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Third Meeting of the Committee on
Development Information (CODI)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
10 – 17 May 2003

Report of the Third Meeting of the Committee on
Development Information (CODI)

Development Information Services (DISD)

August 2003

To order copies of the Report of the Third Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI), please contact:

Publications
Economic Commission for Africa
P.O Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Tel: 251-1-443168
Fax: 251-1-510365
Email: ecainfo@uneca.org
Web: <http://www.uneca.org/disd>

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Table of Contents

I.	Attendance	4
II.	Account of proceedings	4
A.	Plenary Sessions	
a.	Opening	4
b.	Key Introductory panel: Information and Governance	5
c.	Decentralization, community empowerment and the role of civil society	6
d.	Facilitating transparent public financial management and accountability	8
e.	Involving the private sector	11
B.	Subcommittee on Information and Communication Technologies and Library	
a.	ECA Report of activities	14
b.	ICTs in support of governance: Opportunities and Challenges	15
c.	GKP Africa Day	15
C.	Subcommittee on Statistics	
a.	Statistics and governance	22
b.	Country Reports	23
c.	Follow-up of the conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of the Sub-Committee of CODI on statistics	23
d.	The implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts(SNA93)	23
e.	Report of the Working Group on “Statistics and Governance”	25
f.	Regional and sub-regional initiatives for statistical development in Africa	25
g.	Report on ECA statistical activities during 2002-2003 and the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005	26
D.	Subcommittee on Geoinformation	
a.	Geographic Information and Governance	29
b.	Progress reports	30
c.	New Trends and development	32
E.	Resumed Plenary Sessions	
a.	Reports of the subcommittees	34
b.	Adoption of the Report and closing	34
III.	Annexes	
	Annex 1. Resolutions of CODI III	35
	Annex 2. Annotated Agenda	45
	Annex 3. List of Participants and Observers	50

I. Attendance

Introduction

1. The third meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, from 12 to 15 May 2003, with pre-meeting events from 10 to 11 May 2003 and post-meeting events from 16 to 17 May 2003. The CODI III agenda is presented in Annex II
2. The meeting was attended by delegates from the following Member States of the Commission: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
3. The meeting was also attended by numerous international, regional, sub-regional and national observer organizations and institutions. See Annex III for the full list of attendees.
4. Technical exhibitions were mounted during the meeting.
5. The format of the meeting comprised plenary sessions and 3 subcommittee sessions on Information and Communication Technologies, Statistics and Geoinformation.

II. Account of Proceedings

A. Plenary Sessions

Opening (Agenda Item I.0)

6. At the first plenary session, opening remarks were made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr. K.Y Amoako. The Director of the Development Information Services Division then outlined the goals and objects of CODI.

Election of officials and organization of work (Agenda Item 1.1)

7. The outgoing Chairperson informed the meeting that the heads of delegations had met earlier and elected the bureau for CODI III as follows:

Chair: Uganda

First Vice-Chair: Niger

Second Vice-Chair: Gabon

First Rapporteur: Namibia

Second Rapporteur: Egypt

8. The meeting approved the elected bureau and adopted the agenda and organization of work proposed by the secretariat. There were no amendments. The Agenda is attached as Annex II.

Key introductory panel: “Information and Governance” (Agenda Item 1.2)

10 Under this agenda item, Prof. Mohammed Salih made a presentation entitled “Governance, Information and the Public Sphere”. He introduced the main factors behind the current debate on governance and its relevance to the African context and highlighted Africa’s recent achievements in improving its political governance image and the difficulties the continent is experiencing in improving its economic governance image. He indicated that recent Transparency International reports reveal that the African continent as a whole is far less corrupt than some of its transition economies’ trade and investment competitors. He noted that such relatively positive reports challenge the norm and lead to the question whether framing the good governance debate on trust building between government and citizens based on better access to information, transparency and accountability rather than divulging an image of a corrupt continent would yield better results.

He elaborated on the role information plays in the governance debate with reference to information in general and ICT in particular. He noted four perspectives in particular, that have informed the tenets of the role of information in 1) public financial management, 2) private sector governance, 3) decentralization, and 4) civil society participation and empowerment.

9. Dr. J Habib Sy made a presentation on “Critical and Perspective Views on ICTs, Governance and People in Africa. He raised several fundamental issues: Are African States as we know them today able to promote accountable and transparent governance? He also sought to discuss the extent to which electronic governance pre-conditioned by democracy and the linkages between competitive governance and a people-centered ICT utilization. He wondered whether ICTs are the principal driving force to social and economic progress within the context of globalization and whether development processes are mainly driven by the struggle for democracy and all the freedoms or by market forces in full competition. He also sought to discuss whether in the “information age” paradigm, ICTs are the driving force behind capitalist accumulation. He also touched on how accountable and efficient the main information and communications projects, programs and strategies launched in Africa have been in the past decade.

10. Two panel responses to the Keynote speech were made on geo-information perspectives (by Dr. Andre Bassole); and on Statistics by Mr. John Githongo respectively.

11. Participants discussed the issues raised by the speakers and noted the following:

- Financial crisis hinders the State’s capacity to manage financial resources. In addition, the ideological shift towards economic liberalization, market forces and individualism pose as challenges to the State;
- Globalization has direct and indirect effects on the State’s traditional ability to govern the society and manage the economy. As a result, public financial management and accountability have been heavily compromised throughout Africa;
- Weak infrastructure and institutional capacities, as well as fragmented educational and training efforts are the result of inadequate human resources;
- Further, the awareness of ICT potential is dismal and is related to a number of constraining factors, such as illiteracy, internal digital divide, restrictive regulatory frameworks; poverty, poor infrastructure, lack of accountability and transparency in governance structures;
- ICT is a principal driving force to social and economic progress within the context of globalisation. However, surmounting challenges of ICT awareness

and abysmal telecommunications infrastructure mean that advances in areas such as e-governance do not have a bright future in Africa;

- Privatization of Africa's telecommunications is not a panacea for telecommunication overhaul and restructuring;
- Access to reliable and up-to-date information is not only important, but it is necessary for good governance;
- There is a need for consensus on a common definition of good governance. A common thread is the required involvement of communities and citizens in addition to decentralization and empowerment strategies to achieve transparency and participatory democracy. Key among these strategies is the need to make government information available to traditional authorities and the availability of a geodata policy and geodata at the local and national levels; and
- Improvements in infrastructure will help to provide information to decision makers for public and private decision making, public finance accountability, private sector governance and civil society and NGO participation at little cost.

12. The participants recommended that:

- There is a need to enhance citizens' rights to information;
- There should be indexing of variables and comparison among countries;
- Geo-information initiatives will require private-public partnerships;
- Countries should advance the use of information to promote self-governing; and
- Accountability structures need to be improved.

Decentralization, community empowerment and the role of the Civil Society (Agenda Item 1.3)

13. In his presentation on "GI in support of decentralization and community empowerment", Dr Mansberger pointed to the support geoinformation could provide to promote decentralisation and community empowerment. He discussed selected issues of spatial information management, namely the users (customers) of geoinformation, the required data for (land related) decision processes, the new possibilities in the acquisition of geodata and the distribution of the same. He also outlined several requirements and recommendations to guarantee an essential support of geoinformation for decentralisation and community empowerment.

14. A second presentation was made by Dr. Assefa Admassie entitled "ICTs for effective decentralization: first outcome of the pilot Woreda studies in Ethiopia". He focused on a study that links ICTs to decentralization. Recognizing the shortcomings of a centralized form of public administration, the government of Ethiopia has embarked on an ambitious plan of decentralization that accords an important role to *Woredas* (districts) in the planning and decision-making processes.

The study focused on determining the information and communication needs of public institutions such as health, agriculture, education offices and *Woreda* administration at *Woreda* level. Further, it investigated the information and communication flows between communities and public institutions and drew lessons on the type of information needed and the application of IC technologies that are likely to create an impact on social and economic development in each *Woreda*.

