have made it possible for African participation at the ISI.

Because ours is a journey born out of many challenges

Because ours is a journey with many moons and years ahead

Because ours is a journey of struggle, we dare not fail! ISI and the world, we shall not fail because you are here with us sharing in our journey and our burden.

Thank you.



ISI Committee on Women in Statistics

Awa Thiongane, African Centre for Statistics

Introduction

There are a number of committees at the International Statistical Institute (ISI). Fourteen standing committees fall within the responsibility of the ISI Executive Committee and/or Council. Ten other committees refer to special interest groups and include the Committee on Women in Statistics. Finally, the so-called outreach committees are

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meant to represent the interests of a regional group of statisticians within the ISI and develop activities for ISI and its Associations for an international but geographically determined region. A Committee for African Statisticians will be set up soon.

The Committee on Women in Statistics

As to the Committee on Women in Statistics, it was formally established during the 50th Session of the ISI in Beijing, China, and held its first meetings during the 51st ISI Session in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Committee's terms of reference are:

- To promote and strengthen the representation of women statisticians in the ISI and its Sections;
- To help in providing opportunities for women members to assume active and visible roles in the ISI and other statistical associations;
- To collect information on women in the statistical professions in different countries and to facilitate the flow of information among women statisticians;
- To stimulate interest in Statistics among women and encourage women in schools and colleges to study Statistics;
- To support the compilation of statistics on women, with a view to generating relevant studies concerning women's roles in the various activities in their countries.

The ISI Durban Session

With respect to these objectives, the 57th Session of the ISI in Durban, South Africa, was a special session on more than one account, at the level of symbols:

- It was the first time in the ISI more than a century history that a woman statistician was the President of the ISI;
- A woman was also hired Director of the ISI Permanent Office for the second time;
- Women are fairly well represented in the ISI and its Associations governing bodies;
- African women statisticians for the first time attended a large number at the ISI Session;
- Girls were fairly well represented not only by the learners from **Our Lady of the Rosary school**, but also among the laureates of the International Contest on Statistics of the **International Statistics Literacy Programme (ILSP)** and the Young Statisticians competition organized in the framework of the **ISibalo Capacity Building Programme**; and
- It was the first time that a special event (Women in Statistics Dinner) was organised and gathered all female participants in the ISI Session at the Durban City Hall. This event was meant

to pay tribute to the significance of women in the field of statistics and provide opportunity to young, aspiring and more experienced statisticians to interact by sharing experiences and building new relationships.

The Session was also special with respect to the active participation of the CWS which include:

- Sponsorship of three Special Topic Sessions on:
 - "The Challenges Faced by Women in Statistical Offices in Africa";
 - Issues Facing Women in Leadership Role in Official Statistics"; and
 - "Violence Against Women: How Indicators Can Influence Policy Development".
- Organisation of meetings for CWS members and CWS country representatives, and
- Contribution of its members to the other scientific sessions.

Country Representatives

The country representatives are expected to writing and sharing articles on women' issues in the statistics profession in their respective countries.

For now, unlike the other regions, only three* African countries have representatives to the CWS, namely: South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia.

Therefore, we are reiterating a previous call for any individuals interested in becoming a country representative may contact Cynthia Clark at czfclark@cox.net.



Prof. Denise Lievesley, the President of ISI adorned in South African different traditional dresses



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Du renforcement des capacités statistiques : le handicap de la langue

Sekou Tidiani Konate, Institut National de la Statistique, Djibouti

Force est de constater que l'anglais est actuellement la langue prédominante sur la scène internationale. C'est la langue utilisée lors des rencontres internationales ; et toute publication scientifique, qui se respecte, se doit d'être faite en anglais, en tout cas dans un premier temps.

Ceci constitue un problème pour une grande partie des statisticiens ressortissant(e)s des pays non anglophones qui ne maîtrisent pas l'anglais. Ce problème que l'on peut nommer « *la barrière ou le handicap de la langue* » risque de devenir à terme un déficit majeur pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques en Afrique. En effet, la langue étant sans conteste un vecteur de transmission de la connaissance et du savoir, un moteur de la communication et un support de la compréhension, la maîtrise individuelle et collective d'une même langue s'avère nécessaire pour tout processus de développement et d'évolution harmonieuse des communautés scientifiques. Certes des efforts sont faits pour assurer la traduction orale de l'anglais dans d'autres langues lors des rencontres de grand niveau ainsi que la traduction des documents de travail et de certaines publications des agences des Nations Unies. Mais le problème reste presque entier à plusieurs niveaux.

Même la formidable organisation de l'Institut Internationale de la Statistique (IIS) 2009 de Durban, qui n'avait rien laissé au hasard, n'a pas su résoudre ce problème de la langue. Elle a montré par la même occasion les limites de la disponibilité de la traduction orale, car avec en moyenne 60 thèmes et 180 exposés par jour, il n'avait pas été possible d'assurer la traduction orale des exposés en anglais dans les différentes salles. Du coup les francophones, pour ne citer que cet exemple, devaient se contenter des exposés (8 en moyenne par jour sur 180 programmés) dans la seule salle où la traduction orale était disponible. A l'interruption de cette traduction deux jours après le début des programmes scientifiques pour une raison non expliquée, il ne leur restait plus qu'à guetter les rares exposés programmés en français (8 sur 1300 exposés). On voit par là qu'outre les occasions manquées d'être directement informé, de se former ou d'approfondir ses connaissances celui qui ne parlait pas et ne comprenait pas l'anglais n'avait aucun moyen de discuter pleinement avec les scientifiques qui avaient bien de choses à apporter durant les rencontres de l'IIS.

Par ailleurs, combien de fois n'a-t-on pas entendu les animateurs des ateliers et réunions techniques internationales s'excuser en ces termes : « *nous sommes vraiment désolés, nous n'avons pas eu assez de temps pour traduire les différents documents – ie les*

supports des travaux de l'atelier de formation » ou encore « *les documents techniques sont disponibles en anglais sur notre site, les traductions dans les autres langues vont suivre* ». Quand suivront-elles ces traductions? Dans le meilleur des cas, au bout de six mois, c'est-à-dire parfois lorsqu'on est déjà passé à une autre étape du développement des outils que tout le monde est sensé utiliser en même temps pour des besoins de standardisation, d'harmonisation et de comparaison des méthodologies et des données. En d'autres termes les statisticiens des pays non anglophones sont ou risqueront d'être toujours en retard dans l'acquisition des nouvelles techniques et dans l'application des normes internationales. Tendrait-on vers un développement à deux vitesses dans le processus de développement de la statistique en Afrique?

Une autre conséquence néfaste de la barrière de la langue pour le statisticien non anglophone (ne parlant, ni ne comprenant l'anglais) est la limitation dans l'ambition d'embrasser une carrière internationale car l'Anglais, plus qu'une langue de travail parmi d'autres dans le système des Nations Unies, est devenu un passeport, disons un redoutable critère de sélection des candidats pour un poste international. Il suffit de voir les annonces des postes pour s'en rendre compte. Et puis, comment penser ou espérer aller travailler à New York, Washington, Genève, Rome, Addis Abéba, Nairobi, Durban ou ailleurs dans la grande majorité des pays du globe sans une maîtrise de l'Anglais « à l'oral et à l'écrit »?

Pour tirer une leçon de ces constats, l'anglais doit être appris et utilisé par le statisticien d'aujourd'hui comme un outil de renforcement des capacités et un instrument de développement personnel – l'*empowerment* – surtout ne pas chercher à traduire ce mot en français ! Ceci amène à se rappeler que Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Directeur général du FMI, Jean-Claude Trichet, Président de la Banque centrale européenne, Bernard Kouchner, Ministre français des Affaires étrangères, tous des grands hommes politiques français, parlent de préférence l'anglais dans les tribunes internationales. Que faut-il en conclure ?

Quelles solutions ?

En invitant toutes les organisations internationales engagées dans le processus de développement de la statistique en Afrique (Centre africain pour la Statistique, Paris21, BAD, Afristat, l'UA, ...) et tous les statisticiens à mener une réflexion plus poussée sur le problème, les axes suivants peuvent être explorés :

- mettre l'accent sur l'apprentissage de l'anglais dans les écoles de statistique, à défaut de l'imposer très tôt à l'école des différents pays ;
- harmoniser les programmes de formation des statisticiens dans tous les pays africains et procéder par la suite à un échange d'étudiants en fin de cycle de formation entre pays anglophones et pays non anglophones. Ces étudiants nou-

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vement diplômés pourront ainsi apprendre les différentes langues pendant six mois avant d'aller sur le marché du travail ;

- mettre en place, avec l'aide des institutions internationales, des programmes accélérés d'apprentissage de l'anglais dans les pays anglophones (objectif : immersion) pour les statisticiens déjà en poste ;
- mettre en place des mécanismes de facilité d'accès, à moindres coûts, à des centres d'apprentissage de l'anglais pour les statisticiens ;
- faire un plaidoyer auprès des organismes internationaux pour donner la même chance aux différents candidats à des postes internationaux lors des recrutements et, la suite accorder un délai de trois mois au maximum aux candidats non anglophones pour apprendre l'anglais à leurs propres frais s'il le faut ;

Cet article qui se veut une petite contribution aux efforts de développement de la statistique en Afrique, n'a pas pour objet de faire la promotion d'une langue au dépend d'une autre. Il se fonde sur des faits avérés que chaque lecteur peut vérifier par lui-même. Malgré tout son auteur présente ses excuses à quiconque se sentira dérangé par quelque mot ou expression de son contenu.



Comments on the successfully conclusion of the 57th Session of the ISI / Réactions à la 57ième session de l'Institut international de la statistique

Agnes Ssekiboobo, Director, ISAE Makerere

I thank Stats SA and all the organizers for such an excellent conference. It was indeed a pleasure to have been part of this historic milestone. I also thank InWent, African Development Bank and all other agencies that enabled a good number of us to attend this conference. It was indeed a rewarding and an unforgettable experience.

Ben Kiregyera, International Consultant, Uganda

What a staggering success the ISI congress in Durban was!!!!

This is to congratulate the Statistician General of South Africa personally, his entire ISI team and the country on successfully staging such a mammoth conference. The scientific programme was excellent and the social programme was out of this world. This is the feedback I got from many delegates; it is what I also observed.

We salute you for doing Africa proud. We also salute the African Development Bank, other regional organizations and the international

agencies that provided support.

Claudia Junker, Evaluation function of Eurostat, European Commission

The recent ISI session in Durban was a fantastic opportunity to broaden my knowledge in many different statistical matters, to get to know new colleagues from all over the world and to meet a lot of colleagues again that I had not seen for ages.

For me - visiting the Sub-Saharan Africa for the first time - it was also a very enriching cultural experience in terms of meeting and "seeing" many different African cultures and exploring South Africa.

I think that the organizers of this session, including Statistics South-Africa did a great job and they all deserve a big "THANK YOU" for providing so many opportunities to come together with other colleagues both in formal meetings and in an informal environment.

Dimitri Sanga, Officer-In-Charge, African Centre for Statistic

Things are changing on our continent!

The successful conclusion of the 57th Session of the ISI to resounding acclaim is yet another manifestation of tremendous efforts made by African stakeholders to improve the capacity of African states to respond to user's data needs on a regionally coordinated basis. There was a time when African countries were not participating in international fora where methodological issues, norms, standards were decided upon, leading to their inability to properly apply the latter into their statistical processes. Today, African countries are present and play an important role in many international statistical fora where these issues are discussed. Their participation in the 57th session of the ISI is to be added to this already long list of events aimed at collectively improving the statistical development of the continent.

Nicholas Ndayishimiye, Directeur Général, ISTEEDU, Burundi

Je dirai seulement que la 57ème session de l'ISI tenue à Durban a montré que l'Afrique en général et les statisticiens africains en particulier sont en mesure de réaliser beaucoup de choses. Les présentations des autres continents ont montré que l'Afrique peut aussi faire mieux.

Ce qui était impressionnant c'était l'organisation logistique de l'atelier même si les francophones à 100% n'ont pas eu gain de cause dans la traduction des présentations. Aussi, la multiplicité des thèmes a fait que certains thèmes n'ont pas suivi comme il fallait et peut-être parce que leur contenu ne répondait pas aux attentes des participants.

Pali Lehohla, Statistician General, South Africa

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Today it feels good to be African. It was all African statisticians who made it happen. Our journey and our long journey started a long time ago with the Lagos Plan of Action, I suppose now with Marakech Action Plan for Statistics and Africa working together and the Pan African institutions working together, we should succeed.

Peter Wingfield-Digby, International Consultant, UK

The session was superbly organized by our South African hosts. It was encouraging to see what a large turnout there was from African countries. The AfDB should receive much of the credit for this because of their very strong financial support. It is through attendance at international gatherings like this that African statisticians can widen their horizons and learn much from the experience of other countries.

I was privileged to organize and chair one Invited Paper Meeting (IPM 38: Educating the public about how to use official statistics). One of my presenters was Ben Paul Mungyereza from Uganda, and his paper, entitled "Making statistics attractive through partnership with the media", was very well received by a large audience.

Sekou Tidiani Konate, Ingénieur Statisticien, Institut National de la Statistique, Djibouti

Un rassemblement impressionnant d'experts venant de tous les continents pour parler et célébrer la STATISTIQUE. Une rencontre remarquablement organisée à tous les niveaux. Une organisation qui témoigne, si besoin en était encore, de l'engagement de l'Afrique du Sud en faveur du développement et de la culture statistiques au-delà des frontières de continent noir.

ISI 2009 ou tout simplement Durban 2009 ! Une célébration « Statistique » mémorable. Une fête grandiose à la hauteur de la grandeur de toute puissance économique de l'Afrique du Sud ; à la dimension de la chaleureuse hospitalité du peuple Sud Africain admirablement et fièrement riche de sa pluralité culturelle. Tout avait été pensé, tout avait été réglé et synchronisé dans les moindres détails : l'accueil, l'enregistrement de près de 3000 délégué(e)s, les cérémoniaires officielles, les présentations et exposés scientifiques dans de grandes salles en nombre suffisant et équipées des dernières technologies audiovisuelles, le transport des participants et participantes, l'accès à l'Internet, les stands d'exposition des produits et activités statistiques, les repas, les services et les personnels de services, les animations socioculturelles, la disponibilité des hôtes jusqu'au plus hautes autorités de l'Etat y compris Monsieur le Président de la République en personne et, pour tout couronné, ce « smile » inoubliable des hôtes et ces pas de danse vigoureux des zoulous qui n'ont jamais manqué de rythmer toutes les cérémonies.

Tout était là pour faire de Durban 2009 un rendez-vous « statistiquement » réussi ! A ce propos, il serait intéressant de penser à définir des indices composites de réussite des rencontres du genre de l'ISI

2009 : un indice de processus et un indice d'impact (ex-post). En attendant, bravo à l'Afrique du Sud et à tous les organisateurs et organisatrices de l'ISI pour cette mobilisation planétaire en faveur de la statistique. Merci d'avoir donné l'occasion aux statisticiens de communier et de communiquer avec ferveur. Merci d'avoir permis à tous et toutes de rêver un instant d'un avenir meilleur pour la Statistique malgré les difficultés auxquelles se trouvent confrontés la plus part des systèmes statistiques nationaux en Afrique.

Merci d'avoir fait naître à nouveau l'espoir!



The International Statistical Institute 2009 Congress in Durban Picture Gallery



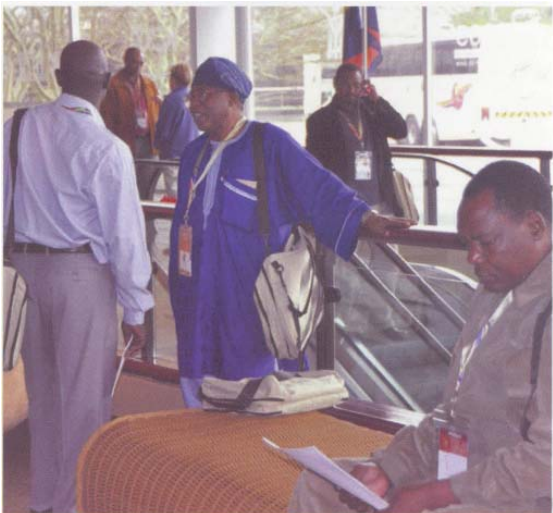
I. INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE - INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DE LA STATISTIQUE



AFRICAN STATISTICAL NEWSLETTER
BULLETIN D'INFORMATION STATISTIQUE AFRICAINE

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(Courtesy of ISI Durban website / Courtoisie du site Web de l'ISI Durban)

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International Statistical Institute Satellite Meeting on Agricultural Statistics, Maputo, Mozambique

João Dias Loureiro, President, Instituto Nacional de Estatística, Mozambique; Ben Kiregyera, International Statistical Consultant, Uganda

Introduction

The importance of agriculture to many developing countries cannot be over-emphasized. Indeed, about 70% of the MDGs target groups live in rural areas in an agricultural economy and all the MDGs have direct or indirect linkages with agriculture. It is also known that the poor around the world are disproportionately farmers and the hungry find their livelihoods in agriculture. There is a dependency on agriculture for food, clothing and materials for fuel and housing. The importance of agriculture to poverty reduction places agriculture at the centre of the development agenda. What is more, agriculture itself impacts on environment and global warming, water and land resources.