The recommendations that emerged from the study include, development of human capacity, developing a new system of administration and management, identifying and applying

appropriate ICT technology, access to information at community level, community radio stations, planning and implementing ICT applications, improving and developing ICT- related infrastructure, encouraging and promoting development of the hardware and software industry, and encouraging public-private partnership in joint research.

15. In her presentation entitled “ICTs in support of traditional governance: A case study of Chieftaincy, Governance and Development in Ghana”, Dr. Irene Odotei focused on the issue of building capacity in traditional governance to fit into the use of ICT to build the necessary capacities within the chieftaincy institution. Among the key elements raised in her presentation were: record keeping, management, accessibility, as well as the appropriate coding, packaging and dissemination of indigenous knowledge; the need for networking and connectivity for the purpose of monitoring and counselling, sharing experiences, information, knowledge and expertise.

She pointed that as traditional knowledge is based on oral transmission, personal observation and experience there is always room for arguments and disputes, leading sometime to litigation, armed conflict, death and destruction. The application of ICTs would help assuage the intensity of the conflicts and thus work towards stable and unified societies.

16. Mr. François Paul Yatta focused on « *Le programme ECOLOC* » The ECOLOC program contributes to the decentralization of socio-economic information. He pointed out that the advantages of establishing tables on economic indicators at the level of local communities are not only a simple decentralization process; they have also a place at the national level. He noted the enormous potential in terms of productivity and production of African towns have that would be affected if their management does not place importance on the economic and financial aspects.

17. Participants raised the following key issues:

- There is a need to integrate traditional authority into the mainstream of the democratization process blowing through Africa. However, the lack of clear codes, standards and indicators as well as the lack of community empowerment and participation inhibits good governance at the local, national, sub regional and continental levels makes it difficult to define good governance in depth. Among the areas needed to establish good governance are statistics on ICTs and geo-information.
- There is a mismatch between improved political governance and worsening socio-economic conditions for the majority of the African people and that good governance is critical to managing national resources for sustainable development. Further, rapid growth and development cannot be achieved without decentralization, effective information flow, transparency, effective management and accountability. Additionally, record keeping, packaging and dissemination of indigenous knowledge need to be integrated into good governance structures.
- It was clarified that the Ethiopian pilot study was conducted in four *Woredas* that were purposively selected from Addis Ababa, Oromiya and Benshangul-Gumuz regional states. The selected *Woredas* grouped into three strata, namely rural, semi-urban and urban. Some of the government offices visited for the study include *Woreda* administration offices, finance offices, health offices, education offices, police station, agricultural development offices etc The

presentation was a summary and it deals with the general objective of the study, methodology used, and problems observed.

- Comments were made with reference to Ghana's dual system of authority, which comprises a western model and the traditional form that evolved out of the tradition of the people. In addition, the institution of the chieftaincy is protected by the modern constitution of Ghana. It was also noted the Chieftaincy project is aimed at advancing and promoting research and scholarship and premised on the fact that chieftaincy is one of Ghana's most enduring cultural heritage institutions.

18. The following actions were recommended:

- There is a need to develop codes, standards and indicators of good governance at the local, national, sub regional and continental levels based on a bottom-up, participatory and multidisciplinary process;
- There is a need to build capacity (on the use of ICT to build the necessary capacities within the chieftaincy institution) for the incumbents and other stakeholders of traditional governance so that they fit into the modern governance of Ghana; and
- It is important to establish networking and connectivity for the purpose of monitoring, sharing experiences, information and knowledge and expertise.

Facilitating transparent public financial management and accountability (Agenda Item 1.4)

19. In his presentation on Projet "IDEAL" d'Interconnexion et de Développement de l'Administration en Ligne, Mr. Momar Aly Ndiaye highlighted the need to provide government offices with a modern governmental information system which is efficient and shaped on the traditional requirements of an administrative set up through the implementation of a series of targeted and focused actions on the development of the Government's Intranet. The availability of a government Intranet would lead to the steady deployment of government applications particularly in the areas of applications to provide basic intranet services (telephony, e-mail, management contracts and schedule utility) essential communication services for administration officials, to network and improve their organizational capacity while considerably reducing telecommunications costs. Other usages would include sharing of inter-ministerial government files, computerized production of performance indicators for follow-up on government's activities in a phased approach. Phase I of a strategy for gradual interconnection and development of on-line administration of the IDEAL Project will focus on the following:

- In the first year, the project will be housed in the cabinet offices of the ministries, the office of the president, the prime minister, and the national assembly;
- Within each ministry, the network infrastructure and servers will be boosted;
- The ministerial departments will be connected directly or indirectly through telecommunication infrastructure which will form the backbone of the intranet;
- Cross-cutting applications will be deployed to provide, through the government intranet, such basic services as dialing, e-mail and web browsing
- A consultative framework will be instituted to involve the project steering committee and to bring together major NICI players in the administration

The following basic constraints were helpful in shaping the design and development of the

various intranet components:

- Ease of using the intranet services and applications and ease of management
- Backstopping the work of the various information science units
- Factoring in the specific needs of certain civil service administrative units
- Flexibility in the adaptability of the technology options chosen.

20. Dr. K.M Baharul Islam focused his presentation on “Information Age Government: Success Stories of Online Land Records & Revenue Governance from India” He focused on 3 examples:

- Karnataka: *Bhoomi* (Land): The Department of Revenue in Karnataka has computerized 20 million records of land ownership of 6.7 million farmers in the state. In the next phase the records are expected to be available online right at the village level through rural Internet kiosks. It has been reported by the land record officials that there has been a 50% increase in the number of mutation requests registered with the department. This increase seems to indicate a mass acceptance of the new system.
- Himachal Pradesh: *Lokmitra* (People’s Friend) goes as follows. Earlier anybody who wants demarcation of their land done had to go through the revenue officials and the work used to take months and often years. Now one can just drop into the nearest Citizen Information Centre (CIC) and lodge complaints or request for demarcation of land registered paying a small fee of Rs.10 (.20\$). The State Government is now planning to broaden the scope of LokMitra (People’s friend) program to include employment generation for the rural youth, expediting rural development and redressing complaints of the rural population.
- Haryana: Rewari District Computerisation of Land Records in Rewari was initiated in the year 1990-91 as a pilot project with initial cost of only Rs. 2.15 Million (\$ 45,000) with the collaboration from the National Informatics Centre. All the 412 land records compilations (*Jamabandies*) in the three sub-divisions are now available in the computers installed at the Land Records. Computerisation Centres exist at all the three Sub-divisional (*Tehsil*) offices and copies of land records are being issued to the public on demand by the clerk-cum-operator & Revenue Accountant in-charge of the Centres.

Lessons learned and challenges faced:

- Data entry was a problem due to erroneous land records kept by village revenue officials. In the pilot project the data entry was done by private agencies.
- Information seminars and consultative meetings were held to the field officials emphasizing that they would continue to be responsible for field enquiry
- Key political executives were completely involved in the project demonstrating a strong political for computerization
- The monitoring mechanism needs to be strengthened, as this serves as a crucial component for the success of the scheme.
- Need to spread more awareness about the implementation of the scheme among partners in development planning.
- Digitization of cadastral Survey Maps should be done.
- Networking of the scheme at different levels so that data moves from District to State and then to Centre through NICNET

22. Mr. Raul Suarez presented on Statistics and indicators in the field of human rights and governance: the METAGORA programme. METAGORA is designed as a two years pilot project (2003-2005). It aims at developing and testing statistical methods, tools and indicators that would allow assessment of human rights and governance in its various dimensions, including accountability, distributive development and participatory democracy. It intends to gather together the expertise of leading organizations and individuals from the Northern and Southern hemispheres and to build on multidisciplinary approaches and methods of work allowing progress in developing indicators and matching quantitative and qualitative analysis for policy-oriented reporting. Concrete outcomes of the project include:

- A report on the relevance and consistency of a few targeted governance indicators developed and tested within the field operations and subsequent analysis;
- An outline manual of applied measurement for assessing human rights and governance;
- An online repository of current work and initiatives in these fields; and
- An analytical report on the concepts and operational relevance of this work.

23. A second presentation was made by Mr. Khaled Marzouk entitled “ICTs in support of public financial management: the case of Tunisia. He focused on existing elements of governance and ICT use in the Ministry of Finance in Tunisia. A phased approach to implementing ICTs comprised of policy commitment; use of cost estimates; validation steps; phased and cautious initiation and implementation; project management. Other elements include the following:

- Operating systems: (RAFIC): Streamlining of taxation and accounting operations (basic function of the system) interactive since 1987 and centralised from 1993; SINDA – 2000: Customs Information System; ADEB – 2000: Budget decision-making tool; SIADE: External Debt Management System; TGT – National Treasury of Tunisia.
- New operating systems that were put in place include:
 - SADEC: Fiscal Control System Assistant; AMED: Budget Preparation Assistant; GEDE: Electronic Archiving and Management; online tax return filing (“Dématérialisation”), improvement of report quality, etc; and batch processing.

Guidelines were put in place for future projects in addition to consolidating and securing information systems. Additional elements include:

- Developing the concept of community administration;
- Adoption of open-source software;
- Finalizing the capacity-building process in the administration (Arabisation of all the systems);
- Complete building the national finance network.

In the process of integrating new systems with the existing ones, the speaker noted the inter connection difficulties were overcome and the life span of each software programme became renewable.

21. Participants noted that the lack of standardized procedures and manuals; shortage of skilled human resources; poor data acquisition and storage; shortage of ICT facilities and inadequate public private partnership need to be addressed. There is a need to develop human

resource capacity and both short and long-term training on information and information management.

Involving the private sector: Plenary Session 3 (Agenda Item 1)

22. Four presentations were made in this session. These were Public/Private partnership in GI development: opportunities & challenges, E-Aligning Africa – working with the private sector to implement innovative e-government solutions to address Africa’s development, Le role du secteur privé : Privé-Public : Un mariage de raison and Bonne gouvernance et information statistique: un défi pour le secteur privé.

The first paper presented was Public/Private partnership in GI development: opportunities & challenges. Mr. Samuel Aboa gave a detailed presentation on what Public-Private partnership (PPP) is including the history, myth, case studies and benefits. Transparency, political leadership, communication with all stakeholders and public sector involvement were said to be the keys to successful PPP. Other issues raised include that PPP was a collaborative process, PPP opportunities in geoinformation and success stories in geoinformation opportunities.

In her presentation, E-Aligning Africa – working with the private sector to implement innovative e-government solutions to address Africa’s development goals, Ms. Otema Yrienki defined what E-Alignment. Accordingly it is a phrase that illustrates the need for a collaborative & framework based approach to the design and implementation of E-Gov solutions. Other issues discussed in the presentation include Africa’s place in the e-government continuum, e-government solutions applicable to Africa, government’s key questions in implementing e-government applications and critical success factors for e-government applications.

Mr. Kamel Labidi presented the paper on Public-private union for convenience. The presentation included a definition of good governance, why the public-private sector relationship was a union for convenience, the dilemma of decision makers in private-public sector partnership (human resources, financial resources, technology risk) and sharing the task of implementing ICT applications with the private sector.

The presentation – good governance and statistical information: the role of the private sector highlighted the importance of good governance for official statistics of enterprises, and the quality of financial information produced by enterprises participating in good governance of enterprises.

The ensuing discussions noted the following recommendations:

- There was an increase in the number of participants from the private sector in the successive CODI meetings and efforts should be made to increase the participation of the private sector during CODI 4;
- There is a need establish a framework for Public-Private partnership (PPP) in Africa;
- Private sector should be given a role in statistical production and should implement cost recovery operations in its engagement with public enterprises;
- There is a need for planning of governance activities and running the public sector as a business in order to make it competitive;
- African institutions need to be strengthened, particularly in such areas as the revitalizing national archives;

- Access to institutional data needs standardizing through independent commissions;
- There is a need to overhaul the Private-public sector partnership in ICTs. This issue will need further discussions in a virtual forum.

B. Sub-Committee on Information and Communication Technologies and Library

Report of Meeting of the Subcommittee ICT (Agenda Item I)

I. Attendance

23. The meeting of the subcommittee on ICT was attended by delegates and observers from in and out of the continent of Africa.

II. Account of the Proceedings

24. The Sub-Committee on Information and Communication Technologies and Library met from 12 to 15 May 2003. The meetings of the African Stakeholders Network (ASN) of the UN ICT Task Force, the African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN) Advisory Committee, and workshops on the Technical Aspects of Building Digital Libraries and Information Networks, and Open Source for Improved Public Administration in Africa were held from 10 to 11 May 2003. A Media Forum on the Information Society was held from 16 to 17 May 2003. The reports of these workshops are available separately on the ECA website (<http://www.uneca.org/aisi>)

25. Below is the account of the meetings.

Opening (Agenda Item I.1)

26. The outgoing Chairperson called the meeting to order. Then the Director of the Development Information Services Division (DISD) made an opening statement, followed by the Chairperson.

Election of officers and adoption of programme of work (Agenda Item 1.2)

27. The outgoing Chairperson from Malawi opened the meeting and held election of officers for the new Bureau comprising of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur as follows:

- Chair: Rwanda
- Vice-Chair: Zambia
- Rapporteur: Mauritania

28. The session adopted the agenda and programme of work.

Report of activities (Agenda Item 1.3)

29. A series of presentations were made regarding progress made in various areas since the last CODI meeting. The session closed after a question and answer session.

30. The document entitled “Report on the follow-up activities of CODI.2 Recommendations” highlighted ECA’s activities in response to the recommendations made during CODI 2. The activities focused on three fronts: (i) capacity-building in modern Geoinformation resources management and applications, in particular NSDIs; (ii) policy advocacy for geo-spatial information; and (iii) developing an in-house facility that would make possible the search and discovery of spatial data collections on Africa for use by all researchers and decision-makers, and that would provide Member States with means to publicize their spatial data holdings. It has further fortified its partnership and networking with international, regional and national initiatives and institutions involved in the advancement of GI in Africa. Modalities of implementation were conducted through conferences, seminars and workshops; studies on policy and technical matters; information dissemination; advisory services; and international cooperation and partnership.

31. After observing a moment of silence in memory of the late Professor Mamadou Gueye, ATAC II president, a report on “The African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) on the implementation of the AISI” was made. A proposal was made by the secretariat about possible roles of ATAC members based on their areas of expertise. Apart from calling for the active participation of ATAC members in electronic discussions, meetings and other knowledge sharing activities, the proposal focused on initiating a series called the African Information Society for Development (AISD) Series. Suggested topics included policy and infrastructure, language, gender, civil society, media, education, health, private sector, and Diaspora.

Members welcomed the suggestion deciding to work on-line to deliberate among themselves on how they could rise up to the challenge of the proposed thematic focus based on the expertise of each ATAC member. Discussions on the way forward included: timelines; incentives and coordination. The following recommendations were proposed:

- Each member will coordinate specific thematic areas and all members will contribute to the production of the series;
- ECA owned the copyright on all materials generated out of the Series, which would be in the public domain;
- An Action Plan on implementing the proposal should be developed, and each member expected to provide input to the process by the first week of December and Thandi Mbvundula agreed to coordinate this activity;
- An incentive package should be made available and the activity would be tied in to the implementation of the International e-Development Resources Network (IeDRN) and the Connectivity Centre for Africa (CCA), which are proposed collaborations between ECA and the Canadian Government; and
- An incubator model should be developed as an essential component of the process (Otema Yirenkyi produced an outline).