Good agricultural statistics are needed to inform development of agricultural policies, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural development programmes and projects. There is great concern globally that while countries are not meeting the minimum requirements for agricultural statistics, there is increasing demand for information to guide policies on such areas as environment and global warming, food security, biodiversity, bio fuel, etc. What is more, one of the outcomes of the 2007 International Conference on Agricultural Statistics was that there was lack of direction regarding data requirements posed by MDGs. The Independent External Evaluation of FAO emphasized the need to improve agricultural statistics and in 2008, there was consensus at the UN Statistical Commission on the current unsatisfactory situation of agricultural statistics and the need for a global strategy to engender improvements. Accordingly, a global strategy to improve agricultural statistics was developed.

Given that the International Statistical Institute (ISI) was to hold its 39th Congress in Durban, South Africa, it was decided to hold an ISI Satellite meeting on agricultural statistics in Maputo, Mozambique.

The meeting

The meeting took place on 13 and 14 August 2009 at the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Centre in Maputo, Mozambique. It was successfully hosted by the National Statistical Office of Mozambique (INE- Mozambique), and organized in cooperation with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Partnership in Statistics

for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the World Bank.

The ISI satellite meeting on agricultural statistics was held in Maputo on 13 and 14 August 2009. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Friends of the Chair (FOC) Group, Mr. Eduardo Pereira Nudes and co-chaired by the President of the National Institute of Statistics of Mozambique, Dr. João Dias Loureiro. It was attended by senior experts from international organizations, National Statistics Offices, and ministries of agriculture to discuss key elements of the Global Strategy to improve agricultural statistics. A total of 205 participants from 48 countries attended the conference - twenty two (22) of these countries are in Africa - Burkina Faso, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting was officially opened by Her Excellency Mrs Luisa Dias Digo, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique, who is also the Chair of the Statistics Council of Mozambique (see pictures). The meeting was also addressed by His Excellency Mr. Soares Nhaca, the Mozambican Minister of Agriculture, Ms. Maria José de Oliveira Zimmermann, FAO Representative in Mozambique and Swaziland and several high ranking government officials attended the opening ceremony. The Chair of the ISI Committee on agricultural statistics, the Chair of the UN Statistical Commission Friends of the Chair Working Group on Agricultural Statistics and various experts on and users of agricultural statistics.

The discussions at the meeting focused on the draft "Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics" that defines "agriculture" in a broader sense to include crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. The strategy aims to build on the draft to improve it through open discussion among expert providers and users of agricultural statistics. It provides the vision for national and international statistical systems to produce basic data and information to guide decision-making required for the 21st century. The vision includes the following:

- Countries will agree upon a minimum set of core data that meet the emerging demands, and all will pledge to provide annually;
- Agriculture will be integrated into the national statistical systems in order to meet policy maker and other data user expectations that the data will be comparable across countries and over time, a blue print for integration of agriculture into the national statistical system in the course of the design and implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and a basis for national statistical organizations and line ministries to combine forces to advocate for additional resources and funding for agricultural statistics. And
- The integration will be achieved by an agreed upon suite of methodology that includes the development of a Master Sam-

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ple Frame for agriculture, the implementation of an Integrated Survey Framework, and with the results available in an Integrated Database.

Key issues were addressed and appropriate recommendations made on them, including recommendations on included policy issues in the global economy and strategic plan for agricultural statistics, data requirements and conceptual framework for agricultural statistics, assessment of countries agricultural statistical systems, determining the menu of indicators and a core set, integration of agricultural statistics into national statistical systems, survey framework, governance issues in the implementation of the strategic plan for agricultural statistics and statistical capacity building.



Opening address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique, Her Excellency Mrs Luisa Dias Diogo



The Honourable Minister of Agriculture,
 The President of the National Institute of Statistics,
 FAO Representative in Mozambique and in the Kingdom of Swaziland,
 Director of Statistics Division of FAO – Rome,
 Members of the Diplomatic Corp in Mozambique,
 Dear Delegates and Guests,
 Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique and on my own behalf, I address you and greet all delegates and guests of the International Statistical Institute Satellite Conference on Agricultural Statistics which takes place in Maputo, the capital city of the Republic of Mozambique, as an inte-

gral part of the International Statistical Statistics Congress which for the first time takes place in Sub-Saharan Africa, in Durban, Republic of South Africa.

Special greetings go to all foreign delegations and guests and in particular, those delegates and guests who have come to Mozambique for the first time; the pearl of the Indian Ocean, which is always ready to receive visitors.

For us, Mozambicans, it's a great honour to host this conference on agricultural statistics since it may contribute to increasing the visibility of our country within the technical-scientific community in the area of statistics in general and of agricultural statistics in particular. We think that the choice of Mozambique to hold this conference was wise and opportune not only because this country attaches great importance to agriculture, which represents about 22% of its GDP and which has a role to play and an enormous contribution to the food security of its populations, but also because, with the advent of the peace, the country is undergoing positive transformations and considerable progress in actions to fight poverty, food insecurity and for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The country is well on the path of development and strengthening of democracy and the participation of all citizens, either individually or through several representative groups, and organizations from the civil society. Their participation has been systematically stimulated by our Government.

In Mozambique, we are aware of the world food crisis situation which from some years ago up to now, has affected our planet and we believe in the role that agriculture has been playing and may continue to play not only to mitigate the present crisis but also to improve continually the food security situation and reduce the absolute poverty levels of the world population.

Of course, it is a challenge for most of our countries to make agriculture more efficient so that there can be improvements in the production of crop and livestock, production of textiles for clothing, bio-fuels, raw material for agro-industry all of which is required for a growing world population and to get hundreds of millions of people out of the undernourishment and food insecurity, chronic hunger and absolute poverty to acceptable standards of living.

According to FAO estimates, in 2007 more than 920 million people in the world were undernourished and by 2010 it is projected that the number of undernourished will exceed 960 million, which contradicts the expectations of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). About 65% of undernourished people in the world live in seven countries of Asia and Africa.

According to the World Development Report (WDR) 3/4 of the poor in the developing countries live in rural areas and most of them rely on agriculture for their livelihood.

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According to our statistics, Mozambique in 2008 about 31% out of 3.7 million of rural and peri-urban households were experiencing hunger throughout the year. In 2005, the proportion of households that experienced hunger was about 38%. Nowadays, the chronic food insecurity has reached about 35% of the population in the country. This is the reason why the Government of Mozambique attaches great importance to agriculture which is consecrated in our constitution as a base for economic development of the country, recognising that this sector has a great contribution to give in programmes for fighting hunger and food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty.

This importance is demonstrable in actions and interventions of the Government of Mozambique aiming at stimulating the development of agriculture, of which the ongoing Green Revolution Strategy and Action Plan for Food Production can be pointed out, being both of them the instruments for reversing the food and nutritional insecurity situation in the country through increased agricultural production. Significant additional financial, material and human resources have been allocated in the last 2 years to the agricultural sector in order to increase the production of food.

In Mozambique and other developing countries where the agriculture plays an important role in food security or in national economies, the agricultural productivity and the level of rationality, sustainability and efficiency in the use of natural resources in agriculture are far from being satisfactory.

In order to reverse the prevailing situation of existence of high levels of the population living with insufficiency of food and food insecurity, appropriate policies and innovative interventions should be designed and implemented at various levels in our countries in order to make a radical transformation in agricultural production, raising more and more the agricultural productivity, improving the supply and distribution of food, improving its access and use by the populations. In this manner, we can say that we are contributing to the construction of a better world, a world of greater equity and social justice.

We are convinced that for these policies and intervention strategies to be realistic and appropriate for developing agriculture and improving the food security, they should have as unavoidable pillar quality and up-to-date statistical information, which serves as indispensable support for taking informed decisions as well as sustaining the agricultural research.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We want to assure you that the Government of Mozambique supports fully the initiative and actions of agricultural statistics scientists and professionals in search of technical and methodological solutions which enable the production, in a sustainable manner, of quality statistical data and information and making it available in a timely manner to different types of users, and in particular to public planners and decision makers.

We are fully identified with the objective of this Conference which is to make a global strategy for improving agricultural and rural statistics, and integrating agricultural and rural statistical system into the national statistical system. The Government of Mozambique supports actions leading to the integration of the statistical system, which enable the production of timely data to be used in monitoring the implementation of programmes and plans for developing agriculture and rural economies as well as in monitoring the food security and interventions for fighting poverty. We also think that the requirements for quality statistical data and information in the area of agriculture, food security, natural resources management and aquaculture which take into account gender and environmental considerations, including climatic change and other transversal aspects, should be reviewed so that they are adjusted and the methodologies are updated in order to meet the demand for more and more sophisticated and quality information for meeting the challenges of 21 century. We think that this is a big challenge. We also think that the following are challenges for the agricultural statistics experts, cooperation partners and governments, among others:

1. Production of reliable, non-conflicting, comparable statistics, available in a timely manner, which also meet the needs of users at lower levels, for example at district level, where the policies and strategies are implemented, enabling the interventions for fighting food insecurity and poverty to become more concrete;
2. Elaboration and implementation of statistical development strategic plans with an integrated perspective for improving the statistical coordination;
3. Availability of financial, material and human resources adequate for the strengthening of statistical systems.

At last, we want to express our thanks to all organizers of this conference, either international or national. We also address our gratitude to the cooperation partners represented here and others as well as to international consultants and researchers who have given systematically their support to actions for the fortification of statistics in general and the agricultural statistics in particular. We express our special gratitude to FAO which, untiringly and with recognized professionalism, has been providing its technical and methodological support to all countries and particularly to the developing countries which are the most needy in the fortification of their statistical systems.

Allow me, finally, to wish that the conference success and to hope that it achieves its objectives.

I hereby declare the International Statistical Institute Satellite Conference on Agricultural Statistics open.

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The ISI 2009 and the Implementation of SNA 2008

Elias Fisseha, African Centre for Statistics

The System of National Accounts (SNA) is a set of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, classifications and accounting rules. It provides a comprehensive framework within which economic data can be compiled and presented in a format that is designed for the purpose of economic analysis, decision-taking and policy-making. The SNA 2008 is the third major updated version of the system. It is prepared by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) which consists of five organizations: The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Statistical office of European Communities (Eurostat), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank.

The colourfully celebrated 57th International Statistical Institute (ISI 2009) conference in Durban, South Africa has taken the implementation of the SNA 2008 as one of its main statistical agenda. At the conference many National Accounts Statisticians from all parts of the world gathered and debated on the implementation strategy, the consequences and the joint actions needed for the full implementation.

It is obvious that the quick implementation of SNA 2008 requires highly skilled expertise in the area of National Accounts and advanced statistical system. Some developed countries (Australia, Canada and USA) have started the preparation for the full implementation of SNA 2008. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will be the first in the world to release the National Accounts series based on the SNA 2008 and the newly adopted Balance of Payment Manual (BPM 6) in September 2009. Following this, Canada and USA are in preparation to release the series in 2013 and other members of the OECD countries in 2015. The United Nations Statistical Commission has given ISWGNA the mandate to prepare the global implementation strategy consisting of detailed regional plans with the objectives of:

- Promoting international coordination among development partners;
- Implementing regional programmes, guidelines and procedures for coordination, monitoring and reporting;
- Strengthening national statistical capacity for national accounts and related basic statistics; and
- Advocating the use of national accounts and statistics in general for policy purposes.

This implementation strategy is guided by three distinct principles:

- Strategic planning;
- Coordination, monitoring and reporting; and
- Improving statistical system.

Strategic planning is a key instrument to enhance financial support for investment in statistics which ensures countries to produce data needed for monitoring their own development plan.

Coordination, monitoring and reporting is the coordinated action of national, regional and international organizations to jointly implement a common plan.

The statistical system will be enhanced by using a common international, regional and national programme for the implementation of the SNA 2008 and related economic statistics. This includes organizing meetings and workshops, technical cooperation, manual preparation as well as the application of common software.

Although the significance of implementing SNA 2008 is immense, many African countries are lagging far behind from the developed countries in statistics due to lack of resources for statistical development and various institutional bottlenecks. The implementation of SNA 2008 requires the full implementation of the Balance of Payment Manual (BPM 6) and the International Standard Industrial Classification of all economic activities (ISIC Rev.4) and Central Product Classification (CPC Ver.2). But most African countries are in the process of applying BPM 3 and ISIC Rev.3 which complicates the implementation of SNA 2008. In collaboration with international organizations, the African Development Bank has started the initiative for implementing SNA 2008 for African countries but much has to be done on the advocacy and capacity building fronts.



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l'Institut International de la Statistique (IIS)

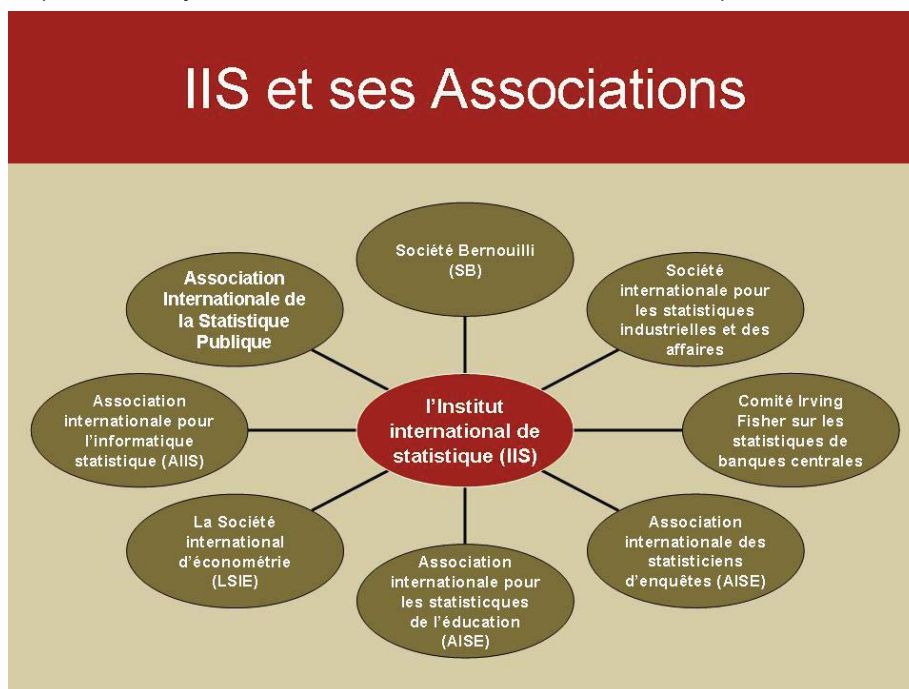
Etabli en 1985, l'Institut International de la Statistique (IIS) est une des plus vieilles associations scientifiques fonctionnant dans le monde moderne. Son succès peut être attribué à la demande d'informations statistiques de qualité dans tous les pays du monde, son leadership dans le développement des méthodes statistiques et leur applications et à l'engagement collectif de ses membres.

Son influence se note dans les améliorations d'une les informations et analyses des secteurs économique, social, biologique et industriel. Son influence dans le domaine industriel se traduit par les pratiques statistiques avancées résultant dans l'assurance qualité améliorée. L'IIS est également fier de son appui constant au progrès statistique dans les pays en développement.

Les activités de l'institut sont financées par des dons d'organisations inter-gouvernementales, de gouvernements, d'autorités locales, de fondations, du secteur privé et autres institutions.

L'IIS regroupe plus de 2.000 membres élus qui sont internationalement reconnus comme des leaders de référence dans le domaine statistique. Ses membres proviennent de plusieurs disciplines utilisant la statistique comme outil et sont ressortissants de plus de 130 pays.

A ce reservoir d'expertise, il faut ajouter environ 3.000 membres individuels des sections spécialisées de l'Institut.



L'IIS publie une variété de livres, journaux, bulletins d'information et de rapports professionnels à la pointe du développement de la connaissance statistique contemporaine.

Le Bureau permanent de L'Institut se trouve à La Haye, Pays-bas (en tant que société à responsabilité limitée). L'institut a un statut consultatif auprès du Conseil économique et social des Nations unies (ECOSOC) et de l'Organisation scientifique et culturel des Nations unies (UNESCO).

L'IIS est spécialement reconnu pour ses réunions biennales au cours desquelles tous ses membres se réunissent pour échanger des idées, développer de nouveaux liens et discuter des nouvelles tendances et autres développements du monde statistique.

(Courtoisie du site Web de l'IIS)



II. CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS - CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Highlights on the Technical Deliberations of the Regional Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Workshop Held in Tanzania

Genevieve Bizuneh, African Centre for Statistics

Cognizant of the increasing national, regional and global population and health statistics data demands and recognizing the shortcomings of indirect estimation techniques in generating current and routine vital statistics information in Africa, the African Centre for Statistics of the UNECA, jointly with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and In-Went organized a regional workshop entitled "Regional Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa" in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 29 June to 3 July 2009. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) of the United Republic of Tanzania jointly hosted the workshop.



Participants of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Workshop

The regional workshop was attended by representatives of 40 African countries, regional statistical training institutions, regional and sub-regional and international organizations. The five days workshop was organized with the long-term objective of promoting and strengthening the capacities of National Civil Registration Offices and National Statistics Offices in Africa that enable them to produce accurate, reliable and timely registration-based statistics and indicators for measuring development progress and social changes in the countries. The technical deliberations of the workshop started with the introduction and orientation of the UN principles and recommendations on civil registration and vital statistics systems, followed by small group discussions on challenges and opportunities on civil registration laws, government policies and procedures towards civil registration and the institutional interface between civil registration and vital statistics offices. Few countries identified to share their experience presented critical challenges and opportunities they encountered in the improvement of the systems. Techni-

cal papers focusing on the contribution and necessity of death and causes of death statistics and the application of evidence-based legislation technique in drafting civil registration laws in Africa were presented by experts from the respective fields.