A second “Progress report on African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN)” was received. AVLIN is one of the programme instruments and advocacy tools, which has been designed to sharpen ECA’s input to harnessing information for development in Africa. Its core activity is knowledge and information networking, sharing and exchanges. It is designed to be:

- A network of internet-based information and knowledge resources and services;
- A web of virtual libraries and knowledge exchanges relevant to African development issues.;
- A “gateway of gateways” for information sources on special development concerns for which the ECA has the regional mandate and on which it provides advocacy to its Member States; and
- A platform and hub for the exchange of knowledge and information among researchers and policy makers.

The future development of AVLIN will depend very much on support from development organisations and active collaboration from participating institutions. Participating institutions should have the appropriate capacities in terms of institutional commitment, human resources, equipment, and other physical resources in order to contribute and benefit from participation in the activities of AVLIN. For the coming three years, focus of AVLIN activities will be on:

- Building up access to available information and knowledge resources;
- Capacity-building activities;
- Advocacy with libraries; and
- Fundraising and sustainability.

32. The meeting received the “Bamako 2002 Declaration”, which is the culmination of 4 workshops, reports and consultations done during plenary sessions during the pre-Bamako conference activities. On the basis of the outcome of the workshops and plenary discussions, the Africa Regional Conference adopted the declaration.

33. Other presentations received included a “A Report of ASN”. ASN aims to optimize the frameworks for partnership and resource sharing with the existing networks on the continent working on ICTs for development and to draw on the experiences by regional and international institutions. At the national level, ASN will work towards building capacity on ICT for development issues among governments, policy makers, civil society, private sector and ICT professionals. It will also serve to mobilize actors to highlight and address gaps and constraints in policy and strategies in the work of the UN ICT TF and the implementation of its Plan of Action.

34. Participants discussed the presentations and recommended the following actions:

- There is a need for written recommendations to the Bamako Bureau on Africa’s preparation in the WSIS process in general and participation of women and CSOs in particular;
- There is a need to address African oral tradition by addressing language and local content/indigenous knowledge issues given the wealth of untapped information among African communities, which is documented, particularly in the context of the AVLIN project and the promotion of African local content development;
- Review the status of national consultations on ICT Strategies, and link them to the NEPAD and WSIS processes;
- There is a need to review the status of ICT indicators in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

- Operational modalities for using ATAC, AVLIN and CSOs for providing assistance to Member States should be examined;
- Performance indicators for the implementation of AISI need to be created;
- There should be a balanced participation of civil society in AISI initiatives at national, regional and sub-regional levels;
- There is a need to build and strengthen infrastructure to improve access and institutional capacity such as regulatory bodies;
- ICT promotion of geo-information systems is important; and
- There is a need to establish reliable and comprehensive African databases covering all ICT related issues.

ICTs in support of governance: Opportunities and Challenges (Agenda Item 1.4)

35. Discussions on challenges and issues arising from the keynote speech and panel discussion on “Information and Governance” yielded the following recommended actions:

- African countries should adopt “free and open source software” as an important tool in promoting ICT and good governance;
- There is a need for participation of all stakeholders in formulation, development and implementation of ICT strategies and plans as a good governance mechanism in itself;
- ECA should be mandated to promote dialogue among civil society organizations, governments, international organizations and private sector on national ICT strategies and plans and ensure the participation of all stakeholders;
- E-governance needs to be promoted at macroeconomic and social level;
- The consistent use of information systems for decision-making purposes and the decentralization of services and resources is needed;
- Special funds for competitive educational systems that support ICTs and governance should be created;
- A serious evaluation of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and their impact on economic performance, armed conflicts and weak ICT infrastructure is needed; and
- There is a need to redefine capacity-building to include the participation of women.

GKP Africa Day (Agenda Item 0.1)

36. In collaboration with the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP) Secretariat, GKP Africa Day presented various ICT initiatives and activities in the area of governance. Before closing each session general discussions on the presentations were held. The meeting received the following documents:

- Summary of the AISI electronic discussion on ICT and governance;
- Preliminary reflection to launch an African action plan on e-governance;
- E-strategies in Africa: National, Sectoral and Regional ICT Policies, Plans and Strategies;

- Genre et gouvernance des processus de TIC, Dakar, Sénégal, by Ms. Marie Helene Mottin Sylla;
- E-Pol-Net: Digital Opportunities for Africa, by Mr. Raymond Lepage & Mr. Richard Bourassa; and
- Report on indicators of information and communications technologies and the impact of information and communication technology at the country level.

37. Other Presentations received include: GKP multimedia presentation: ICT for development platform; Lessons Learnt from Asia; Presentations on selected NICI countries; and Outcome of the study on telecommunication policy and regulation in Africa, by Mr. Gaston Zongo;

38. The following issues were raised by the presentations.

GKP ICT for development platform focuses on the demand side (governments, civil society, private sector, development actors); and on the supply side (development agencies, international organizations, funding and financial agencies.).

Lessons learned from Asia were presented and highlights made on the work done in public sector reform by UNDP's ICT and governance programme. Some of the challenges faced in this work include political consensus, Readiness of community to accept changes, their responsiveness and inclusiveness. Poor infrastructure is another challenge.

A second presentation looked at ICT and governance in countries that are implementing National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) and highlighted the Malawi government wide area network and the role ICTs are playing in improving financial management. The Gambia's pipeline project to develop AISI model of e-governance would increase citizen empowerment and participation, and enhance the use of ICTs for governance.

Participants were requested to reflect on **Preliminary reflections to launch an African Action Plan on e-governance** and provide input to the Bamako 2002 bureau and enrich the draft action plan. The deadline for contributing to the bureau was set at 31 May 2003.

ECA made a progress report on the implementation of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI). The Report focused on national, sectoral and regional strategies, process, results, lessons learned, partnership and the way forward. Selected NICI countries were highlighted as follows:

- **Burundi:** national strategy, awareness, opportunities, challenges and lessons learned;
- **Ghana:** the rationale for national strategy, situational analysis, framework, policy, plan, expectations and implementation;
- **Namibia:** baseline study undertaken, policy drafted and passed to the parliament;
- **Central Africa:** ECA's subregional office highlighted at the infrastructure issues, regional ICT initiatives, implementation of NICI in Central Africa;
- **Senegal:** The case of Senegal focused on gender, governance and ICT and in particular, ICT awareness for rural women;

Outcome of the study on telecommunication policy and regulation in Africa: Mr. Zongo presented the objectives, context and findings of the study. He highlighted the

lack of independent regulators, lack of skilled human resources, licensing concerns and the need for consumer interest protection.

Other presentations included ePol-Net as a unique partnership model; and **National Scan ICT baseline studies**.

39. Actions recommended:

- GKP should address the use of radio for information dissemination, which is widely used in Africa by using civil society to reach the grassroots;
- African countries should not only be consumers of ICTs but producers;
- There is a need to strengthen strategies to use ICT as an enabler of socio-economic development and as a sector to create job opportunities and contribute to development of the overall economy;
- ICTs alone cannot deliver but ICTs together with critical success factors can make the desired impact on development;
- There is a need for sensitizing governments on emerging trends in ICTs
- There is a need to build the capacity of women in high level decision making;
- Local languages should be promoted on the Internet;
- There is a need for linking NICIs with telecommunication regulatory frameworks in Africa;
- Member States must ensure the independence of regulators back by a need to coordinate and harmonize regulatory regimes;
- ECA should assist in publicizing the ePol-Net initiative to stakeholders in Africa;
- ECA should do a lot more gender mainstreaming and develop indicators to collect gender aggregated data in the area of ICTs;
- The Scan-ICT project should be expanded to include other African countries; and
- There is a need to review ICT indicators in the light of the MDGs and explicitly address MDGs in the NICI development process.