In the following, major issues reflected in some of the papers presented in the regional workshop are highlighted.

Experts from the UNSD and Health Metrics Network (HMN) introduced the participants to the globally acknowledged principles and recommendations and the accompanying guidelines and tools prepared for the establishment and development of civil registration and vital statistics systems in the developing world. Mr. Srdjan Mrkic, Chief for Social and Housing Statistics Section of the UNSD delivered five presentations on conceptual, organizational, data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination and evaluation methods of civil registration and vital statistics systems. Dr. Yoko Akachi an expert from HMN/WHO supplemented one of the presentations on causes of death.

The vital events recommended by the United Nations to be registered by member states include: live birth, death, foetal death, marriage, divorce, annulment, judicial separation, adoption, legitimation and recognition. The presenter summarized the three basic functions of civil registration as legal, administrative and statistical. The presenter following the UN principles defined civil registration in short as universal, continuous, permanent and compulsory recording of vital events. It was also indicated that civil registration should be a state-run institution with primary responsibility of providing official and permanent records serving general and individual interests. The presenter listed civil registration outputs in two main categories, those relevant to an individual and those of aggregate outputs. The individual record types and their purposes are related to individuals and to the society while the aggregate to the compilation and production of statistical information. The presenter demonstrated the values of the individual records in the protection and safeguarding of various human rights provisions as provided, specifically in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The implications and consequences of lack of registration records were also revealed to be sources in denying and abuses of basic human rights. In this respect, the presenter brought some basic rights and privileges as example in demonstrating how absence

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of the records affects individuals and societies and their implication for governments and administrations in properly administering and provision of services to their citizens. Some of these basic rights include the right to own identity, right to non-discrimination by reason of birth, right to education, right to health, right to marry and right to vote and get elected.

The other dimension of the importance of civil registration was indicated in relation to its value as best source of vital statistics, which is essential for planning and providing the numerical profile of a country's population. The presenter demonstrated the effects of lack of complete civil registration using example of population estimates from two different sources that resulted in a huge difference on the statistics produced. The inter-linkages and interdependence of civil registration, governance, human rights and vital statistics are summarized as follows: -

- Good and efficient governance must be based on informed decisions;
- Civil registration is, without doubt, the best source for accurate and reliable vital statistics;
- Ensuring basic human right is crucial for the normal functioning and governing of societies worldwide;
- The exercise of many human rights depends directly on the existence of the functioning civil registration system;
- Efficient and legitimate governing at all levels requires civil registration for its legal implications – citizenship, for example;
- The lack of vital statistics directly affects the exercise of human right.

Mr. Srdjan discussed the technical details, specifically the type of variables and information collected, the techniques used in the calculation of the indices and how to use them in the analysis of fertility and mortality measures and indicators. He showed for the participants the different ways the preparation of the recording and the statistical reports is practiced in different countries. The need for coordination and integration within and between civil registration and vital statistics systems has been an issue reflected as major challenge in the African context. Three component aspects of coordination were treated in the presentation: a) coordination within the civil registration system, b) coordination within the vital statistics system and c) coordination and interface between the two systems. The presence of interface between the two institutions and keeping operational integration is explained as a requirement for improving the coverage and accuracy of civil registration and availability and quality of vital statistics, generated from the civil registration system. The essence and requirements of coordination in a centralized or decentralized administration of civil registration was presented considering its implication in the implementation of laws, keeping

standards, defining registration procedures, data quality and dissemination of information. Good communication was seen as the best tool and requirement for making coordination functional and effective.

It is a well recognized fact that almost all African countries have not managed in having complete and reliable mortality and causes of death statistics that can be used in measuring and monitoring the progress in the health status and progress of countries, specifically MDG indicators and targets. The presentation made by Dr. Yoko Akachi from the HMN/WHO focused on problems associated with data collection on critical health variables and indicators, which she called it a scandal of ignorance, specifically in the area of adult mortality and causes of death. The presenter raised some critical questions on the need and importance of death and causes of death information. For instance, the following were indicated among the necessities for causes of death information for a country:

- To know who dies from what?
- To guide policy decisions, because it is the basis for health information:
 - To set priorities
 - To evaluate programmes
 - To support research
 - To inform individual family members
- Because it is a subject of well-governed state responsible for its people.

The shortcomings of the currently available data sources in the developing world for the critical MDG indicators, that is, under-five mortality rate, maternal mortality ratio and HIV, malaria, tuberculosis related mortality rates, were demonstrated and hence the need for the availability of conventional civil registration system was emphasized. The presenter made comparison of the various available data sources for births, child mortality, adult mortality and causes of death in a matrix form where she demonstrated that it is civil registration that meets all the data demands at national and lower administrations and in differential analysis. Accordingly, the presenter confirmed that civil registration is the only way to ensure comprehensive, continuous, permanent and compulsory population coverage data for birth and death and also it is the only means of generating public health information that confers benefit (social, civil and political rights) to the people who are the source of the data. Dr. Yoko further argued that civil registration is the gold standard source of data for cause-of-death information. Dr. Yoko further introduced the concept, definition and application of verbal autopsy (VA) an approach used in the absence of medical certification. VA is used to determine cause of death by asking care-givers, friends, or family members about signs and symptoms experienced by the deceased in the period before death usually done using standard questionnaires.

II. CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS - CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Integrating stringent assessment measurements on the completeness and reliability of civil registration and vital statistics systems is one of the recommendations of the UN that countries should package in their effort of improving the systems. To maintain the goal of universal coverage, continuity and quality of registration systems, registration and statistics offices are required to apply appropriate and conventional evaluation methods on ad-hoc and continuous basis. Based on these premises the presenter, Mr. Srdjan shared with participants the different evaluation methods developed and recommended by the UN and others. Accordingly, the technical details and varieties of the direct and indirect evaluation methods are presented. Finally, countries were advised to properly orient and train their staff on the available UN resources on civil registration and vital statistics systems and adopt and apply them in their endeavor to improve the systems in their countries. The presenter further introduced the content and essence of each of the six handbooks and how to access them.

The official speeches delivered by various speakers during the opening of the workshop addressed the need for revising and updating the outdated laws currently prevailing in the developing countries, including African countries. The statements, specifically mentioned that most laws in Africa are inherited from colonial powers and are being implemented without major improvements. The need to align them to the current realities of Africa was taken as a serious call for action for countries to make every effort in updating their civil registration laws. Accordingly, the presentation by Prof. Ann Seidman from Boston University introduced the methodologies and application of evidence-based law drafting technique supported with an elaborated demonstration of the limitation and practices of currently available traditional law drafting approaches. Evidence-based law drafting technique requires first to conduct legislative research study and prepare a comprehensive legislative research report, the basis and source document for preparing the draft law. The presenter explained to the participants the shortcomings of current practices of law drafting that lacks theory or methodology for conceptualizing how to draft evidence-based law that will help resolve targeted social problems. She further presented the final outcome and drawbacks of law drafting without theory or methodology that result to fall in one of the four 'entropic' drafting methods: interest group bargaining; copying law from another country, regardless of differing circumstances; criminalizing unwanted behaviors; or drafting in vague, ambiguous terms which grant the relevant social actors discretion to behave as they wish. Prof. Ann introduced the four steps in gathering evidence to design effectively implementable legislation, which was developed through the Institutional Legislative Theory and Methodology for Evidence-based Legislation (ILTAM) and showed the applications to civil registration laws.



Excerpts of Opening Speeches and Statements of the Regional Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa

Genene Bizuneh, African Centre for Statistics

The regional workshop on civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa was officially opened by Honorable Lawrence K. Masha (MP), Minister of Home Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania. Honorable Mr. Hailu, Minister of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also addressed an opening statement to the gathering, followed by Mr. Lehohla, Chairperson of the UN Statistical Commission and the Statistical Commission for Africa and Statistician General of Statistics South Africa delivered a keynote speech to the workshop. Representatives of the UNECA, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) have delivered opening statements on behalf of their organizations. The opening session was started by a welcoming remark of Ms. Albina Chuwa, Director General of the National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania on behalf of the host country.

Excerpts from the Opening Remark of Ms. Albina Chuwa, Director General of the National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania

The Director General started her speech by extending a special welcome to the guest of honor and Mr. Hailu, Minister of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. She also welcomed representatives of the ECA, the UN, and the AfDB. The Director General re-iterated the challenges African National Statistics Offices are facing due to the incompleteness and inadequacy of the civil registration and vital statistics systems currently prevailing in most countries of Africa. She expressed the situation addressing the following serious messages: "...today National Statistics Offices are facing a lot of challenges on the production of official statistics for better and evidence based planning. One way of alleviating this problem is by collecting official statistics through the civil registration and vital statistics systems. However, every one of us here knows that the civil registration and vital statistics systems of many African countries are not functioning well, leading to difficulties and challenges when faced with the need of reliable source of statistics especially on vital events." She also continued referring the timeliness and importance of the current workshop by stating that: "The workshop is unique in the sense that it is meant to build the capacity of statisticians, demographers, government officials and policy makers in the area of civil registration and vital statistics. In particular the workshop is expected to improve the participant's knowledge and understanding of the civil registration and vital statistics systems and their roles in measuring development progress and social change in Africa as well as establishing civil registration and vital statistics systems network to provide a regional platform of exchanging of views, ideas and best practices."

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Excerpts from the Opening Statement of Prof. Kiregyera the Director of the African Centre for Statistics of the ECA

Prof. Kiregyera on behalf of the organizers of the workshop and the ECA extended a special thanks to the two ministers, the Minister of Home Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Minister of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The Director made a very comprehensive and enlightening speech that brought to the attention of the participants of the workshop the following: the importance of the systems, the varied implications and impacts the ignorance brought in the past four decades and the urgency in ensuring the presence of a universal and complete civil registration and reliable vital statistics systems in every nation of Africa. The Director said that at the moment only few African countries have satisfactory systems, where he stated: *"...at the turn of the third millennium, few countries in Africa and Asia have complete civil registration systems. In the case of Africa, only two small island countries of Mauritius and Seychelles have complete registration of births, deaths and causes of death. South Africa is another African country where registration of births and deaths is high but its cause of death data are suspect." The Director called this ignorance "scandal of immense proportion" quoting the expression used by the Working Group on Monitoring Vital events: "A scandal of Invisibility" because "Most people in Africa and Asia are born and die without leaving a trace in any legal record or official statistics. Absence of reliable data for births, deaths and causes of death are at the root of this scandal of invisibility, which renders most of the world's poor as unseen, unaccountable and hence uncounted".*

Prof. Kiregyera continued to assess the main reasons why civil registration systems are weak in Africa. He stated two major reasons leaving the details for the workshop to dwell on them. He put the two main reasons in the following statements: *"the main actors in the development of civil registration systems – the Registrar Generals' Offices, the Ministries of Health and the National Statistical Offices - have focused more on the products of the system than the long-term development of the system. For instance, many National Statistical Offices in Africa are developing National Strategies for the Development of Statistics to guide and accelerate statistical development. Many of these strategies do not adequately address the need to put civil registration systems on the front burner. Secondly, there has been little political will and commitment to develop effective civil registration systems in Africa."*

Prof. Kiregyera further mentioned the limitations of training institutions and professional associations in building the African knowledge base in civil registration and vital statistics systems and also indicated his future expectations from these organizations in the following words: *"It is also important to mention that Statistical Training Institutions and National Statistical Associations have not done enough to promote civil registration systems in Africa. In some training institutions, this subject is not on the curriculum. In the near future, it is my expectation that statistical training centres*

which are represented at this workshop will take note of this huge gap in their training programmes and collaborate with the African Centre for Statistics and the African Development Bank in developing appropriate curriculum for proactively intervening and supporting our nations to develop and strengthen their civil registration systems. National Statistical Associations should also do more to advocate for resources to strengthen civil registration systems."

Prof. Kiregyera further stressed his discontent about past peace-meal and project type initiatives that contradict to the permanence and continuous nature and operational characteristics of civil registration, where he requested for the cooperation of all development partners to look for new approaches and initiatives that this workshop tries to address. Finally, Prof. Kiregyera expressed his organization's commitment in the following concluding statements: *"Let me state without equivocation that the African Centre for Statistics has taken civil registration and vital statistics systems as one important pillar in its strategy to change the statistical landscape in Africa in order to meet the data challenges of the 21st century including data for informing national development programmes and plans as well as the MDGs."*

Excerpts from the Opening Statement of Mr. Mrkic, Chief of Social and Housing Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division

Representing the United Nations Statistics Division, Mr. Mrkic, addressed the workshop focusing on the importance of civil registration and vital statistics systems and its position in the UN Statistical System. Mr. Mrkic appreciated the theme the workshop had identified "Towards New Initiatives and Approaches" stressing the need for Africa to re-iterate its commitment in establishing the system firmly in the region. He indicated the importance and the place civil registration and vital statistics takes in the UN statistical system in the following statements: *"civil registration is the best source of detailed, accurate, relevant and timely vital statistics – is a guiding principle that the United Nations Statistics Division adopted since its inception in late 1940's and started to focus more closely and specifically implement in the past two decades. And vital statistics is crucial and irreplaceable component of national statistical systems as it generates numerical profile of the most precious resource of any country – its human capital. This paradigm of relationship of civil registration and vital statistics was unambiguously endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission, the apex body of international statistics,..."* Mr. Mrkic mentioned the differences between the various provisional methods being exercised in the absence of civil registration system and the conventional vital statistics method using the following strong words: *"there are several methods of obtaining critical vital statistics. Yet, none is able to generate small area, detailed, annual, reliable, and continuous vital statistics as the civil registration. And that is the principal reason for the national statistical system to care very closely about the state of the art of the civil registration system in the country."* Mr. Mrkic

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proposed three main actions that need to be taken in improving the situation in Africa: *“providing training on the implementation of the United Nations guidelines and international standards on civil registration and vital statistics, assessing the current status of civil registration and vital statistics systems in participating countries, and establishing the African Network of Civil Registrars and Vital Statisticians.”* Finally, Mr. Mrkic re-iterated the commitment of the UN in general, and the Statistics Division in particular, to continue strongly and consistently support the work at national, sub-regional and regional level to achieve the goals set for the region. He also expressed his appreciation to all the development partners present in the workshop in supporting of Africa in improving the very incomplete and weak civil registration and vital statistics systems currently prevailing in the region.

Excerpts from the Opening Statement of Mr. Lufumpa, the Director of the Statistics Department of the African Development Bank Group

In his opening statement, Dr. Lufumpa expressed the commitment of AfDB to support and emancipate African countries from the situation he referred as an awful and sad condition that civil registration and vital statistics remain underdeveloped and in bad shape in most African countries. Dr. Lufumpa expressed his impression about the necessity and timeliness of the workshop by stating how it is coincided with various development initiatives going on in the continent, where he said: *“This meeting is a doubly auspicious one for Africa. It comes at a time when major development initiatives are being pursued at the global and regional levels, when the international community is giving serious attention to Africa’s development problems and is prepared to scale up the flow of investment resources, particularly ODA and debt relief, to the continent to help African countries make real progress towards achieving the MDGs. It also comes at a time when African countries and their development partners are putting great stress on not only scaling up resources to the continent but also ensuring their development effectiveness. Emphasis is being placed on achieving measurable results on the ground, on evidence based planning and on putting mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating development results. This clearly has placed statistics at the center of these development initiatives and in particular with regard to monitoring progress towards MDGs, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics play a critical role especially in between census rounds.”*

Dr. Lufumpa concluded his statement by stating the AfDB’s commitment in the following way: *“For its part, the African Development Bank stands ready to play a key role in providing the necessary financial and technical support for improving statistics in African countries, including civil registration and vital statistics which we are emphasizing as part of our efforts to improve MDG monitoring on the continent. In these efforts, we are working very closely with our valued partners, ECA.”*

Excerpts from the Keynote Address of Mr. Lehohla, Chairperson of the UN Statistical Commission; Chairperson, Statistical Commission for Africa and Statistician General, South Africa

Mr. Lehohla through his delegate delivered an extensive, educative and comprehensive keynote statement to the workshop. Mr. Lehohla started his speech by thanking the organizers, specifically for bringing together representatives from the Ministries or Agencies in charge of civil or vital registration systems and representatives from National Statistics Offices (NSOs). Mr. Lehohla gave a general background on the historical development of civil registration and vital statistics systems globally and in Africa in particular. In his background statement, he comprehensively assessed the recognition of the importance and development of vital registration, since the London Bills of Mortality in 1592 and consecutive developments in England of more formal and systematic registration in 1603. He mentioned the contribution of John Graunt in 1662, which he called the founding classic of the modern sciences of vital statistics and epidemiology. He further reviewed the vital registration historical developments in various European countries, including the Netherlands back in 1575, in Sweden 1608, in Norway 1748, in France 1792, in England and Wales 1837, in Ireland 1845, in New Zealand 1848, in Scotland 1855 and also in North America in the United States 1632 and Canada 1860.

Mr. Lehohla reminded participants that currently civil registration and vital statistics in the contemporary developed countries is complete and published figures on fertility, mortality and causes of death are up to the standard. Mr. Lehohla tried to show the parallel situation in Africa, where he demonstrated the colonial influence in most African countries by witnessing the historical development and experience in Mauritius (since 1667), Ghana (1888), Tanzania (1920), Uganda (1904) and South Africa (1842). Mr. Lehohla revealed the discriminations practiced in registering vital events by the colonial powers on the Africans, where in most cases Africans were not allowed and included in the registration system before independence. He further testified reviewing the situation in his own country where it was only from 1986 that the vital record registrations included the black population group in South Africa. He also mentioned Ethiopia and Malawi among countries that do not have functioning civil registration and vital statistics systems and also those countries where their civil registration operation affected by civil war and conflict, like Sierra Leone and Rwanda. Mr. Lehohla concluded the background part of his speech by summarizing some of the lessons that need to be drawn: *(1) registration of vital events took place in an incremental manner, that is, registration started with one event, followed by one more and so on; (2) registration started to cover only a portion of the population, before it extended to all people; (3) African countries are still lagging behind in their civil registration systems; (4) systems may be in place but may be affected by armed conflicts and political instability.*

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Mr. Lehohla continued his speech presenting on the importance, challenges and opportunities of civil registration and vital statistics in Africa. Though the system provides legal evidences that testifies a person's identity, serves in protection of several human right privileges and as critical data source for policy makers and in designing and provision of social, economic and administrative services, he also brought the Rwandan abuses and misuse of civil registration records to commit targeted atrocities and discrimination. Mr. Lehohla identified which he thought as critical problems and challenges that makes the systems inefficient in Africa as follows:

- *Inadequate registration facilities*
- *Lack of motivation to register on the part of the population due to ignorance about the importance of registration, leading to low levels of registration*
- *Delays in registration of events*
- *Inadequate field personnel*
- *Lack of infrastructure*
- *Delays of administrative procedures in force*
- *Poor management of data on vital records and poor preservation of vital records on civil registration*
- *Multiple registrations*
- *Unavailability of data processing and analysis tools*
- *Poor quality of data*
- *Penalty for late registration of events*

All these above problems, Mr. Lehohla said, which are not exhaustive, cause the data collected in Africa to be unreliable, outdated and lead to lack of information needed for decision-making and for development planning. He also mentioned what the ignorance cost Africa in the past 50 years, by quoting from AbouZahr's statements, *"collecting statistics may seem expensive, but it is much more expensive to misallocate your resources because you don't have good data"*.

Mr. Lehohla in his extensive keynote address reminded representatives of national statistical offices on their role and responsibilities in strengthening civil registration systems and production of vital statistics, which he referred the experience and speedy progress achieved in his country in the coverage and completeness since post-Apartheid. He specifically emphasized the need and necessity for close collaboration between the different government departments such as the Department of Social Development and the Department of Education that contributes indirectly by requiring birth certificates when administering the childcare grant and school registration, respectively, which is also the case with the issue of a burial order by traditional leaders and local government authorities.

Concerning the advantages and benefits that would be gained from the current developments on ICT in improving civil registration in a developing world, Mr. Lehohla thoroughly presented the experience of South Africa and advised countries to grab IT as an opportunity and enabler in their civil registration improvement agenda. He put the situation as follows: *"South Africa has also benefited from ICT development. Internet and wireless technology have reduced the time for transferring registration data between registration points, producers and users. As with any form of record keeping, the civil registration system has to have the ability to store, file, abstract, and retrieve records. This has been shown in countries such as Chile, Thailand, and India that have made large investments in ICT over the last decade or so. Another example is Mauritius which has achieved exceptional levels of civil registration coverage-it has a fully computerized system. Conversely, the industrialized countries took a long time to have the best systems due to limited technological developments in the past. It is important to note that ICT will be a vital registration enabler only to the extent to which the confidentiality of information continues to be maintained."*

Mr. Lehohla stressed and detailed the role and responsibilities of national statistical offices in improving civil registration and the need for them to be more outward looking, where he said: *"It is important for national statistical agencies to be outward looking and embrace a system approach, especially in providing leadership to line ministries undertaking civil registration in the application of collection standards, data management protocols and associated, concepts and definitions. Once systems are in place, then quality products would follow."* He further elaborated on the need for the establishment of national coordination mechanism and the required working modalities in the following statements: *"At the national level, coordination committee made up of representatives of each government group with an interest in civil registration and vital statistics (for example, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Health, National Statistics Office, etc.) must be set-up. In addition, there must be an establishment of expert teams to critically review their national civil registration systems in terms of the legal framework, organizational issues, system design, training needs and control issues. This inter agency body should also provide leadership in securing political commitment to vital registration especially commitment to long term funding of the system. It must also promote civil registration through advocacy and, also focusing on identified hard-to-reach populations and ensuring that the public trust the system."*

In his final concluding remarks, Mr. Lehohla stressed the value, linkages and impacts of civil registration records in measuring development results as follows: *"Managing for results incorporates strategies for both Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs), and for targeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as other national development plans and programmes which aim to make an impact on the development performance in developing*

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countries. It is important that countries recognize that civil registration is a developmental and human rights issue and our ability to monitor progress in this regard will depend on functional vital registration system and availability of reliable and timely vital statistics."

Excerpts from the Opening Statement of Honorable Mr. Hailu, Minister of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Honorable Minister, Mr. Hailu addressed the participants of the workshop in his opening statement about his government's commitment in establishing and developing conventional civil registration and vital statistics systems following the UN principles and recommendations. Mr. Hailu expressed his regrets that his country has not had a functioning civil registration law until this date and indicated the challenges the country facing in addressing data and information needs in national and sectoral development planning and programme design, implementation and monitoring. In the initiatives currently going on in establishing the registration and statistics systems in the country, Mr. Hailu expressed his belief about the objectives and the essences of the systems and their differing character from previous attempts in the following phrases: *"We do believe that civil registration should be developed with the objective of serving the people, especially the most disadvantaged and the majority of the rural population. We also believe that civil registration is about ensuring and safeguarding the basic human rights enshrined in the Constitution of the country. Civil registration is also about improving the efficiency and fairness of the justice system. It is also about facilitating the health, education and other social services to the public. Furthermore, civil registration is about provision of vital statistics data and information, primarily to the local administration and service providers at the community level. Since past practices and exercises of civil registration have not been addressing the above mentioned major components, we agreed to re-engineer the system and put it on the right track."*

The Minister, with strong words expressed the impact rendered due to lack of the systems in the country and the implications of further delays by stating the following necessities and compulsory situations:

- *as government we should know the people we serve;*
- *our planning and budgeting system has its own deficiencies due to the limitations of the census;*
- *the national identity and security system needs legal records of our citizens;*
- *the court system in order to provide speedy justice, requires properly registered evidences of occurrences of vital events;*
- *some basic rights and privileges of citizens enshrined in the Constitution for their proper implementation require records of vital event registration; and*

- *our health extension workers in the communities could not effectively deliver life saving services without systematically recorded birth and death registration information.*

The Honorable Minister further noted on the currently prevailing conducive programmatic and administrative arrangements and political situation in establishing the registration system in the country. He further expressed about the studies and researches conducted in addressing technical and operational preparatory activities that would facilitate the implementation of the various components of the registration and vital statistics systems. Specifically, he mentioned the need for taking advantages of parallel sectoral development programmes and the need for integration and collaboration with other departments in ensuring the sustainability and permanence of the systems. For instance, the need for the civil registration to benefit from the ICT developments was specifically mentioned as follows: *"The government of Ethiopia gives more emphasis and priority to the application and adaptation of latest Information and Technology solutions in all arenas of development programmes and poverty alleviation strategies. The government already started implementing wereda/district-net programme that will connect the over 700 woredas/districts of the country with IT technology that in the near future will scale-up to cover and connect over 20 thousand kebele administrations. Such parallel technology advancements will lend its resources to civil registration operations at the local level that will highly reduce the cost of civil registration to the lowest level."*

Finally, Mr. Hailu urged the delegates to cooperate and support each other in the following message: *"...on behalf of the government of Ethiopia, I urge delegates of this workshop whom representing Africa, to cooperate and support each other in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems that would benefit each and every individual citizen of our nations and request your commitment in promoting civil registration as priority development agenda for Africa. At this juncture, I would also urge regional and international development partners, to join hands in supporting Africa in managing this critical development intervention that promotes democracy and good governance in Africa."*

Excerpt from the Opening Speech of Honorable Lawrence K. Masha (MP), Minister for Home Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania

The Honorable Minister started his speech by warmly welcoming Hon. Berhan Hailu, Minister of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Honorable Minister, Mr. Masha in his opening speech addressed the global, regional and country level challenges and situations facing Africa and despite these shortcomings the progress achieved. In his speech, the Hon. Minister linked civil registration services and poverty eradication efforts in the following words: *"establishment and development of civil registration and vital statistics systems is one of the fundamental measures*

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that African governments must take in addressing our challenges. Civil registration mechanisms as a means of ascertaining births and deaths in a particular country would help African countries in facilitating accessibility to social services such as public schools, hospitals, social security matters and social welfare. By doing so the lives of many Africans would have been improved hence the war against poverty, diseases and literacy could become a story of the past." Mr. Masha further stated the critical role of civil registration system in the production of vital statistics information, which he stated as: "The vital statistics that are compiled from the civil registration systems enables compiling annual vital rates, such as birth rates, death rates, causes of death and the expectancy information that is crucial in the preparation of annual population estimates, government projection and provisions of basic health and demographic indicators, including crucial MDG indicators, like infant mortality and maternal mortality rates. Due to a lack of a civil registration system, Africa is compelled to relay on unconventional and periodic data sources such as surveys and censuses that cannot adequately account for the demographic dynamics of populations. This has brought a negative impact on the accuracy and reliability of our data sources in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of our development policies and programmes at macro as well as micro levels. It can be concluded that the statistical base of African countries cannot be established on a firm basis due to lack of efficient civil registration and vital statistics systems."

Mr. Masha further reminded country delegates on the need to ensure country ownerships of initiatives and support programmes and also on the need to work on long-term and sustainable programmes. He further said "collaboration and coordination among the various actors of civil registration and vital statistics systems are the critical element that should be maintained as a key strategy in developing the systems. In this respect, the primary responsibility for maintaining the interface or integration between the various system lies on registrars, statisticians and demographers that are gathered here today." The Minister urged African countries to reiterate and re-visit their commitments and act urgently and strategically on this long overdue critical development agenda. He further said that "Africa should look for more innovative, culturally sensitive and indigenous techniques and approaches in addressing the challenges facing the region in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems. African governments need to give more attention and support to the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems, realizing that without appropriate data and information sources, it would be hard and impractical to fully attain the objectives of the various national and sectoral reform programmes currently going on in most African countries, which otherwise would be difficult for countries to achieve their commitments in monitoring national development policies and programmes and MDG progress."

Finally, the Honorable Minister, pledged a call for action message to African leaders and scholars saying: "We, as African leaders and scholars should be ashamed of seeing our citizens coming and go-

ing without leaving traceable records in the 21 century, we should be alerted by the urgency that Africa needs to have a legal system that registers every birth as soon as it occurs, which is the first requirement in acknowledging and safeguarding the basic principles of human rights and dignity. We need also to register death as soon as it occurs, because death registration is a vital source of information for the provision of timely health services and the monitoring of the health status of the population."



Key Recommendations of the Regional Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Workshop, 29 June – 3 July 2009, Tanzania

Genene Bizuneh and Oumar Sarr, African Centre for Statistics

The "Regional Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa" that was held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania from 29 June – 3 July 2009 endorsed a very comprehensive set of key recommendations that aimed at guiding the continent towards attaining complete and sustainable systems in the member countries. The recommendations have a preamble summarizing the basic objectives, the workshop attendance and the current status and challenges Africa is facing due to the absence of adequate civil registration and reliable vital statistics in particular and development statistics in general. The key recommendations that the workshop adopted are presented in four sub-sections: advocacy, operational, technical and partnership.

Under the advocacy section of the recommendation, the three major issues reflected include: recommending "strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa" as a theme for the 2009 African Statistics Day, to call upon a high level ministerial meeting of ministers in charge of civil registration and the final one calls upon all African governments to take appropriate measures in availing the necessary resources for strengthening the systems in Africa. The operational part included recommendations on seven issues, which included on the need for countries and development partners to actively participate in the network, requesting the African Development Bank (AfDB), the UN in general and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in particular, regional training institutions, and other development partners to continue supporting Africa by providing technical, financial and other necessary resource requirements. There is also a recommendation that calls upon the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) together with AfDB and other development partners to prepare a medium term programme and the ACS to lead the process and serve as a regional platform and also to organize similar biennial regional workshop on civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa.

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On the technical aspect, the workshop recommended, among others, countries to revisit and update their civil registration laws, the need to cross-train civil registrars and statisticians and encouraged countries to use UN guidelines and recommendations on civil registration and vital statistics systems. The partnership part of the recommendation included three major issues that requested ACS and UNSD to strengthen their institutional linkages, involvement of other relevant UN agencies, NGOs, training institutions and also urged countries to mainstream civil registration and vital statistics systems in their National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) documents.

Finally, the recommendations were concluded by listing follow-up actions that indicated mainly immediate post-workshop activities, which included the preparation of a compendium of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa and preparation of a medium-term regional programme. The full content of the workshop recommendation is presented below.

Key Recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 29 June – 3 July 2009

Preamble

A Regional Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa, was held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania from 29 June – 3 July 2009. The workshop was organized jointly by the UNECA - African Centre for Statistics (ACS), UN Statistics Division (UNSD), African Development Bank (AfDB) and InWent of Germany and jointly hosted by the National Bureau of Statistics and the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) of the United Republic of Tanzania. The workshop was initiated by the ACS and the UNSD to address what has been called a Scandal of Invisibility because "many people in Africa and Asia are born and die without leaving a trace in any legal record or official statistics. Absence of reliable data for births, deaths and causes of death are at the root of this scandal of invisibility, which renders most of the world's poor as unseen, unaccountable and hence uncounted" – a scandal with serious implications for vital statistics, human and constitutional rights, property rights, policy and national development as well as MDG monitoring.

The regional workshop was attended by 140 participants drawn from national civil registration offices and National Statistics Offices (NSOs) of 40 countries and 5 regional training institutions, the UN Statistics Division, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, HMN/WHO and other development partners resident in Tanzania. Among the participants were a number of Heads of NSOs and the Minister of Justice of Ethiopia.

The workshop noted that a fully functioning civil registration system

is the source of legal identity and related information for the individual, the community and the government in claiming and safeguarding rights and privileges enshrined in national laws and international conventions and covenants. Civil registration is an instrument in facilitating health, education and other social services to individuals, families and communities. Civil registration is also the conventional and most appropriate source of vital statistics. Vital statistics are crucial and irreplaceable component of national statistical systems as they generate numerical profile of the most precious resource of any country – its human capital. Managing human capital appropriately, in turn, is an indisputable and most visible indicator of good governance or the lack of it.

The workshop noted, with utmost concern, the fact that in the majority of countries in Africa, and in almost all the countries in sub-Saharan Africa, the civil registration system operates on a sporadic and incomplete basis. In those countries, there are no adequate systems that enables citizens to be recognized by the state and hence the justice system and public administration services could not be improved in a manner that promotes development and security of citizens. Because of low coverage of civil registration systems in most African countries, some important vital rates such as life expectancy at birth, infant and child mortality rates could not be measured from vital statistics. Household surveys and censuses have been undertaken to fill the information gaps created by lack of effective vital registration systems. These are largely ad-hoc exercises and interim measures that should not be taken as long-term solutions for generating vital statistics.

Of the many components of both civil registration and vital statistics systems, only a handful of African countries can confidently claim to have well functioning systems. Whether it is the lack of adequate legal framework, low coverage of civil registration due to a number of circumstances, the non-existence of cooperation and coordination between civil registration and official statistics, low statistical capacity or simply lack of awareness of the need to develop both in a simultaneous manner, the outcome is disappointingly the absence of coherent, functioning and regular generation of accurate, reliable and timely vital statistics from the civil registration system.

Key Recommendations

The workshop adopted the following recommendations:

Advocacy

- Dedicate the Theme for the 2009 African Statistics Day to civil registration and vital statistics systems;
- All African governments are called upon to take appropriate measures in availing the necessary resources and support to civil registration and vital statistics systems;
- Explore the possibility of organizing a high-level Ministerial

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Conference on Improving Civil Registration in as near-future as possible to maintain the momentum.

Operational

- Civil Registration Offices and National Statistics Offices, development partners and regional training institutions are urged to actively participate in the regional Network on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa;
- Countries are encouraged to use as opportunities sectoral reform programmes, democratization and decentralization processes currently going on in Africa to bring civil registration services to their populations;
- All governments are strongly encouraged to revisit the topic of fees for issuing documents based on civil registration records – the Workshop reiterated that the United Nations recommend that the registration is always free of charge and that the fee for documents should be as low as possible;
- The African Development Bank, being a regional development bank, is requested to continue its support for African countries and devise a special programme that promotes speedy improvements for civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa;
- Regional training institutions are urged to take the initiative in developing appropriate curriculum for improving civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa and to actively participate in evaluation studies and research undertakings and also in strengthening the aforementioned Network;
- Countries need to proactively interact with each other to share knowledge, experience and resources using various mechanisms, such as, study tours, workshops, technical support; etc;
- Organize biennially the regional workshop on civil registration and vital statistics systems;
- African Centre for Statistics to continue leading and serving as regional platform for civil registration and vital statistics systems and in leveraging resources, technical support and coordination among countries in Africa;
- UN Statistics Division to continue its support and, in close collaboration with regional institutions in Africa and other partners, devise a special programme for Africa in general and fragile states in particular;
- African Centre for Statistics and the African Development Bank in collaboration with other development partners to develop a medium-term programme for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa;
- Countries to finalize their country action plans (drafted at the workshop) and submit them to African Centre for Statistics.