40. Documents Received:

E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/16: The value of library services in development

E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/26: The Information Technology Center for Africa

E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/4: Report on ECA activities in the area of information and communication technologies, information systems and libraries in 2002-2003 and work programme for the biennium 2004-2005

“The value of library services in development” and a “Report on ECA activities in ICT and Library for 2002-2003 and work programme for the biennium 2004-2005” were received at this session including an update on the AVLIN project. Key issues arising from this session include:

- The need to form a network that connects developing and developed countries and ensures the development of information services that supports equity policies and the improvement of quality of life of all peoples;
- Libraries act as gateways to knowledge and culture, by providing access to information, ideas and works of imagination in various formats;

- Libraries should provide essential support for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development for all;
- Libraries help people improve educational and social skills indispensable in an information society and for sustained participation in democracy;
- Libraries further reading habits, information literacy, public awareness and training;
- Libraries contribute to the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom by providing unbiased access to information;
- Libraries are helping to tackle information inequality demonstrated in the growing information gap and the digital divide; and
- Libraries use their network of services to provide information with which research and innovation are executed to advance sustainable development and the welfare of peoples worldwide.

41. Key issues raised:

42. Recommendations:

- Recommendations made by participants of the open source software workshop should be integrated in the national development programmes of Member States and ECA shall use its convening power for this purpose;
- ECA's Sub- regional offices should be more involved in the NICI development process of countries that they are serving;
- In view of the identifiable significant primary role of the library for the expert collation, organization and dissemination of knowledge, especially in the new ICTs environment, libraries should be considered as necessary components (i.e. integral part) of e-governance in Africa and should not be dichotomous;
- ECA should develop projects focusing on developing infrastructure and human skills, including digital capacities of African libraries;
- ECA should commission a study on liberalization and regulation of ICTs in Africa;
- ITCA should undertake activities to publicize NEPAD, as an overall framework of African Development;
- Recommendations adopted during the preparatory meeting to the WSIS organized by the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (OIF) on "Women and the information society ", April 2003, should be implemented, particularly those dealing with democracy, good governance and peace". ECA, which participated at this meeting should ensure to provide support for its Member States in their efforts of mainstreaming gender issues in ICTs policies and plans and e-governance related applications;
- ECA with the support of AVLIN should strengthen its capacity-building activities to African librarians in their use of ICTs;
- ECA should ensure that local content using local languages and oral tradition should be taken into account in its activities aimed at developing information and knowledge resources;
- ECA should put the African youth as one of its key target groups among its activities and ensure that they are the recipients of traditional and indigenous knowledge;

- ECA with the support of its Member States should develop Africa wide sectoral portals reflecting African values and information needs;
- Recommendation from the Open Source workshop organized by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Agence Intergouvernementale de la francophonie, 10 –11 May 2003 should be annexed to the CODI III recommendations and special focus should be given to:
 - *The adoption of legal and regulatory measures promoting the use of Open Source Software in public administration in Africa;*
 - *The establishment of a North-South and South-South partnership model based on mutual benefits for the deployment of a Software Industry in Africa;*
 - *An inter-African collaboration and networking mechanism should be set up to promote Open Source Software and establish a portal on success stories;*
 - *The civil society should sensitise and organize awareness activities on the need to create associations promoting the use of Open Source Network;*
 - *The development of capacity-building programs on Open Source Software utilization before the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society;*
- Governments should play a key role in promoting Open Source Software by:
 - *Introducing appropriate policies and legislation*
 - *Stimulating the local software industry;*
 - *Lowering entry barriers for various kinds of new businesses into the IT industry;*
- The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) should work with all stakeholders to ensure that Open Source is available as a platform to engineer solution that meet the needs of Africans at affordable prices;
- African governments should support the Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA) to ensure Africa becomes a hub for open source software development;
- ECA with the support of the African Stakeholders Network (ASN), ePol-Net and AVLIN must work in partnerships with existing regional knowledge networks such as the Horn and East of Africa Regional Women’s knowledge Network (HAWKNet) and Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) in order to strengthen them to serve as regional information and knowledge portals by and for African women and the youth;
- African youth must be empowered and involved in the processes that seek to establish Africa as a major partner in the Information Society; and
- Existing Youth-led efforts and initiatives should be identified and encouraged in order to bridge the Generation Divide.

Any other business (Agenda Item 0.2)

There was no other business.

Adoption of the report and closing (Agenda Item 0.3)

43. The Sub-Committee adopted its report, which was submitted to the Plenary session of CODI.

44. The Chairperson then made some observations on the meeting and its achievements and then called on the chief of DISD to make closing remarks. The Chairperson closed meeting.

C. Sub-Committee on Statistics

Report on the Sub-Committee on Statistics (Agenda Item 1)

I. Attendance

45. The session of the Sub-Committee on Statistics of the third meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI-3) was held at the Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12 to 15 May 2003, with a pre-CODI Working Group on “Statistics and Governance” convened on 11 May 2003 and post-CODI meeting devoted to the formal launching of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) on 16 May 2003.

46. The meeting of the Sub-committee on Statistics was attended by delegates from the following Member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

47. The meeting was also attended by observers from the following organizations: African Development Bank (ADB); Observatoire Statistique et Economique d’Afrique Sub-Saharienne (AFRISTAT); Banque Centrale des Etats de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (BCEAO); Book Jang (Senegal); CERSGIS (Ghana); Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); Department for International Development (DFID, UK); Developpement Insertion International (DIAL); Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre in Dar-es-Salaam (EASTC); Ecole Nationale d’Economie Appliquée de Dakar (ENEA); Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d’Economie Appliquée d’Abidjan (ENSEA); Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Africa; International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Labour Organization (ILO); Switzerland; InWent;-Munich Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics; Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/PARIS21); Oxford Policy Management (UK); Partenariat pour le Développement Municipal (PDM); Swiss Federal Statistical Office; US Bureau of census; United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD); University of Ghana; the World Bank.

Opening (Agenda Item 1.1)

48. In the absence of the outgoing Chairperson (Mauritius) and the outgoing Vice-Chairperson (Benin), the outgoing (Morocco) call the meeting to order soon after the outgoing Vice-Chairperson took the chair. Then the Director of the Economic and Social Policy Division (ESPD) made an opening statement.

Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work (Agenda Item 1.2)

49. The Sub-committee elected the following Bureau:

- Chair: Senegal;

- Vice-Chair: Zambia;
- Rapporteur: Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

50. The meeting adopted the draft agenda and programme of work without amendments.

Statistics and Governance (Agenda Item 1.3)

51. Issues raised

- A clear definition of the concept of governance, the variables it implies, the related domains and the most valuable methodologies and measures are needed;
- There is a need to prioritise the different subjects related to governance including statistics for good governance and good governance of national statistical offices (NSOs);
- The question of the different domains related to governance where NSOs can play a role without losing their credibility needs to be addressed;
- The role of statisticians and NSOs in the different domains/sectors of good governance is important; what can statistics add to measuring governance (Comparative advantages of NSOs and other components of the national statistical system in the process of measuring governance: NSOs, NGOs, etc.);
- There is a need to identify variables related to governance and the methodology to measure them, as well as the type of statistical data on governance to make available to decision-makers and the general public;
- What are the most valuable measures and their applicability?
- What are the difficulties of proxy-measures of governance?;
- It is important to have a clear distinction between statistics, which is a technical process, and politics;
- The risk of having indicators computed by non statistical institutions or non-statisticians should be addressed;
- How the debate at the international level is perceived and implemented at the national level?
- There is a need to understand the legal framework for NSOs involvement in the measurement governance;
- Confidentiality and prevention against the use of statistical data for repressive ends (fiscal, etc.) is an important question, and there is a need for moral authority for NSOs to lead the process;
- Statistics for the African peer review mechanism need to be developed as well as the applicability of the African peer review mechanism for national statistical systems; and
- There is a need for ownership, accountability, participatory and multidisciplinary processes.

52. Actions recommended.

- Measurement procedures must deal with both positive and negative aspects of governance.

- Statisticians should carefully review the Declaration of African Heads of States and Government and refer to it as a legal framework in developing indicators on governance at the national and regional levels.
- Establish a Working Group on peer review mechanisms for the assessment of statistical capacity and to deal with conceptual and methodological issues pertaining to the development of indicators on governance, as well as other issues such as the identification of comparative advantages of NSOs and other components of the national statistical system in this area.
- Strengthen the national statistical system by allocating adequate financial, human and material resources to its various components involved in the collection and compilation of statistics and indicators on governance, the NSO playing the key role in this process.
- ECA should assist in the establishment, at the country level, of the legal framework needed to ensure proper coordination of the activities of the various entities dealing with governance issues
- Reformulate or revise, should be need arise, existing statistical regulations in order to take into account emerging data needs, including those pertaining to governance.
- It is recommended that Member States adopt a process for assessing their statistical capacity; initially, volunteer countries should undertake the testing and adoption of tools and processes for the peer review of statistical capacity for adoption as part of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) commitment supported by an expert group provided by ECA/PARIS21.

53. Other Discussion points

- The meeting also received a presentation on “Statistics and indicators in the field of Human Rights and Governance: the METAGORA programme”, which was a continuation of the plenary session on the subject.

Country reports (Agenda Item 1.4)

54. Documents Received:

- Country reports: Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Rwanda, Zambia

55. Issues raised

- The low number of country reports received by ECA;
- Status of the statistical development in the following countries: Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia;
- The possibility of standardized format of country reports; and
- Dissemination of country reports.

56. Actions recommended

- Country reports should be prepared and forwarded well in advance to ECA and the Sub-committee, so as to enable a fruitful exchange of experience among the NSOs, should devote sufficient time to their review;
- ECA should work out a standard format on the basis of the outline adopted by the Sub-committee at its second session for the preparation of country reports; such a format should be tailored to the concerns, themes and agenda of future sessions of CODI;
- Country reports may be supplemented by country profiles;
- ECA should synthesize the country reports and make a presentation; selected countries could be invited to make presentations on country good practices;
- Other components of the national statistical system, such as Central Banks and sectoral agencies, may be included in the reporting process;
- Statistical training centres should also report on their activities during future sessions of the Sub-committee; and
- Country reports should be posted on the Web sites of the NSOs in countries where such dissemination facilities exist.

Follow-up of the conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of the Sub-Committee of CODI on statistics (Agenda Item 1.5)

57. Documents Received:

- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/31: Follow-up of conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of the sub-committee on Statistics of CODI II

58. Issues Raised

The meeting raised the need for follow-up of the evaluation of Addis Ababa Plan of Action for the Development of Statistics in Africa during the 1990s. It also discussed implementation of the 1993 SNA, the use of statistical databases and information systems for decision-making, ECA's statistical activities and conclusions and recommendations of the working group on statistical capacity-building for monitoring poverty in Africa.

59. Actions Taken

- The Sub-committee took note of the report and adopted it.

The implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA 93) in Africa (Agenda Item 1.6)

60. Documents Received:

The status of SNA 1993 implementation

61. Issues raised

- Human resource constraints at the ECA secretariat, which prevented the Commission from carrying-out and in-depth assessment of the implementation of the 1993 SNA;

- An overview of AFRISTAT and ECOWAS activities in the area of National Accounts; and
- Harmonization of methodologies, data quality, timeliness and comparability and compliance with international dissemination standards.

62. Actions recommended

- An implementation strategy should be adopted at the country level;
- African governments should provide adequate financial and human resources to NSOs; and
- Specialized training programmes should be encouraged.

Report of the Working Group on “Statistics and Governance” (Agenda Item 1.7)

The following is a summary of the sessions under Statistics and Governance. A more detailed Report of the working group is available at <http://www.uneca.org/disd>

Papers presented:

- Peer review: A tool for co-operation and challenge, by Mr. Fabricio Pagani, Paris 21;
- Evaluation des statistiques en tant qu’élément de bonne gouvernance, la revue par les pairs à l’OCDE, by Mr. Gerard Chenais, Paris 21 ;
- Evaluation des statistiques en tant qu’élément de bonne gouvernance, la revue par les pairs : Quelques principes de mise en œuvre, by Mr. Gerard Chenais, Paris 21;
- Evaluation des statistiques en tant qu’élément de bonne gouvernance, la revue par les pairs : un instrument de coopération et de changement, by Mr. Fabricio Pagani, Paris 21; and
- Statistical information and governance, a challenge for the private sector, ECA.

63. The meeting raised the issue of involvement of NSOs in the electoral process at country level, and recommended that NSOs could play a more efficient role in the electoral process by providing to the government departments in charge of elections all the statistical data needed to ensure the smooth organization of this process without violating confidentiality principles.

64. Action Taken: The sub-committee adopted the draft report with amendments.

Regional and sub-regional initiatives for statistical development in Africa (Agenda Item 1.8)

Papers presented:

- Le role de banque centrale des états de l’Afrique de l’ouest dans le système statistique des pays de l’union monétaire ouest africaine, by Mr. Gerard Chenais, Paris 21 ;
- Presentation notice of Afristat and its activities (period 1996-2002), Paris 21;
- General Data Dissemination System (GDSS), Statistical Capacity-building Initiatives, by Mr. Olivier J.M. Chinganya, IMF;

- International initiatives for strengthening agricultural and rural statistics in Africa for poverty reduction and food security, by Mr. Neman Keita, FAO; and
- Programme statistique du secrétariat exécutif de la CEDEAO.

65. The following major partners presented reports on their initiatives and work programmes aimed at promoting statistical development in the African region: ADB; BCEAO; FAO; IMF; AFRISTAT; UNSD; PARIS 21; US Bureau of Census; EASTC.

66. A representative of ECA's Economic and Social Policy Division (ESPD) also made a presentation on the main indicators used by this division in the preparation of Economic Report on Africa.

ECA Statistical Activities (Agenda Item 1.9)

Report on ECA statistical activities during 2002-2003 and the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005 (Agenda Item 1.9.1)

67. Documents Received:

- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/32: Report on ECA Statistical Activities 2001-2002 and the programme of work for 2003 and for the biennium 2004-2005 (ESPD and Sub-regional Centres)

68. Issues raised

- High statistics staff vacancy rate at ECA, which has adversely affected programme implementation;
- Decline of the statistics function at ECA; and
- Loss by ECA of its lead role in the promotion of statistical development in various areas such as national accounts and related fields.

69. Actions recommended

- ECA should re-establish its leadership role in the promotion of statistical development in Africa;
- Soon after its establishment, the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) should work out concrete proposals on how best to proceed to strengthen the statistics function at ECA.

The establishment of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA)(Agenda Item 1.9.2)

70. Paper Received: Draft Terms of Reference, ABASD

71. The session raised the issue of representation on ABSA, its terms of reference and membership of the Board.

72. Actions recommended

- The Board will be launched soon after CODI-3;
- In view of the growing demand for statistics, ABSA is expected to work out a strategy on accelerating statistical development in Africa;

Any other business (Agenda Item I.10)

73. The secretariat provided information on its ongoing internship programme, which is designed for junior statistician-economists and computer scientists.

74. The Sub-committee was informed that Mr. Lamine Diop, Director General of AFRISTAT would leave on January 1 2004. Members of the Sub-committee paid tribute to Mr. Diop for his important contribution to the promotion of statistical development in Africa.

Adoption of report (Agenda Item I.11)

75. The Sub-committee adopted its report.

D. Subcommittee on Geoinformation

Report of the Subcommittee on Geoinformation (Agenda Item 2)

I. Attendance

76. The meeting of the subcommittee on Geoinformation was attended by delegates from the following Member States: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia.