Technical

- Countries are advised and encouraged to revisit and update

their civil registration laws and statistical legislations in-line with current developments and take measures that ensure their proper implementation;

- Countries need to identify underlying reasons for the low level of civil registration in the rural areas and design strategies to overcome this low coverage, including the introduction of mobile registration units in nomadic and hard to reach areas;
- It is indispensable to ensure that both civil registrars and statisticians are fully cross-trained in basic concepts, definitions and procedures in both areas;
- Civil registration offices and NSOs are urged to collaborate and interface, and the NSOs are urged to play an active role in setting national standards and methods for civil registration and vital statistics systems;
- Countries are encouraged to use conventional methods in evaluating their civil registration and vital statistics systems and to take measures in ensuring proper utilization and documentation of their data and information;
- Countries are encouraged to use UN guidelines and recommendations as a basis for their civil registration and vital statistics improvement programme;

Partnership

- African Centre for Statistics and UN Statistics Division need to strengthen institutional linkages in facilitating integration, harmonization and coordination of efforts currently going on by various organizations at country and regional levels in order to promote cost-effective mechanisms and avoid duplication of efforts;
- Donors, UN agencies, consortiums, education and training centres, NGOs and other development partners are urged to support Africa in the area of capacity building, such as, provision of training, public education, IT development, data capturing, coding, processing and analysis and provision of other capacity building materials and financial support.
- Countries are urged to mainstream civil registration and vital statistics systems in their national statistical development programmes;

Follow-up

A full workshop report is under preparation. In addition, a compendium of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa will be prepared as part of the post-workshop activities. The compendium will comprise the status of country civil registration and vital statistics systems together with an action plan for the improvement of the systems. It will be used in the preparation of the medium-term regional programme for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa.



III. AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY - AFRICAN STATISTICS DAY

The African Statistics Day /Journée africaine de la statistique

Gerard Osbert, African Centre for Statistics

Quick history and Communiqué for 2009

The African Statistics Day (ASD) is a yearly advocacy tool aimed at raising awareness of the importance of Statistics in the economic and social development of Africa. Celebrated every year on 18 November, the event was decided in 1990 by a former Subsidiary Body of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Joint African Conference of Planners, Statisticians, and Demographers and initiated in 1993.

The ASD represents a key opportunity to improve the statistical data and to follow the diary of the African development. Among the 17 themes which have been addressed through ASD from 1993, 46 per cent are connected to good governance and information systems for development, 24 per cent on sectoral policies and programmes, including 2009 thematic, 18 per cent on poverty reduction strategy and MDGs' monitoring, and 12 per cent for capacity building.

The 2009 celebration is devoted to: strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Support of National Development and MDGs in Africa.

The United Nations (UN) defines civil registration as the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events pertaining to the population as provided through degrees or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements of each country.

The vital events considered in the registration system include live birth, death, foetal death, marriage, divorce, annulment of marriage, judicial separation of marriage, adoption, legitimization and recognition. Birth, death, marriage and divorce events comprise the priority vital events required by countries to be registered and the statistics to be produced in a continuous and permanent basis.

In the development of National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in Africa in the last 40 years, civil registration and vital statistics systems have not received the attention they deserve. As a result, the registration systems are largely incomplete,

Rapide historique et Communiqué pour 2009

La journée africaine de la statistique (JAS) est un outil de plaidoirie visant à sensibiliser sur le rôle des statistiques dans le développement économique et social de l'Afrique. Cet événement est célébré le 18 novembre de chaque année. Il a été décidé en 1990 par la Conférence africaine conjointe des planificateurs, des statisticiens et des démographes, un ancien organe subsidiaire de la Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA) et initié en 1993.

La JAS représente une opportunité unique pour améliorer l'information statistique et suivre l'agenda du développement africain. Parmi les 17 thèmes qui ont été traités à l'occasion de la JAS depuis 1993, 46% sont liés à la bonne gouvernance et aux systèmes d'information pour le développement, 24% portent sur les politiques et programmes sectoriels, y compris la thématique de 2009, 18% sur les stratégies de réduction de la pauvreté et le suivi des OMD et 12% sur le renforcement des capacités.

L'édition 2009 de la JAS est dédiée au plaidoyer sur : le renforcement des systèmes d'enregistrement et de statistiques des faits d'état civil, en appui au développement national et aux OMD en Afrique.

Les Nations Unies (ONU) définissent l'enregistrement des faits d'état civil comme la prise en compte continue, permanente, obligatoire et universelle de l'occurrence et des caractéristiques des événements vitaux concernant la population ainsi que prévue par les différents règlements et conditions légales en vigueur dans chaque pays.

Les événements vitaux considérés dans l'enregistrement des faits d'état civil incluent les naissances vivantes, les morts, les mort-nés, les mariages, les divorces, les annulations de mariage, les séparations juridiques, les adoptions et les reconnaissances légales. Les naissances, morts, mariages et divorces constituent les événements vitaux prioritaires dont les pays exigent l'enregistrement continu afin que les statistiques des faits d'état civil soient produites de façon régulière et permanente.

Au cours des 40 dernières années, les systèmes statistiques nationaux (SSN) en Afrique n'ont pas porté au développement de l'enregistrement et des statistiques des faits d'état civil, l'attention qu'ils méritent. En conséquence, ces systèmes sont

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weak and unable to provide the routine vital statistics needed for policy and programme design, implementation and monitoring. The key weaknesses of the systems include:

- lack of dynamism in their methods and techniques;
- lack of political commitment and support;
- outdated laws and procedures;
- poor linkages and coordination among relevant ministries and offices;
- inadequate and inaccessible registration facilities;
- limited expertise in civil registration and vital statistics; and inadequate data security, processing and analysis tools.

Lack of complete civil registration and vital statistics (CR&VS) systems have serious consequences to a country's national and sectoral development planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation undertakings as well as regional and international developmental monitoring and evaluation systems, including the millennium development goals (MDGs).

It also has adverse implications on the decentralization and democratization processes and sectoral reform programmes currently underway in almost all African countries.

As we celebrate this year's African Statistics Day, we should take note of the following key messages that African countries should consider in their endeavour in improving civil registration and vital statistics systems; that:

- Civil registration—unlike all other information systems—can provide benefits to individuals and communities by producing evidences of civil status, parentage, identity, nationality and facilitate access to various human rights provisions;
- Vital statistics derived from civil registration systems are global public goods that governments and development partners need for generating comprehensive and detailed demographic and health data for the implementation and monitoring of national and sectoral interventions;
- Statistics on numbers and dynamics of births, deaths

très incomplets et incapables de fournir les statistiques vitales courantes requises pour la conception, la mise en œuvre et le suivi des politiques et programmes de développement. Les principales faiblesses de ces systèmes sont :

- le manque de dynamisme des méthodes et techniques utilisées ;
- le faible engagement et support des politiques ;
- des lois et des procédures périmées ;
- des liens et une coordination insuffisante entre les ministères et les services concernés ;
- des installations d'enregistrement inadéquates et inaccessibles ;
- une expertise limitée dans l'enregistrement et les statistiques des faits d'état civil ;
- une sécurité de données, des traitements et des outils d'analyse inadaptés.

L'absence de systèmes complets d'enregistrement et de statistiques des faits d'état civil (E&S/FEC) a des conséquences graves sur le système de planification nationale et sectorielle d'un pays, sur le suivi et l'évaluation de ses réalisations ainsi que sur le pilotage au niveau régional et international du développement, y compris des Objectifs du Millénaire (OMD).

Ceci a également des implications néfastes sur les processus de décentralisation et de démocratisation en cours ainsi que sur les programmes sectoriels de réforme en vigueur dans presque tous les pays Africains.

Alors que nous célébrons la Journée Africaine de la Statistique 2009, nous insistons sur les principaux messages que les pays africains ont à considérer dans leur démarche d'amélioration des systèmes d'enregistrement et de statistiques des faits d'état civil :

- L'enregistrement des faits d'état civil - à la différence de tout autre système d'information - bénéficie aux individus et aux communautés en produisant des preuves d'état civil, de parenté, d'identité ou de nationalité et facilite l'accès à de nombreux dispositifs en faveur des droits de l'homme ;
- Les statistiques vitales, dérivées des systèmes d'enregistrement d'état civil, sont des biens publics dont les gouvernements et les partenaires au développement ont besoin pour produire des données complètes et détaillées en matière de démographie et de santé pour la mise en œuvre et le suivi tant des interventions nationales que sectorielles ;

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and medical causes of death are key components of demographic data and crucial for good public-health decision making; and civil registration is the conventional and most effective and efficient method of generating these vital statistics;

- Current developments and expansions of applications of IT solutions in sectoral and national development endeavours of countries is a huge opportunity for civil registration and vital statistics improvement and efficiency;
- Current decentralization and democratization processes going on in Africa are opening incentives and opportunities for accessing civil registration services for the public residing in the predominantly rural and remote settings of Africa;
- Population census are too scarcely organised and household surveys that are generally conducted on ad-hoc basis do not allow consistent monitoring of demographic and health trends; only the civil registration and vital statistics allow comparable estimates in time and thus enable realistic evaluation of public policies;

This year's African Statistics Day aims to take civil registration and vital statistics systems as one important pillar in the strategy to change the statistical landscape in Africa in order to meet the statistical challenges of the 21st century including data for informing national development policies and programmes as well as the MDGs.

It is time for action and, in this connection, it is hoped that the future African Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Network will provide a regional platform for policy dialogue, exchange of views, ideas and best practices on this important subject in Africa.

The African Centre for Statistics (ACS) of the ECA has also prepared a technical note to serve as a background document accompanying this Communiqué.

The UN Economic Commission for Africa wishes you success in all the activities you will undertake in the celebration of African Statistics Day 2009.



- Les statistiques quantitatives sur la dynamique des naissances ou des décès et les causes médicales de mort sont des composantes clés des systèmes démographiques, cruciales pour la bonne prise de décision en matière de santé publique ; l'enregistrement des faits d'état civil constitue la méthode classique la plus efficace et efficiente pour produire les statistiques vitales ;
- Les récents développements des applications informatiques dans les domaines du développement sectoriel et national des pays africains représentent une occasion unique pour l'amélioration et l'efficacité des systèmes d'enregistrement et de statistiques des faits d'état civil ;
- Les processus en cours de décentralisation et de démocratisation en Afrique sont des incitations et des occasions d'ouverture aux usagés du milieu rural ou résidant dans des zones isolées, d'accéder aux services d'état civil ;
- Les recensements de population, trop rarement organisés et les enquêtes ménage trop souvent conduites de façon anecdotiques, ne permettent pas un suivi fiable des tendances démographiques et de santé ; seuls l'enregistrement et les statistiques des faits d'état civil permettent des estimations comparables et dans les délais, pour une évaluation réaliste des politiques publiques en la matière.

La Journée Africaine de la Statistique 2009 vise à considérer les systèmes d'enregistrement et de statistiques des faits d'état civil comme un pilier de la stratégie du changement du paysage statistique en Afrique. Cela permettra de relever les défis du 21ème siècle et d'abonder en informations les politiques et programmes de développement national aussi bien que le suivi des OMD.

Le temps est à l'action et il est vivement souhaité que le prochain réseau africain sur l'enregistrement et les statistiques des faits d'état civil fournisse une plateforme régionale de dialogue politique, d'échange de vues et de dissémination des bonnes pratiques sur cet important sujet en Afrique.

Le Centre Africain pour la Statistique (CAS) de la CEA a préparé à cet effet un document joint à ce Communiqué et servant de support technique.

La Commission Economique des NU pour l'Afrique vous souhaite un plein succès dans les activités que vous entreprendrez à l'occasion de la célébration de la Journée Africaine de la Statistique 2009.



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Economic Commission for Africa
African Centre for Statistics

African Statistics Day

18 November 2009

Strengthening Civil Registration
and Vital Statistics Systems in Support of
National Development and MDGs in Africa



Commission économique pour l'Afrique
Centre africain pour la statistique

Journée africaine de la statistique

18 novembre 2009

Le renforcement des systèmes d'enregistrement
et de statistiques des faits d'état civil, en appui au
développement national et aux OMD en Afrique



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

Lusaka Workshop on Dissemination of Methodologies and Tools for the Development of Gender Responsive Data

Awa Thiongane, African Centre for Statistics

After the Accra and Douala workshops, a third one was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 29 June to 3 July 2009. The workshop was opened by the Director of the ECA Subregional Office, Ms. Jennifer Kargbo. In her welcoming remarks, she recalled the existence of gender strategies in SADC sub-region. She welcomed initiatives, like the current workshop, that help develop gender statistics in the sub-region. Indeed, the importance of gender statistics could not be overemphasized with respect to policy and programme formulation, monitoring and evaluation.

The workshop was attended by: (i) nineteen participants from Botswana, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe; (ii) two representatives of African Development Bank (AfDB); and a representative of the SADC Secretariat. Country representatives were from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Ministries in charge of Women/ Gender Affairs.



Group Picture of Participants

The Workshop consisted of:

- Presentation of papers on: Gender concepts, Gender Statistics, Mainstreaming gender into censuses and surveys, the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) and the AGDI on Agriculture, Time-use statistics, Satellite accounts of household Production, A Gender aware macroeconomic model, and the Gender Statistics Network (GESNET);
- Group work after each presentation; and
- Drafting of national action plans for the next two years.

At the end of the presentation on GESNET, all participants registered on the GESNET platform in order to continue discussions on the issues raised during the workshop.

From the day-to-day feedback and the evaluation of the workshop, participants stressed the fact that presentations provided them with insights on gender concepts, gender statistics, how to engender censuses and surveys, and time-use surveys. ADGI was founded to be a tool for not only assessing gender inequality but also comparing situation over time and between countries.

Participants resolved, once back in their respective countries, to:

- Share the knowledge acquired during the workshop in order to contribute to the change of mindset of statistical stakeholders;
- Raise awareness on the importance of gender perspective in development issues, the need to engender national statistical systems' processes and production;
- Report to their supervisors and finalize, in more participative manner, the action plans started during the workshop, and provide feedback to ECA on the final versions approved by their institutions in order to guide future ECA technical assistance on Gender responsive data.

Finally, they made a set of recommendations including:

- The preparation of a guideline on how to collect gender data from different sectors;
- The incorporation of gender concepts and issues in statistical training curricula; and
- The design of strategies for gender statistics development at country level.



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The Forum on Statistical Training

Dimitri Sanga, African Centre for Statistics

A Forum on statistical training and human resources in Africa took place in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 18 to 19 June 2009. It brought together 58 representatives from African Statistical Training Centers (STCs), Statistics Departments of selected universities, National Statistical Offices (NSOs), sub regional, regional, and international organizations with special interest in statistical training and human resources development in Africa.

The Forum was jointly organized by the African Centre for Statistics (ACS), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), and the French Cooperation, in close collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi (ISTEEBU).

Objectives

The main objective of the meeting was to firmly establish a unique and permanent mechanism of exchange of information and best practices in statistical training and human resources development in support of African countries' NSS in the production and use of quality statistical information in support of their development efforts.

Specific objectives included:

- Taking stock of existing initiatives and activities related to statistical training and human resources development;
- Exchanging of information and best practices on statistical training and human resources development;
- Tacking stock of challenges facing African STCs and NSOs in supporting countries' efforts to produce quality statistical information;
- Proposing measures to address the identified challenges on a regional coordinated basis; and
- Setting up a permanent mechanism for the exchange of information on statistical training and human resources in Africa.
- Reviewing the Terms of Reference of the AGROST.

Recommendations

Participants at the meeting adopted the following recommendations:

- They endorsed the inception of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST) as a unique

working group dealing with statistical training in Africa made of various stakeholders as defined in its Terms of Reference (ToRs). The AGROST will report every two year to the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa).

- The AGROST replaces all existing groups on statistical training in Africa. It will be supported by a permanent Secretariat based at the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) and reporting to the Group.
- While awaiting the setting up of the permanent Secretariat, participants called upon the ECA, PARIS21, representatives of Statistical Training Centres (STCs) (ENSEA Abidjan and University of Botswana), representatives of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) (Burkina Faso and Uganda) to play the role of the temporary Secretariat to the AGROST. The latter will undertake the following activities:
 - Draft a proposal for the ToRs of the permanent Secretariat. (5 August 2009 : ECA/PARIS21)
 - Prepare a list of potential activities to be undertaken by the AGROST as proposed during the Ouagadougou, Bujumbura, and previous meetings. (Inwent/Botswana/ENSEA Abidjan)
 - Undertake preliminary discussions with Technical and Financial Partners (TFP) on the funding of AGROST activities and its Secretariat. (5 August 2009 : ECA/PARIS21)
 - Organize and invite TFP to a meeting on financing the GRAFOS and its permanent Secretariat in the margins of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in Durban. (10 August 2009 : ECA/PARIS21)
 - Call for an informal working group to prepare a draft for the work programme of the AGROST (PARIS21, ECA, InWEnt, ENSEA Abidjan, Makerere University, French Cooperation, AfDB, AUC, STAT South Africa, Mozambique : November 2009)

The next meeting of the AGROST shall take place in the margins of the StatCom-Africa II to finalize the programme of work to be presented for adoption by African heads of NSOs.