77. The meeting was also attended by observers from the following organizations: African Media Productions; AOCRS; EIS-AFRICA; ESRI; Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission (ESTC); Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany; Federal School of Surveying, Nigeria; Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa; Institut Panos Paris; Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands; Federal Federation of Surveyors (FIG); International Cartographic Association (ICA); International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing; ITC, Netherlands; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Leica Geosystems; MAPS Geosystems, United Arab Emirates; Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA); NASRDA, Nigeria; National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania; Nile Basin International Discourse, Uganda; OAKAR Services Ltd., Kenya; Orebro University, Sweden; RCMRD, Kenya; RECTAS, Nigeria; Sambus Company Ltd, Ghana; Southern and Easter African Mineral Centre (SEAMIC), Tanzania; Swedesurvey AB; Trans World Radio, Kenya; U.S. Federal Geographic Data Committee; U.S. Geological Survey & Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Secretariat; United Nations University; University College of Lands and Architectural Studies (UCLAS), Tanzania; University of Cape Town, South Africa; University of Hannover, Germany; University of Lagos, Nigeria; International Steering Committee on Global Mapping (ISCGM), African Association of Remote Sensing for the Environment (AARSE); Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services (CERSGIS); CIGET; Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE), Senegal; WFP, Ethiopia; UNEP; Information Systems Services (ISS), Ethiopia:

II. Account of the Proceedings

78. The Sub-Committee on Geo-information met from 12 to 15 May 2003. A workshop on establishing a Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructures in Africa was held from 10 to 11 May 2003. Other workshops were held on 16 May 2003 and on 17 May 2003. These are the workshops on Spatial Data Content Standards, Enterprise Geoinformation Coordination, Institutional and Technical Issues for Geoinformation managers with a view on National Spatial Data Infrastructures, and the Ethiopian National Stakeholders' Workshop. The reports of these workshops are available on the ECA website at (<http://www.uneca.org/aisi>).

79. Below is the account of the meeting.

Opening (Agenda Item 2.1)

80. The outgoing Chairman, the representative of Botswana, opened the meeting.

(Agenda Item 0.1) Introduction, organization of work and election of officers (Agenda Item 2.2)

81. The secretariat made a brief presentation on CODI-and CODI-Geo, its terms of reference and the way the work of the sub-Committee has been organized, including both technical and logistic matters. The meeting then elected the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and a Rapporteur as follows:

- Chair: Kenya
- Vice-Chair: Morocco
- Rapporteur: Congo
- Drafting resolutions committee was elected with the following members: Congo, Senegal, Mali, Sudan, Regional Centres, ECA

82. The agenda and programme of work was adopted.

Geographic Information and Governance (Agenda Item 2.3)

83. Issues Raised:

- Information is crucial for governance and should be freely accessible by governments and communities;
- Pricing inhibits the ease of access to geoinformation products;
- However, recovery costs policies or needs do not permit producers, in most cases, to lower the price of the products;
- In some cases, lack of data stock also inhibits access to information;
- Geoinformation is now mature and marketable;
- The way geoinformation is presented makes it appear too technical and is not understood and appreciated by non-experts; and
- It is not feasible to remove the responsibility for geoinformation production from government, as the civil society does not have the capacity, and the private sector will only produce it when (and where) there is a profit.

84. Actions Recommended:

- Costs can be reduced by sharing them between producers and users, using cheaper methods of data production, and taking advantage of data produced by other data producers;
- Geoinformation as a technical term should be given other non-technical aliases that reflect the interest of governments and donors in the new paradigm of information for good governance. Such aliases like UNICEF's term "Community-focussed development monitoring and evaluation system);
- Geoinformation should be demystified, and related to other forms of information widely appreciated, such as ICT and statistics;
- Raise awareness of decision-makers and educate them of the role of Geoinformation in governance and development;

- Means should be devised to enhance geoinformation and produce valued added products that would make geoinformation more visible and appreciated by a wider community;
- Introduce geoinformation management in educational and training institutions; and
- Reconcile the strengthening of institutional capacities with making data available.

Progress reports (Agenda Item 2.4)

85. Documents Received:

- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/7: ECA report on follow up and future activities for 2003, 2004 and 2005, Orlando Nino-Fluck, ECA

86. Other Presentations Received:

- Synthesis of country reports, Chukwudozie Ezigbalike, ECA;
- Global mapping activities, Derek Clark, ISCGM;
- EIS –Africa activities: Elizabeth Gavin, EIS-Africa;
- AOCRS report, Muftah Unis, AOCRS; and
- Cooperation in Surveying and Mapping between African countries and Japan, Hiroshi Une and Kaoru Tsuda, JICA.

87. Issues Raised:

The meeting praised the efforts made by ECA in advancing GI in Africa, and particularly those aiming at assisting Member States to develop and establish national and Regional SDIs. It noted the high number of capacity-building workshops it organized or to which it provided technical support. It further noted, with appreciation, that ECA has been able to facilitate the participation of African nationals to relevant workshops, seminars and conferences, and urged the commission to increase such support.

Other issues raised:

- The difficulties in maintaining the inventory of the status of cartographic coverage in Africa due to the laxity of Member States to provide the required information;
- The UN Regional Cartographic Conferences for Africa charged the ECA with the responsibility of coordination of standardization of geographical names in Africa. However, CODI has not yet dealt with this;
- That lack of coordination among national stakeholders will always be present if there are no national policies on Geoinformation;
- A substantive number of African countries are not yet contributing to the Global Mapping Project due to lack of capacity and resources;
- Applications for the ESRI grant for Global Mapping Project are still open; and
- Although there is potential for local institutions to contribute to SDI capacity-building, there is still a heavy dependence on substantial support from educational and training institutions from abroad.

88. Actions Recommended:

- Participants recommended that Africa must take ownership of its future by developing its own SDI. Further ECA should create an enabling environment for the exchange and sharing of information among the secretariat, CODI's Executive working Group and national focal points. It further urged Member States to take advantage of the country spaces provided by ECA's clearinghouse node.

Policy issues (Agenda Item 2.5)

89. Documents Received:

- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/12: Establishing a Permanent Committee on SDI for Africa- Proposed Draft Statutes;
- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/11: Windhoek Declaration on an African Geodetic Reference Frame; and
- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/9 Geo-information and NEPAD: Executive Summary, by Dr. Craig A. Schwabe.

90. Presentations Received:

- Report on the Workshop on Permanent Committee on SDI, by ECA;
- National and Regional Capacity-building for Geoinformation Technology, UCLAS, RECTAS, RCMRD, ITC;
- Establishing a regional SDI with an European view, by Dr. D. Gruenreich, Eurogeographics;
- Activities of the following organizations: AOCRS, RECTAS, RCMRD; and
- Cooperation in Surveying and Mapping between African countries and Japan, by H. Une and K. Tsuda.

91. Issues Raised:

ECA was highly commended by the efforts and resources accorded in the preparation and convening of the Pan African Seminar on a Permanent Committee on SDIs for Africa, including the working documents. Participants recommended that the Report of the Seminar be adopted. The functions of the Committee would be incorporated in the terms of reference of CODI-Geo. Its Standing Preparatory Working Group would be transformed into the Executive Working Group, and other working groups created to support the realization of the objectives of CODI-Geo. It was also agreed that CODI should support the efforts and programmes on Geoinformation in Universities.

Technical issues (Agenda Item 2.6)

92. Documents Received:

- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18: The SDI handbook for Africa- Chapter Two: Spatial Data Infrastructure Explained;
- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18 Add 1: SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter One;
- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18 Add 2: SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter Four;
- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18 Add 3: SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter Seven;
- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18 Add 4: SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter Three;

- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/18 Add 5: SDI handbook for Africa: Chapter Five; and
- E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/25: Spatial Data Infrastructure: Getting Explained.

93. Presentations Received:

- SDI Africa handbook, by Andre Bassolé, EIS-Africa;
- *African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF) implementation: "Continental Spatial Reference Frames": Issues of Technology Management*, by Dr. Yola Georgiadou, International Institute for Geoinformation and Earth Observation, Netherlands; and
- *Atlas a metaphor for SDIs*, Prof. Bengt Rystedt, ICA.

94. Issues raised

The meeting endorsed to shift made in the SDI publication from just an analysis on status of development of GI in Africa into a practical guide for the use of stakeholders engaged in developing national SDIs. It was recommended that recognition should be extended to all those who have made a contribution; and the GI managers should be included in the implementation of AFREF.

New trends and developments (Agenda Item 2.7)

95. Presentations Received

- Internet Mapping; "Webmapping, governments & public", by Prof. Dr. Menno-Jan Kraak, International Institute for Geoinformation and Earth Observation (ITC), Netherlands;
- High Resolution Imagery products & tools, "Experiences with High Resolution Satellite Images for Information Extraction", by Prof. John Trinder;
- The use of high resolution imagery in Urban Planning and Management: A case of the City of Nairobi, W. Otthichilo & Erick Salama, RECTAS; Rolph Becker, Maps Geosystems;
- New ways in data collection: "New advances in field data collection with GIS", by David Gadsden & Dan Zimbie, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Redlands, CA, USA; and
- Digital technology for data capture and processing: capture it, measure it, map it and image it, by Marc Grimmel, LEICA Geosystems.

96. Issues Raised

- It is necessary to have a good understanding of the new technologies in order to apply them. Proper education and training are need; and
- There are still some limitations on the use of satellite imagery, such as cloud cover, repeatability, cost, coverage, sustainability of the systems. Satellite imagery systems will not fully replace other ways of data collection, such as aerial photography. Each system offers advantages and disadvantages depending on the purpose.

Any Other Business (Agenda Item 2.8)

97. Issues Raised:

- Election of the members representing the sub-regions in the Executive Working Group of CODI-Geo

98. Actions Taken:

- Members of CODI-Geo Executive Working Group were agreed upon as follows:
 - East African sub-region: Kenya (Chair)
 - North African sub-region: Morocco
 - West African sub-region: Ghana
 - Central Africa sub-region: Gabon
 - Southern Africa sub-region: South Africa

Adoption of the report and closing (Agenda Item 2.9)

99. Issues Raised:

- Adoption of the report:
 - The resolutions constitute the major elements of the meeting. Therefore, the Secretariat must ensure that they are submitted also in French and not only in English;
 - Some omissions and inaccuracies were noted in the list of attendance, as well as in the list of presentations at the various sessions;
 - Cote d'Ivoire complained that the presentation that they had prepared for the meeting, concerning successful development in African countries could not be presented due to lack of time;
 - Additional resolutions were considered, including:
 - Integration of information policies and technologies across CODI;
 - Public Private Partnership (PPP);
 - Data infrastructure;
 - Funding for geoinformation;
 - Awareness raising;
 - CODI GEO support of data standards for NEPAD;

100. Actions recommended:

- The secretariat should ensure that the report is submitted in both languages
- The report was adopted with amendments.

101. The meeting was closed by the Chairperson at 16:30 hours.

E. Resumed Plenary Sessions

Reports of the Sub-Committees (Agenda Item 10)

102. The Plenary session received the reports of the sub-committees and adopted them.

Date and venue of next meeting (Agenda Item 11)

103. The Director of DISD explained that since CODI meets every two years, the next meeting will take place in 2005. The exact date will be determined after considering other planned events.

Any other business (Agenda Item 12)

Adoption of the report and closing session (Agenda Item 13)

104. Key Issues Raised:

- Resolution of the subcommittee on ICT relating to the establishment of a digital solidarity fund to be specific that the “digital solidarity fund [is] for Africa.” There was a suggestion to specifically mention President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal in the resolution because he had elsewhere recommended the establishment of a digital fund;
- Suggestion to postpone adoption of the report until it has been circulated to participants and confirmation received that the English and French versions are the same and that all amendments have been made;
- Observed that “Institut National de Cartographie (INC)” of Gabon is missing in the list of observers; and
- Call to create a new subcommittee on “Open Information” to cater for open source software and other similar issues.

105. Clarification Provided:

- The secretariat should amend the resolution to specify “digital solidarity fund for Africa” and check with members of the subcommittee on ICT on the need to specify or credit a particular person for the idea;
- The “draft” report has to be adopted for the meeting to officially conclude. The secretariat will receive and incorporate all comments before final report is issued; and
- On apparent omission of “Institut National de Cartographie (INC)”, participants from INC attended as the official delegates of Gabon and not as observers. They have therefore been listed as delegates, where only country names are used.

106. The Chairperson thanked participants, organizers and interpreters for the success of the meeting and then call on the chief of DISD to make closing remarks. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa also made some closing remarks before the Chairperson closed the meeting.

Annex 1.

Resolutions of the third meeting of the Committee on Development Information

Resolutions of the Sub-Committee on ICT

1. Accelerating the process of the formulation, development and implementation of NICI plans

Noting that:

- The African Information Society Initiative (AISI) action plan defines the importance of introduction and application of ICTs to improve public services and facilitate democratization processes, among others,
- An increasing number of countries have initiated the formulation process over the past years, while a number of countries are yet to initiate such processes,
- E-governance and e-government, are important sectoral applications within the framework of NICI plans in African countries,

Recommends that

Member States

- Establish sensitization programmes for government to promote the development of NICIs and e-government projects
- Strategize on the use of ICTs as an enabler to fully contribute to the socio-economic development and the creation of job opportunities
- Promote better e-government in ensuring consistency in information systems across sectors
- Combine the ICTs with other development instruments for the desired impacts on development

ECA

- Sub-regional offices increase their involvement in the NICI development processes, particularly in the area of e-governance
- Promote ICT networks for African parliamentarians and help build their capacity to promote the development of e-governance at the parliamentary level; and enhance the participation of members of parliaments to the formulation and implementation of national ICT policies,

CODI

- Officially designates The Gambia as an AISI e-Government model, which will consequently be evaluated and replicated in other African countries.

2. Promotion of participatory approaches

Considering

The participation of civil society, mass media, private sector and academia will ensure the successful formulation and development of NICI policies and plans,

Recommends that

CODI requests that the Bamako Bureau on Africa's preparation to the WSIS take into account the civil society and women's participation, including other major concerns and ensure that Africa takes a common platform in the WSIS process,

Member States

- Promote dialogue with civil society and the private sector and provide support to ensure their participation in the formulation, development and implementation of ICT policies and plans,
- Take into account the participation of women in policy formulation and building capacity of women for decision making, and development of media programme for gender sensitization,
- Encourage African youth in activities in the production and dissemination of knowledge resources as well as ensure their full participation in the WSIS process,

ECA

- Support Member States in mainstreaming gender issues in ICT policies and plans,
- The ePol-NET activities be included and linked into the AISI Outreach programme and other African-based ICT initiatives, such as IMPACT Africa that can strengthen information and knowledge sharing among Member States.

3. Putting in place a mechanism to measure the progress in ICTs

Noting

The need to systematically collect baseline data, set indicators and monitor progress of the impacts of ICTs on socio-economic development,

Recommends that

Member States

- Develop ICT indicators relevant to achieving the AISI goals in line with the MDGs in all African countries, using the SCAN ICT framework,
- Give full support to Impact Africa to ensure the use of ICTs for measuring MDGs and the PRSPs along with the SCAN-ICT,

ECA

- In collaboration with Member States, develop gender indicators in ICTs and also aggregate data within the framework of SCAN ICT,
- Together with partners, extend the Scan-ICT project to include other African countries,
- Create performance indicators for the implementation of AISI.

4. Improved content creation and assistance towards enabling African languages

Recognizing that

Local content and language capabilities are key to democratize access to information and knowledge for all in the continent,

- African countries should not only be a consumer of ICTs but a producer of new technologies,

Reiterates that

Member States

- Involve the media in all issues of ICT and governance for development using appropriate local languages in disseminating information on ICTs for their effective participation in the governance process

ECA

- With the support of its Member States should develop Africa wide sectoral portals
- Together with its partners support the development of local African languages for content creation through the effective appropriation of open source software for utilization in the governance process and to enable citizens gain access to ICTs in general.

5. Enhanced partnerships and collaboration

Considering

The number of ICT initiatives on the continent, the linkage and collaboration as well as sharing experiences and lessons learned has been weak,

Recommends that

ECA

- Together with Member States, establish national committees on NICIs, NEPAD and the WSIS.

- Operationalise AVLIN and intensify the participation of ATAC and