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Biodiversity Indicators Capacity Strengthening (BICSAfrica) Workshop for Southern African Countries, Cape Town, South Africa, 21 – 23 July 2009

Negussie Gorfe, African Centre for Statistics and Philip Bubb, UNEP-WCMC

Introduction

The "Biodiversity Indicators Capacity Strengthening in Africa" is a two-year project designed to build on the existing work on biodiversity indicators in Eastern and Southern Africa, assisting countries to develop biodiversity indicators of their choice on a sustainable basis. This will be achieved through capacity building workshops, technical training in the selected indicators and peer-to-peer exchange visits. The project will support the use of existing data to reduce dependence on external funding for new indicators. The project is funded by the UN Development Account and implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC). Technical support and indicator guidance materials have also been provided through the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2010 BIP) (www.twentyten.net). Furthermore, the project will be aligned with regional work on indicators, such as the African Environment Information Network and the African Centre for Statistics of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The project's first Southern African workshop was facilitated by the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) on 21-23 July 2009 at their offices in Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, Cape Town.

Biodiversity indicators are tools that summarize and simplify information, to help understand biodiversity status and threats; and to evaluate progress towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. They are needed to help design and monitor national policies on biodiversity, the environment and sustainable development, as well as for reporting on international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals.

Objectives of the workshop

The capacity strengthening workshop was designed to assist the selected Southern African countries to develop biodiversity indicators of their choice on a sustainable basis. The workshop was organized by UNEP WCMC in collaboration with SANBI. The main objectives of the workshop were:

- To provide capacity building in the production of successful biodiversity indicators;

- To build partnerships within and between countries for biodiversity indicator development;
- To draft national plans for the development of a few indicators with the technical support of the project; and
- To include one or more appropriate biodiversity indicators in the work of national statistical offices.

Proceedings of the workshop

The capacity building workshop was opened by Philip Bubb, the project coordinator and one of four UNEP WCMC trainers present. The workshop was well attended with representatives from the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), ECA and all seven participating countries: Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The participants, 40% of whom were women, were from national statistical offices, environment ministries, water resources offices, biodiversity institutes, natural resource foundations, forestry commissions, and from relevant non-governmental organizations.



Participants of the workshop

Presentations were made by the four trainers from UNEP-WCMC together with presentations from South Africa, Botswana and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre on their activities with regard to biodiversity indicators. During the three days the following main topics were presented and discussed: overview of the biodiversity indicators capacity strengthening (BICSAfrica) project and its objectives; biodiversity indicators capacity strengthening project timetable; guidance for national biodiversity indicator development and use; presentations from participants; indicator fact sheets introduction and review; project shared documents website introduction; and a review of the upcoming second and third workshop objectives.

Discussion concentrated on the Biodiversity Indicator Development

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Framework, which provides a structure for selecting and developing biodiversity indicators. The framework consists of a series of stages including consultation of stakeholders, identification of management objectives, determination of key questions, gathering and reviewing data, identification of possible indicators, computation of indicators, interpreting indicators, testing indicators, and developing monitoring and reporting systems.

For each participating country there were three or more representatives from different government offices and non-governmental organizations. Participatory exercises structured around the Indicator Framework, were therefore conducted in country groups to encourage participants to think collectively about what constitutes a successful indicator and capacity needs in indicator development. The outcomes of their discussions were presented to the workshop participants. Furthermore, each country made a presentation concerning the progress made, challenges faced and the needs in order to strengthen their capacities in the development of indicators.

It was noted that the within the seven countries represented, representatives were at various levels of biodiversity indicator development. Some have already identified their biodiversity indicators while others have not. Based on their levels of progress on biodiversity indicator development, country participants were assigned into four working groups in order to identify national biodiversity policy reporting priorities, key questions and users. The participants indicated that in indicator development it is important to identify key issues and to be selective to ensure indicators meet user needs.

The participants were also assigned into four breakout groups in order to critically analyse two recent publications on biodiversity indicators: (i) the UK *Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket 2009* and (ii) *Birdlife's State of the World's Birds*. The aim of the exercise was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the two publications in terms of their content and of indicator presentation.

Finally, national task forces were formed for developing some biodiversity indicators with the technical assistance of the project. Each country group drafted an indicator development plan that will be developed further over the coming months. The indicator development plans produced were based on the lessons learnt on the stages of successful biodiversity indicator development that were presented and discussed during the workshop.

Conclusions

- The workshop was concluded by forming national task forces or steering committees for developing some biodiversity indicators with the technical assistance of the project staff. Countries were encouraged to utilize the services of the project staff.

- Countries are expected to write up and further refine the national project development plans and start implementing them. The organizers of the workshop will be in touch with each country team or task force to offer guidance and feedback.
- Technical support will be provided to countries throughout the duration of the project. A small amount of financial assistance will also be provided to countries to facilitate indicator development. However financial assistance is limited as the focus of the project is on producing sustainable indicators which can be maintained once the project has come to an end.
- It was emphasized that the same representatives should hopefully attend the next workshop to ensure progress could be made in developing relevant national indicators and to ensure continuity.
- It was decided to hold the second workshop for Southern African countries from 8 to 12 February 2010 in Pretoria, South Africa.
- More information about this project and the specific workshops can be found at the 2010 BIP website (www.twentyten.net).



Une série de quatre ateliers sur la diffusion des méthodes et des instruments pour le développement de données sensibles au genre

Awa Thiongane, African Centre for Statistics

Introduction

L'égalité de genre et la responsabilisation des femmes sont des questions faisant l'objet d'un consensus au niveau international et sont clairement traduites dans les objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMD). Bien que le OMD3 est supposé prendre en considération les inégalités de genre, il est de plus en plus reconnu que la dimension genre devrait être prise en compte dans tous les OMD. Auparavant, le Programme d'action de Beijing (PAB) avait abordé tous les aspects relatifs aux inégalités de genre à travers ses douze domaines prioritaires d'action.

Le suivi d'un tel programme et des progrès réalisés dans l'accomplissement des OMD prenant compte la dimension requièrent des statistiques selon le genre dans plusieurs domaines.

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Même si de claires indications en ce qui concerne les besoins en données ont été répertoriées dans le PAB, les systèmes statistiques nationaux n'ont pas pu, jusqu'à présent, les satisfaire, en particulier en Afrique.

Après avoir passé en revue les principaux indicateurs déjà élaborés pour mesurer les inégalités de genre (l'Indice sexo-spécifique de développement humain (ISDH), l'Indice de participation des femmes (IPF), l'Indice d'égalité de genre (GEI), l'Indice standardisé de l'égalité de genre (SIGE), l'Indice de l'éducation pour tous (EDI) et autres évaluations sur la responsabilisation selon le genre et autres analyses d'impact), le Centre africain pour le genre et le développement social (CAGEDS) a senti le besoin de développer de nouveaux instruments et de nouvelles méthodologies capables de mieux appréhender la question d'inégalité en Afrique. C'est ainsi qu'au cours des cinq dernières années, le CAGEDS a développé l'Indicateur de développement et des inégalités entre les sexes en Afrique (IDISA), un modèle macroéconomique sensible au genre (MMSG) et une méthodologie harmonisée pour la collecte des données sur l'utilisation du temps afin de mieux quantifier la production des ménages.

De plus, le Centre Africain pour la Statistique (CAS) est en train de préparer un guide sur comment prendre en compte la dimension genre dans les enquêtes et recensements généraux de la population et de l'habitat (RGPH) et de mettre en place une communauté de pratiques utilisant la plateforme du Réseau sur les statistiques selon le genre (GESNET). Ces activités sont entreprises dans le cadre d'un projet sur les statistiques selon le genre du Compte de Développement (CD) des Nations Unies.

Les autres composantes dudit projet sont relatives au développement d'indices IDISA sectoriels pour l'agriculture et le commerce et l'organisation d'une série de quatre ateliers sur la diffusion de ces méthodologies et instruments pour la production de statistiques selon le genre. Les ateliers regrouperont deux participants par pays (un de l'Institut national de statistique et un du Ministère chargé des questions féminines/de genre), de tous les pays africains répartis en deux groupes anglophones et deux groupes francophones¹.

¹ Accra, Ghana: 25 – 28 Mai 2009 – Groupe I: Egypte, Eritree, Ethiopie, Gambie, Ghana, Guinée Bissau, Kenya, Libéria, Libye, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalie et Soudan.

Douala, Cameroon: 22 – 25 Juin 2009 – Groupe III: Cameroun, République Centrafricaine (CAR), Congo, République Démocratique du Congo (RDC), Gabon, Guinée, Mali, Niger, Sao Tomé et Príncipe ; Tchad et Togo.

Lusaka, Zambia: 29 Juin – 3 Juillet 2009 – Groupe III: Afrique du Sud, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Maurice, Mozambique, Namibie, Rwanda, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzanie, Uganda, Zambie et Zimbabwe.

Rabat, Maroc: - Groupe IV: Algerie, Burkina Faso, Bénin, Cap Vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Mauritanie, Maroc, Tunisie, et Sénégal.

Objectifs des ateliers

Les ateliers ont pour objet d'assurer, au niveau de l'ensemble des pays du continent, une diffusion des méthodologies et instruments jusqu'ici développés par le CAGED et le CAS, pour l'appréhension et le suivi des questions liées au genre. Les objectifs spécifiques en sont de:

- assurer le plaidoyer pour la production et la diffusion des données sensibles au genre;
- fournir une plateforme d'échange des expériences des pays africains en matière de production de statistiques selon le genre;
- améliorer la capacité des instituts nationaux de statistique (INS) d'intégrer la perspective genre dans la conduite des recensements durant la série 2010 des Recensements de la Population et de l'Habitat (RPH) et
- mettre en place une communauté de pratiques pour les spécialistes des questions de genre et les statisticiens travaillant dans ce domaine.

Les résultats attendus de ces ateliers comprennent:

- des échanges effectives et la compilation de bonnes pratiques dans la production des données sensibles au genre ;
- les capacités renforcées des statisticiens nationaux dans l'utilisation des instruments et méthodologies développés par la CEA pour générer des données sensibles au genre ;
- des directives pour le développement de plans d'action régionaux et nationaux pour la prise en compte de la dimension genre dans les systèmes nationaux de statistique (SSN).

L'atelier de Douala

Le deuxième atelier, après celui d'Accra, s'est tenu à Douala, Cameroun, du 25 au 28 mai 2009. L'atelier a été ouvert par le Directeur du Bureau sous-régional de la CEA pour l'Afrique centrale, Hachim Koumaré, après les mots de bienvenue de Mme Awa Thiongane, conseillère régionale senior au CAS. M. Koumaré a rappelé le fait que la persistance des inégalités de genre constituait un frein au développement économique et social et la réalisation des OMD. En effet, en dépit de la croissance économique soutenue observée en Afrique et les nombreux programmes de réduction de la pauvreté mis en place au cours des dernières années, les indicateurs de développement humain demeurent en deçà des espérances. D'où la nécessité de questionner l'efficacité de ces programmes dont une des causes de l'inefficacité est à rechercher dans leurs conceptions qui, jusqu'à présent ne prennent pas en compte systématiquement les spécificités liées au sexe ni l'impact différencié qu'ils pourraient avoir sur les hommes et les femmes. Pour y remédier,

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

il est important de concevoir des programmes de développement tenant compte de ces spécificités, ce qui requiert des données selon le genre, objet du présent atelier.



Participants à l'atelier

Les séances de l'atelier ont consisté en :

- plusieurs présentations sur : le concept de genre, les statistiques selon le genre, la prise en compte de la dimension genre dans les recensements et les enquêtes, l'IDISA et l'IDISA sectoriel sur l'agriculture, les statistiques budget-temps, les comptes satellites de la production des ménages, un modèle macroéconomique sensible au genre et le réseau africain des statistiques selon le genre (GESNET);
- des groupes de travail après chaque présentation et
- l'élaboration de plans d'action nationaux pour les deux prochaines années.

Les participants ont été regroupés en six groupes de travail et ont été invités à choisir un thème de discussion. Leurs choix ont porté sur : (i) les besoins alimentaires, (ii) l'accès des femmes aux postes de décision, (iii) les aspects sociaux relatifs à l'eau, l'éducation, la santé, l'autonomisation, etc, (iv) l'alphabétisation et la scolarisation des filles, (v) l'accessibilité à l'eau, et (vi) le rôle des femmes dans une commune X.

Suivant les réactions à la fin de chaque journée de travail et l'évaluation finale à la fin de l'atelier, les participants ont reconnu:

- l'importance de comprendre l'approche genre et de l'appliquer dans leurs travaux respectifs et
- la nécessité de produire des statistiques selon le genre.

Ils ont recommandé, entre autres :

- l'élaboration, au niveau national, de mécanismes de coordination institutionnelle permettant une collaboration plus efficace entre les services de production et d'analyse des données selon le genre et les services des ministères chargés des questions de genre ;

- la diffusion à tous les pays intéressés des résultats des enquêtes pilotes budget-temps et la sensibilisation sur ce thème au niveau national;
- la poursuite des discussions sur la prise en compte de dimension genre dans les enquêtes et recensements ;
- la finalisation des IDISA sectoriels ; et
- l'appui de la CEA dans la conduite des enquêtes budget-temps et la production des statistiques selon le genre.

A la fin de la dernière session, les participants ont été invités à s'inscrire sur la plateforme de gestion des connaissances de la CEA afin de pouvoir participer aux discussions qui vont y être organisées.

Les participants ont également été invités de retour dans leurs pays respectifs, à compléter et finaliser leurs plans d'action et à les faire adopter par leurs institutions avant d'en informer la CEA afin de guider celle-ci dans son programme d'assistance technique en ce qui concerne les statistiques sensibles au genre.



V. STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT - SELECTED AREAS - DÉVELOPPEMENT DE LA STATISTIQUE - SUJETS RETENUS

Strategic Media Partnerships for Effective Dissemination of Statistics

Ben Paul Mungyereza, Uganda Bureau of Statistics

Introduction

Statistics is a necessary input for measurement of development in all countries of the world. It is not only used by government for planning, policy development and decision-making, but also by private agents for business decisions. Today's private economic agents demand statistics more than ever. They use statistics to assess business opportunities, risks and prospects. The wider public also uses statistics to make individual decisions, assess the performance of governments and inform public debate. However, in many countries in Africa, most statistics are kept in national statistical offices and other data generation units of government with insufficient analysis. In order to create impact, statistics must be widely disseminated to the public, particularly through the media. It is therefore critical that the media is not invited for only one-off dissemination functions but rather should be taken on as a major partner in the dissemination of statistics.

Who is to blame for poor media reporting?

Some national statistical offices do not appreciate the role of the media in information dissemination. They in fact fear dealing with the media, blaming it for poor reporting. The question we need to ask ourselves is why there is poor reporting. This could be either because the media fails to understand statistics, or the statisticians do not explain their statistics well. It is recognized that some people are frightened by figures. The media is no exception. In particular, the media is interested in analyzing any available information, so as to inform the public. Although statistical outputs often contain items of news value, this fact may only be realized by the statisticians themselves, because they are the ones who can interpret and puzzle out the full meaning of the data. However, statisticians are not good at communication, and they often fail to tell the full story that can be derived from the statistical outputs. This is not surprising because communication skills are not included in any of the statistics syllabi at colleges and universities. On the other side, statistics does not form part of the media training. The solution to this situation is partnerships. Aspiring statisticians should receive training in communication skills, and statistical capacity building programmes should be developed for the media.

The media is often invited for dissemination workshops organized by national statistical offices and other data producers. However,

the contents of workshops are dominated by a presentation of statistical results, with only minimal explanation. The presenters often feel that the more statistics they give out, the greater will be the amount of information given to the public. This is a misconception that most statisticians have, that makes them produce and disseminate statistics and more statistics without the necessary supporting information. The reporters rushing to get their deadlines take back 'bare' statistics to the media houses and these are disseminated as they are, sometimes without context. The news from such data dissemination workshops depends on the capacity of the reporter to interpret the figures well. Reporters are sometimes at a crossroad regarding what to report. Should they use percentage changes or the absolute numbers? In order to make the decision, they ask themselves what stories would sell. Today's media is very competitive. The ability of a particular media house to generate selling stories makes it have an edge over other media houses. The choice between percentages and absolute numbers is therefore informed by sensation rather than rationality.

An interesting example in Uganda is the declining share of agriculture in the GDP in the recent past. As the other sectors grew, particularly the services sector, they dwarfed the contribution of agriculture. This has happened not only in Uganda but also in other developing countries. However, this did not imply that the sector was declining in absolute terms. Such an interpretation requires statisticians to partner not only with policy makers to interpret the figures but also with the media to inform the public. It requires a one-to-one discussion to bring out all these puzzles in statistics.

Media partnerships that matter

The media is a key stakeholder that should be involved along with other stakeholders from the beginning of a survey activity. They may not be part of the technical discussions but should at least get to know that a survey is beginning. They should also know why for example a labour module will be added to a typical household budget survey and not an agricultural module. This choice which is informed by data gaps must be well elaborated to the stakeholders. A lot of information in National Statistical Offices is never disseminated because stakeholders, including the media are not aware of its existence. The media has the capacity to stimulate data producers to disseminate more information. It is therefore critical in ensuring wider dissemination of statistics. If the media knows well in advance the issues to be covered, it helps them to contextualize their reporting and increase accuracy.

In Uganda, the National Statistics Office established her PR Office in 2002. This involved recruitment of some media practitioners as part of the staff. This resulted in the creation of closer relations with the media. They also introduced media kits – information packages that contain simplified key information for the reporters to use

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in writing their stories. Pre-dissemination media workshops were also started as a way of allowing media houses to understand the findings better. For example dissemination of the 2002 Population and Housing Census in Uganda included a half-day media workshop with selected technical personnel from the census team. This workshop was held in the morning prior to the dissemination that was slated for the afternoon. The week that followed the dissemination workshop had all media houses reporting about the census. It was the most widely covered statistical activity ever by the media in Uganda. Since then, this method has been adopted for all the major surveys in the Uganda Bureau of Statistics in order to boost dissemination.

Uganda Bureau of Statistics partnered with the media in 2006 to increase the publicity for the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS, 2006). The DHS 2006 included a module on HIV/AIDS that was sensitive. No blood samples were to be drawn but information on management of HIV/AIDS patients was to be gathered. This required careful sensitization because of the stigma associated with the disease. Involvement of the media therefore started at the time of community mobilization. A community mobilization team consisting of staff from the Ministry of Health, the Population Secretariat and Uganda Bureau of Statistics was created. The team divided into a number of teams with two people each. Each team moved along with at least two media reporters from the respective regions; one from the print media and another from the community radio. The community mobilization was targeting enumeration areas to be covered by the survey. The extension workers responsible for the enumeration areas were also included on the team. The extension workers were Community Development Officers, Health Assistants or simply Health workers serving the community. The interaction between the service providers, the survey implementers and the media provided the necessary background information for the media. The community radios and newspapers in local languages helped to spread the information very fast. Use of newspaper reporters for local languages played a significant role in explaining issues better and created a lot of impact. At the time of dissemination, the media already had good background information and used this to contextualize their reporting. Involvement of the media right from the design stage of the DHS 2006 in Uganda was a good example of effective media partnerships that led to widespread dissemination of statistics.

Conclusion

Although statistics is known to frighten a number of people, it can generate news for the media. What is required is building lasting partnerships with the media. The partnerships benefit both sides, with the media reporting more accurately and the statistics getting widely disseminated. The fear for data must be addressed through increased numeracy for the different stakeholders. Indeed the me-

dia should be treated as a key stakeholder in statistical production and dissemination. The challenge for statisticians therefore is to interpret, puzzle out and communicate statistics in a user-friendly manner. This will increase the trust the media has in statistics and improve its dissemination. In this way, reliable statistical outputs will win out over alternative media reports that contain non-measurable information.



DRS develops 'probably' the world's simplest GPS device

Katie McBreen, Friday's Media Group, London

Global census data capture specialist, DRS has created probably the world's simplest GPS device for use in field data collection activities.

The DRS GPS device is robust and easy to use, determining exact latitude and longitude location to an accuracy of less than three metres. There is no menu system to navigate; the user simply switches it on, and once the satellite positions are fixed, the coordinates are displayed.



DRS GPS device

The DRS GPS device, compatible with all Geographic Information Systems (GIS), has been developed following considerable market research into the needs of National Statistical Offices (NSO) worldwide and other interested parties. The research clearly demonstrated the need for a very simple device that would only display the

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user's current position in terms of latitude and longitude – something the DRS GPS device achieves.

It has been developed for use for high volume data capture exercises such as a census so it was vital that the product should be affordable – and so the specification of the DRS GPS device was carefully considered in order to keep costs down.

Although the GPS device was designed with census data collection in mind, it is suitable for a wide range of field based data collection exercises including supporting the national curriculum for the new geography GCSE syllabus starting September 2009.

DRS global business leader for census, Andy Tye comments "Our experience in worldwide census projects enabled us to develop a cost effective solution providing GPS capability for data collection. Using the DRS GPS device, latitude and longitude coordinates are associated with collected census data, providing a low cost and robust way of associating data geographically within any GIS software."

Additional Information

DRS products and solutions are used across the globe on large-volume, time-critical projects such as the capture and processing of data for large-scale examinations, elections, population censuses and financial documentation.

The DRS Group has a wealth of experience in delivering time-critical, high-volume and complex data-capture projects for international aid agencies, national governments and public and private sector organisations through to the not-for-profit sector and specialist organisations.

DRS core business focuses on the successful delivery of projects such as:

- education administration and examination processing
- electronic examination marking
- national population census
- national voter registration
- election ballot counting
- financial document processing
- large volume or complex survey work

DRS census data capture solutions are proven to deliver accurate, reliable and up to date census results for analysis, in a matter of a few months, rather than the years it might take using traditional methods. Having successfully delivered fifteen census projects

around the world, DRS continues to improve efficiencies that deliver results quickly and accurately.

DRS is a trusted advisor to the United Nations (UN) and has been called upon by the UN to offer advice to National Statistical Offices around the world on census capture methodologies and technologies.

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Message de Bienvenue de Monsieur Babakar Fall, Directeur General de L'agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Demographie du Senegal / Welcome Message of Mr. Babakar Fall, Director-General of The National Agency of the Statistics and Demography of the Senegal



Chers collègues,

Le Sénégal s'honore d'accueillir à Dakar le cinquième Symposium africain pour le Développement de la Statistique en Afrique du 19 au 21 novembre 2009.

Sous le Haut Patronage de son Excellence Maître Abdoulaye Wade, Président de la République du Sénégal, et la Présence effective de Monsieur le Premier Ministre, Souleymane Ndéné Ndiaye, cette rencontre qui se déroulera pendant trois jours dans les salons de l'Hôtel Méridien Président, à quelques encablures de l'Océan Atlantique, réunira à côté des Directeurs généraux des Instituts nationaux de Statistique africains, plusieurs experts de très haut niveau autour du thème : « *Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication dans la diffusion des données : rapprocher producteurs et utilisateurs durant le Cycle des Recensements de la Population et de l'Habitat de 2010* ».

C'est donc avec beaucoup d'intérêt que le Sénégal, comme j'en suis sûr l'ensemble des autres pays africains, attend les recommandations qui seront issues des discussions lors de la tenue de cette importante réunion rehaussée par la qualité et l'expérience des participants, sur ce thème vital dans la formulation, la mise en œuvre, le suivi et l'évaluation des stratégies et politiques de développement dans un cadre participatif.

Nous restons donc convaincus que lors de cette rencontre historique de Dakar, les réflexions pertinentes autour de ce thème vont nous conforter dans les options annoncées sur le rôle important que doivent

ent jouer les technologies de l'information et de la communication dans la mise en œuvre de notre Stratégie nationale de Développement de la Statistique.

A cet égard, et au nom de Monsieur le Président de la République, de Monsieur le Premier Ministre, de Monsieur le Ministre d'Etat, Ministre de l'Economie et des Finances, de l'ensemble du Gouvernement et du Peuple sénégalais, je souhaite la bienvenue au Sénégal, pays de la Téranga, et un agréable séjour à Dakar à tous les participants.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Senegal is honoured to host the fifth African Symposium for Statistical development from 19 to 21 November 2009 in Dakar.

Under the high patronage of His Excellency Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and the actual presence of Prime Minister, Souleymane Ndéné Ndiaye, this meeting will take place during three days at the "Méridien President" hotel conference rooms not far from the Atlantic Ocean. This gathering will bring together different directors general of the national statistics office in different African countries and several high level experts around the theme "*Information and communication technology in data dissemination: bridging closer producers and users during the 2010 round of Population and housing Censuses*".

It is therefore with great interest that Senegal, as I am sure all the other African countries, expects the recommendations to be derived from discussions during the holding of this important meeting enhanced by the quality and the experience of the participants on this vital issue in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and the evaluation strategies and policies of development in a framework participatory.

We therefore remain convinced that at this historic meeting in Dakar, the relevant reflections on this theme will strengthen the different announced options on the important than role to be played by the information and communication technologies in the implementation of our national strategy doe the development of statistics.

In this regard, and on behalf of the President of the Republic, of the Prime Minister, of the Minister of State, Minister of economy and finance, the entire Government and the people of Senegal, I would like to welcome you to Senegal, a country of *Téranga*, and wish you a pleasant stay in Dakar to all participants.

□

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Invitation by Chair of the Friends of the ECA for the 5th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development

Pali Lehohla, Stistician General, South Africa



Welcome to the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) website, your information portal for all ASSD symposia. To gain more insight and prepare yourself better for next symposium, check the 5th ASSD page.

On behalf of the Friends of the ECA, a group of eight countries that was set up in 2006 to help the ECA in the revitalization of statistics and its use in Africa, I would like to re-iterate the message of invitation by the Director-General of the Senegalese National Statistics Office (the ANSD) and reassure you that the 5th ASSD to be held in Dakar, Senegal shall indeed be an event that shall always be remembered for a number of reasons.

The 5th ASSD marks a significant signpost on the 53-year statistical rejuvenation journey for Africa, a journey that started in Cape Town, South Africa four years ago. The 5th ASSD to run from 19 to 21 November 2009 does not only take place immediately after the PARIS 21 Consortium meeting but the two have been jointly organized. This is the first time that the two important statistical events have partnered to ensure synergy and share resources. The joint organization demonstrates a paradigm shift in statistical capacity building from unilateralism to partnerships and sets a precedent for a more collaborative approach in the revitalization of statistical activism in Africa.

Having already been held in South Africa, Rwanda, Ghana, Angola and now Senegal, there is enough evidence that language cannot be an obstacle in our effort to unite Africa on the statistics front. Whether they are Arabic, English, Portuguese or French; the language of statisticians is the same. We all speak the measurement language. We speak monitoring and evaluation of policy and development programmes. In fact, the message becomes louder when it is communicated in all languages because it becomes comprehensible to different language speakers.

Following hot on the heels of the 57th Session of the ISI which was

successfully held in South Africa on 16-22 August 2008, the 5th ASSD provides the first platform to cement and roll out the ISIBalo Capacity Building Programme launched to ensure that the ISI left an indelible legacy in Africa. To this end, the participation of African women and young statisticians in the ASSD is of paramount importance. Five young statisticians from the ENSEA college in Abidjan will be part of the occasion and a process has been initiated to sponsor a further five young statisticians to present papers relevant to the 5th ASSD theme. A total of forty abstracts were submitted by young statisticians from across Africa and the best five were sifted through a rigorous process by a panel of five experts in the areas of ICT, data dissemination and stakeholder management.

The Meridian President Hotel, the venue for the conference, is a five-star, modern state-of-the-art facility situated in Dakar and occupies the western-most corner of the African continent, a stone's throw from the Atlantic Ocean. It has previously played host to the Islamic conference and several meetings of African leaders.

The Scientific Programme is composed and structured such that at the end of the three days, participants would have exchanged experiences and gained new insight into strategies, processes, successes and challenges of managing censuses in Africa in the era of modern Information and Communication Technology. Delegates will also emerge out of the meeting with a better appreciation of the strides made in the production and use of data to measure progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and targets in Africa.

The African Development Bank has once again demonstrated its commitment to the success of the African statistical renaissance agenda once again by absorbing a substantial portion of the costs of delivering the symposium. To lend impetus to the theme "Information and Communication Technology in Data Dissemination: Bringing Suppliers and Users Closer in the 2010 Round of Population Censuses", we are indebted to the UNFPA for taking the responsibility and shouldering the costs of a preparatory workshop held in South Africa on 23-25 September and bringing users of statistics from across Africa to the symposium. I would like to express my gratitude to the people of Senegal for agreeing to host the fifth symposium and making resources available as a gesture of their commitment to a successful conference.

See you in Dakar, Senegal.



VI. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

Paying tribute to Ben Kiregyera

Pali Lehohla, Statistician General, South Africa



Professor Ben Kiregyera, a Mahalanobis Award recipient, a stalwart and visionary for statistical activities and statistical development on the continent more specifically, within two years came to the ECA, created and led the Statistics Centre and he is sorely missed as he retires.

He has been working around the vision for quite a considerable amount of time, and on the continent, there could be very few offices that have not felt his influence especially in Anglophone Africa. Through the Lagos Plan of Action, the creation of PARIS21, the Marrakesh Action Plan, his enormous contributions in bringing the 57th Session of the ISI to South Africa on behalf of Africa are all but some of the passions that characterise this interesting human being.

I was just reminiscing at our attempt at strategy after I got appointed as the first Statistician-General for South Africa. I looked all over for someone who could assist me in crafting the first few juvenile steps towards what no doubt has become a statistics office to reckon with globally. After a few interactions with him in Zambia at the end of 2000 and another serious interaction in Singapore in late 2001, I was left with no doubt that some of the critical questions I pondered could be adequately answered if I actively engaged with Ben. I then asked him if he would be willing to engage with my office on this very difficult journey. He was willing and he spent arduous amount of time with us in South Africa. PARIS21 was alive and in full action. His mission to South Africa was followed by the maiden workshop we held in Cape Town to launch the National Statistics System. It was at this workshop where Minister Manuel made his important speech about good news and statistics. Minister Manuel

said to statisticians, *"do not give me what I want but give me what I need to plan for those who waited a long time for democracy to touch their lives"*. Ben at the same occasion critiqued ourselves as a community of statisticians to move towards informing lest we become obsolete. Ben has been a friend not only of South Africa but of the continent as he tirelessly moves and swings across the continent demonstrating with passion what value statistics can generate for society.

I was quite pleased and I am not disappointed that he was appointed by Mr Abdoulie Janneh at the ECA at the very crucial moment of restoration of statistics and sensible minds needed to chart the African destiny. In the very short space of time his marriage to the ECA was one crafted and blessed by all religions, consummated to succeed with all conjugal rights observed and respected, including procreating well. As he departs from the ECA and African Statistics Centre, he gave birth to StatCom Africa, as though this was not enough within a very short period of gestation there were six more positions that were born. A marriage with lots of children can only be a successful one. His polygindrious relationships were well managed as African countries, AfDB, AUC and the UN Statistics Commission were all very happy husbands to this productive martiach of statistical development. As he spends his first month from the African Statistics Centre, I was looking at the strategy document he assisted us in crafting in those very early and juvenile year in South Africa and I cannot but recognise that our rise to success in South Africa have every trace of Ben's genome. I am sure we are not done with him as he begins to be as busy as a bee and never short of ideas especially those that relate to the continent. Our gradual and steady steps forward, be they ISI or African Symposia for Statistical Development have indelible traces of his enormous and monumental contribution.

Many of us have known him for his frank and uncomfortable speak. He is now in Botswana, then in Tunisia then and then and then with statistics. We shall continue to benefit from his enormous knowledge, wisdom and above all radiation of energy.



A tribute to the former African Centre for Statistics Director

Dimitri Sanga, African Centre for Statistics

As mentioned in the opening of this issue of the Newsletter, Professor Ben Kiregyera has retired from the services of the United Nations effective 31 July 2009.

Ben has been and continues to be one of the most active advocates for the improved statistical development in Africa. He was quite ac-

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tive in the pressure group that campaigned vigorously for the restoration of the statistics division using different fora. Among other things, in 2000, he led a team of African consultants that evaluated the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s. This plan had been endorsed by African Ministers for Planning and Development to stem the decline in statistics production and development in Africa in the 1970s and 1980s, and also to lay a firmer foundation for statistical development in the region. The report was critical of ECA, AfDB and AUC because these regional institutions had put statistics on the back burner. One of the recommendations made was that ECA should re-establish a statistics division. Unfortunately, that report was thrown out of the window by the ECA leadership of the time but very much embraced by the AfDB. Based on these recommendations, the AfDB made rapid progress in the area of statistics and statistical development from around 2001 to 2006 when the ACS was established.

"It is with a deep sense of accomplishment that I am retiring from ECA knowing that statistics is back on the development agenda of our countries, RECs, regional organizations and the international community. At ECA, the ACS was established with a skeleton staff complement and no resources. With patience, support from the house and partners as well as the sheer will to survive, we were able, in a short order, to get our feet firmly on the ground and run (not crawl because we had lost so much time). I must say without fear of contradiction that ACS has already become a credible Centre regionally and internationally," said Ben insisting on the fact that he is retiring from ECA and not from Statistics. He promised to remain a major player in statistical development in Africa and the world for some time before he retires to his farm. He mentioned to continue to support ACS and ECA and in particular, help promote areas where ACS promises to have a niche - namely gender statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, MDG and poverty monitoring, population censuses and environmental statistics.



The Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics of Makerere University appoints a New Director

Dimitri Sanga, African Centre for Statistics

Mrs. Agnes Mary Nanziri Ssekiboobo holds a Bachelor of Statistics degree and a Masters degree in Statistics with specialisation in agricultural statistics at the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE) of Makerere University.

Following a successful teaching career, she rose through all the ranks from teaching assistantship, Assistant Lecturer, Lecturer, to

Senior Lecturer. She lectures in Agricultural Statistics, Design and Analysis of Experiments both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and has also offered a course in Biometry to Bachelor of Science students under the Long Distance education arrangement.



She acts as an external examiner in Economics and Applied Statistics at the Eastern African Statistical Training Centre in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. She acted as a member of the East African Community (EAC) Technical Working Group on Agriculture and Food Security, member of the Technical Working Group for the Integrated Phase Classification tool for Food Security analysis in Uganda, and member of the National Agricultural Statistics Technical Committee.

She joined the management of ISAE in October 2005 as elected Deputy Director. On July 1, 2009, she was appointed the Director of ISAE having stood unopposed when the post was declared vacant in April 2009.

She has organized, among others, training courses and workshops in Agricultural Statistics and has carried out research/consultancies in Agriculture and Food Security, agricultural marketing and HIV/AIDS in the agricultural sector. She has visited a number of countries for research, training, consultancies, workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences among other things. These are namely Kenya, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Rwanda, Burundi, Lesotho, South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Benin, USA, UK, Canada, Netherlands, China and New Zealand.

She intends to uplift the national and international image of ISAE and to effectively network internationally and deliver on the mission of ISAE, market what the organisation already has and maintain a competitive edge so that ISAE is seen as a centre of excellence in statistical and related training and research.

She is the Vice president of the Uganda Statistical Society.



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Remembering Professor Kambule: Excerpts from the Oration by Former South African President Thabo Mbeki



Volume 2 Issue 3 of this Newsletter featured two octogenarians, teachers of mathematics, namely Professor Tamsanqa Wilkinson Kambule and Mrs. Nontsikelelo Qwelane. It is with deep sadness that the African statistical fraternity learned the passing away of this pioneer in the teaching of mathematics just a few days before the launching of the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in Durban. Below are the excerpts from the oration by former South African President Thabo Mbeki in honor of the late professor.

"Long after he had passed his retirement age, Professor Kambule moved among us inspired still to inspire us to follow in his footsteps to advance the goal to whose realization he had dedicated his life, the nurturing of the excellent South Africans whom the eminent African-American teacher, scholar and freedom fighter, W.E.B. du Bois, once described as The Talented Tenth.

Death indeed cannot take Wilkie Kambule from us because the example he set, of what the generations that live and the generations of the future must do to build a new nation, will never die, but will live on forever, an indestructible monument to an outstanding patriot.

Of this great patriot, this we must also say that his 'courage did not break and die like an old tree in a black wind'. During the most difficult periods of our history, he refused to betray the young whom he had elected to serve as a custodian, and to disappoint the expectations of their parents and the nation.

When the circumstances demanded it, in the aftermath of the 1976

Soweto Uprising, he did what I am certain he would otherwise never have chosen to do – he walked out of his beloved Orlando High School in an act of priceless courage, to defend the right of the young of access to knowledge, to assert the right of the young to life and freedom in the land of their birth.

In the obituaries that have been published since his death, it is said that Wilkie Kambule was a brilliant mathematics and science teacher. I am certain those who are here among us today, who passed through his excellent hands, will bear testimony that what has been said in the obituaries is right.

But I believe that we must go beyond this well deserved eulogy and ponder what W.E.B. du Bois meant when he said, with regard to the training of human beings: "Its technique is a matter for educational experts, but its object is for the vision of seers." Thus must we place Professor Kambule among those whom W.E.B. du Bois described as the seers, who could so communicate knowledge that the truly educated, in addition to such skills as they may thereby acquire, gain "intelligence, broad sympathy, knowledge of the world that was and is, and of the relation of (humans) to it", and would not "mistake the means of living for the object of life".

As did Wilkie Kambule for his people, victims of colonial and apartheid oppression, W.E.B. du Bois foresaw for his people, descendants of slaves, the day when truly the doors of learning and of culture would be open to them, both of them conscious of what this would mean for the liberation of their peoples. As did W.E.B. du Bois, throughout his life Wilkie Kambule set his eyes on the Promised Land. He held it to be an incontrovertible truth that the knowledge that the oppressed would acquire through disciplined learning, would itself serve as a powerful weapon in the struggle to reach that Promised Land.

We have gathered here today, at this modest public place which would tell inspiring stories if it could speak, to say a final farewell to an outstanding son of our people who fought for our liberation on an important front of human development and emancipation.

Death be not proud. Death, thou shalt die!

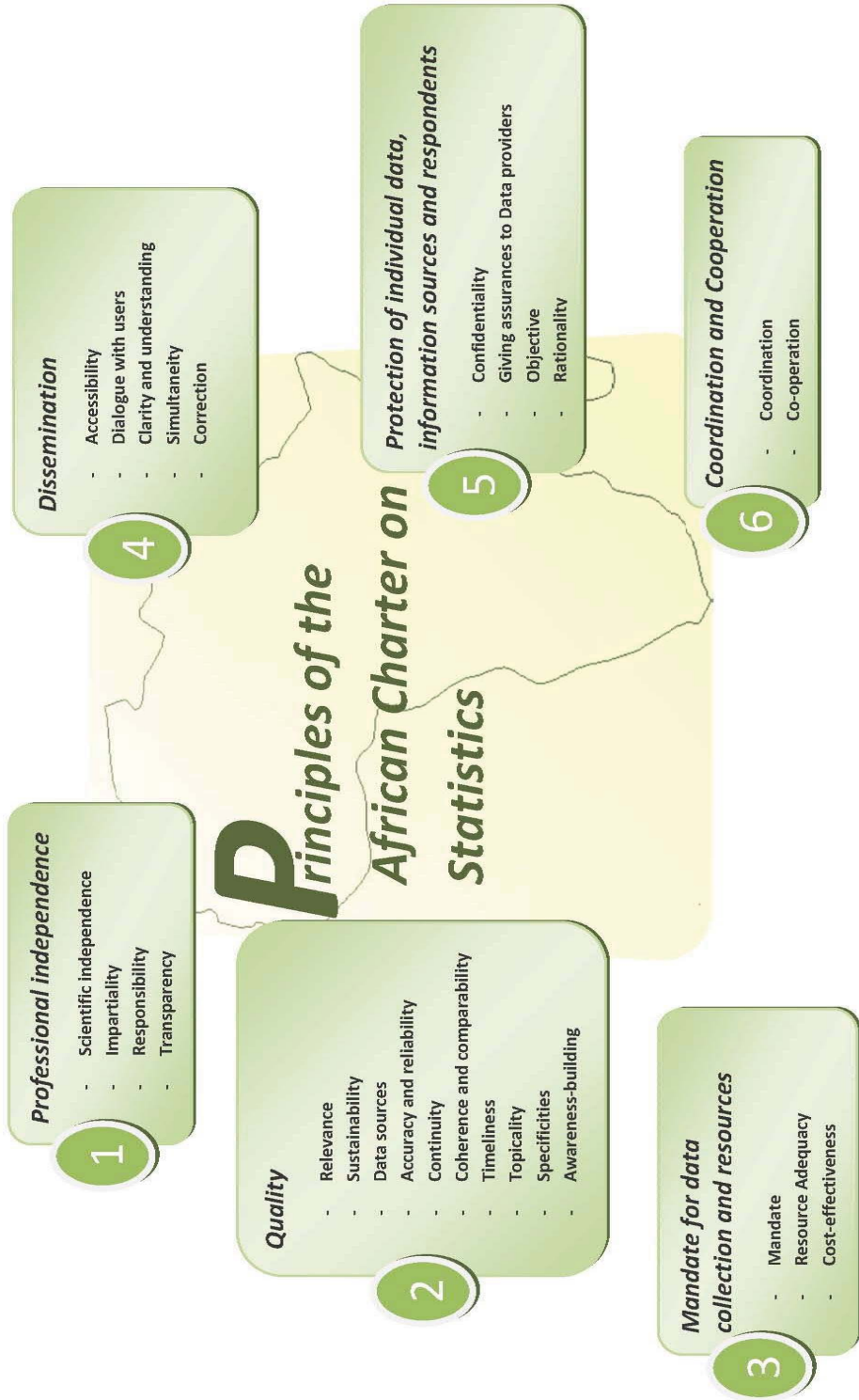
Thamsanqa Wilkinson Kambule will live on."



V. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS



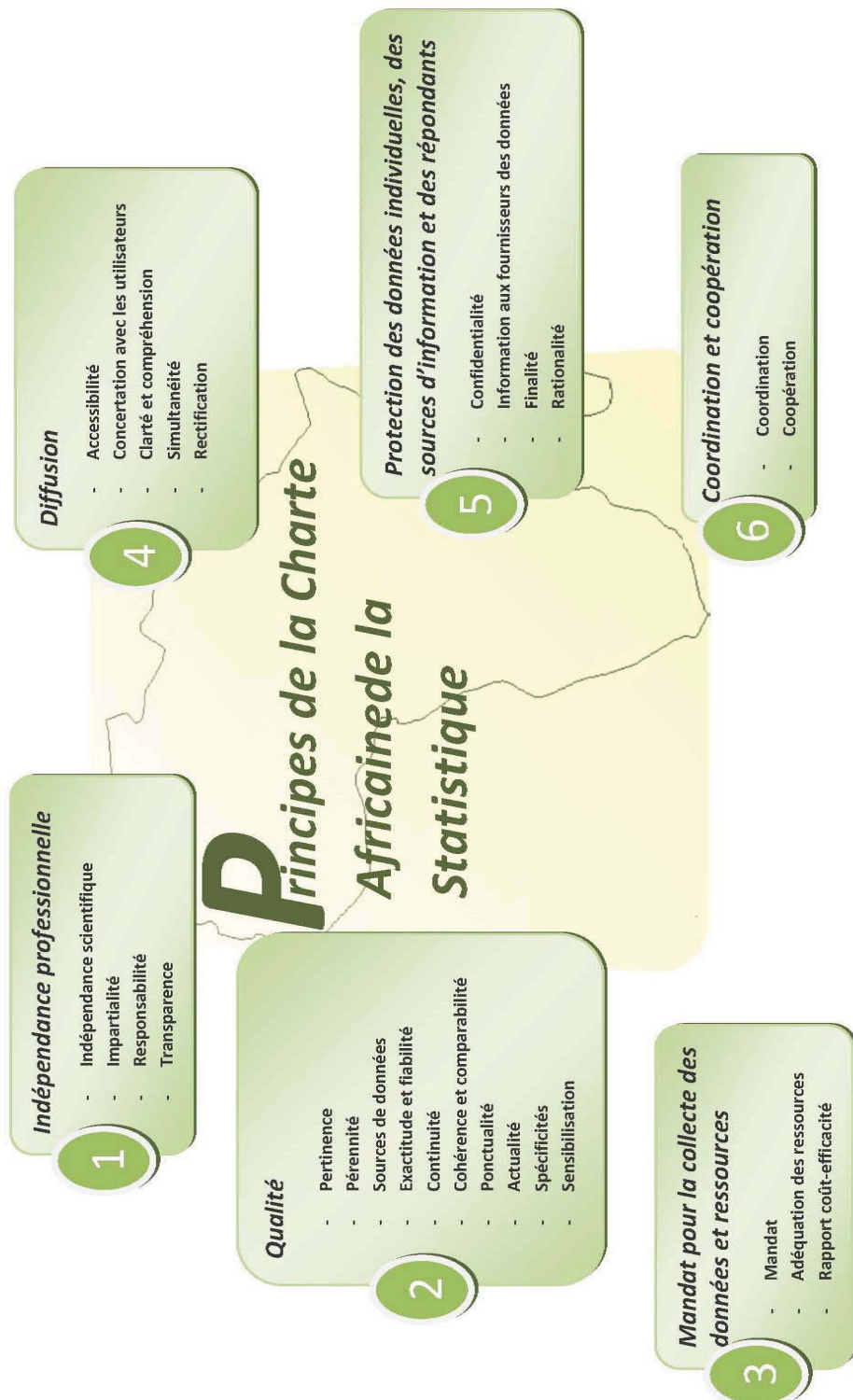
African Union Commission



V. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS



Commission de l'Union Africaine



V. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS



Employment Opportunities at the African Centre for Statistics Opportunités d'emploi au Centre Africain pour la Statistique

With the recent increase in the number of professional posts at the African Centre for Statistics, the process of recruitment of experts has started in the following areas:

- Gender Statistics Specialist
- Census Cartography and Census Data Processing
- Statistician on Labor Statistics
- Statistical Information Officer

The posts are advertised in the UN central vacancy announcement website (<http://jobs.un.org>). Also advertised is the post of the Director of the African Centre for Statistics.

We would like to encourage eligible candidates to apply for these posts.

Avec la récente augmentation du nombre de postes de professionnels au Centre Africain pour la Statistique, le processus de recrutement des experts a commencé dans les domaines suivants:

- Spécialiste des statistiques ventilées par sexe
- Recensements, cartographie et traitement de données
- Spécialiste du travail
- Cadre chargé de l'information Statistique

Les postes sont publiés dans site web des Nations Unies (<http://jobs.un.org>). Aussi il est publié le poste de Directeur du Centre Africain pour la Statistique.

Nous voudrions encourager les candidats éligibles à poser leur candidature pour ces postes. □

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
Algeria	M.	Mohammed Boumati
Angola	Ms.	Maria Ferreira dos Santos Oliveira
Benin	Mr.	Cosme Vodounou
Botswana	Ms.	Anna Majelantle
Burkina Faso	Mr.	Bamory Ouattara
Burundi	M.	Nicolas Ndayishimiye
Cameroon	Mr.	Joseph Tedou
Cape Verde	M.	António de Reis Duarte
Central African Republic	M.	Mustapha Issen
Chad	M.	Ousmane Abdoulaye Haggar
Comoros	M.	Bastoin Msoma
Congo	M.	Samuel Ambapour Kosso
Côte d'Ivoire	Mr.	Mathieu Meleu
D.R. Congo	M.	Marcel Nyumbaiza Malungu
Djibouti	Mr.	Amareh Ali Said
Egypt	Mr.	Abou Baker M. El- Gendy
Equatorial Guinea	M.	Luis Ondo Obono
Eritrea	Mr.	Aynom Berhane
Ethiopia	Ms.	Samia Zekaria
Gabon	M.	Louis Martin Wora
Gambia, The	Mr.	Alies. S. N'dow
Ghana	Dr.	Grace Bediako
Guinea	M.	Oumar Diallo
Guinea-Bissau	M.	Carlos Mendes da Costa
Kenya	Mr.	Anthony K.M. Kilele
Lesotho	Ms.	Liengoane Mothweselo Lefosa
Liberia	Dr.	Edward Liberty
Libya	Mr.	Salem Abu-Aisha
Madagascar	M.	Rakotomalala Andriamampianina
Malawi	Mr.	Charles Machinjili
Mali	M.	Seydou Moussa Traoré
Mauritania	M.	Baba Ould Boumeiss
Mauritius	Mr.	Harish Bundhoo
Morocco	Mr.	Mohammed Taamouti
Mozambique	Mr.	Joao Dias Loureiro
Namibia	Mr.	Fanuel Hangula
Niger	M.	Abdoulahi Beidou
Nigeria	Dr.	Vincent O. Akinyosoye
Rwanda	Mr.	Murangwa Mago Yusuf
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	M.	Albano Germano de Deus
Senegal	M.	Babakar Fall
Seychelles	Mr.	Jude Padayachy
Sierra Leone	Mr.	Joseph A. Lawrence Kamara
Somalia	Mr.	Nur A. Weheliye
South Africa	Mr.	Pali Jobo Lehohla
Sudan	Dr.	Yassin Abdin
Swaziland	Ms.	Isabella Hlophe
Tanzania	Ms.	Albina Chuwa
Togo	M.	Kokou Yao N'guissan
Tunisia	M.	Khalifa Ben Fekih
Uganda	Mr.	J.B. Male-Mukasa
Zambia	Ms.	Efrida Chulu
Zimbabwe	Mr.	Moffat Nyoni

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



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.

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

Centre	Location	Contact
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 Ochono 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



V. NEWS AND EVENTS - INFORMATIONS ET ÉVÉNEMENTS

Upcoming Events / Événements à venir
(October 1 - December 31 2009)

Date	Event/ Événement	Organisers/Organisateurs	Location
4-9 October	Regional Gender Training Workshop	InWent	Kampala, Uganda
5-7 October	Expert Group meeting on Census Data Processing, Analysis and Dissemination	ECA	Johannesburg, South Africa
12-14 October	20 th meeting of AFRISTAT Board of Directors of NSOs	AFRISTAT	Bamako, Mali
26-30 October	Regional workshop on Data Management and Dissemination	ECA/UNSD/AfDB	Kampala, Uganda
15-17 November	Workshop on Census Planning and Enumeration	ECA	Dakar, Senegal
16-18 November	PARIS21 Consortium meeting	PARIS21	Dakar, Senegal
19-21 November	5th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD)	ECA, South Africa and Senegal	Dakar, Senegal
18 November	African Statistics Day	African NSOs	All African Countries

Other Events/Autres événements

Date	Event/ Événement	Organisers/ Organisations	Location
17-22 January 2010	Second Meeting of Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa)	ECA	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
18 November 2010	African Statistics Day	African NSOs	All African Countries



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.

Subscription: The African Statistical Newsletter can be accessed free of charge.

Disclaimer: This Newsletter is not an official document of the United Nations, nor does it express the official position of the United Nations.

Citation: The editorial board welcomes the further distribution of any material from the newsletter on condition that this is cited as follows: This is reproduced from the African Statistics Newsletter (add issue date and number) <http://www.uneca.org/statistics/statnews>



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 connaissance et informations sur les méthodologies statistiques et leur 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.

Avertissement : Ce bulletin n'est pas un document officiel des Nations Unies ; il n'exprime pas la position officielle des Nations Unies.

Citation : Le comité de rédaction est ouvert à toute diffusion extérieure des contributions à condition qu'elle soit mentionnée comme suit : Ceci est reproduit du bulletin d'information statistique africain (ajoutez la date et le numéro de la publication) <http://www.uneca.org/statistics/statnews>.



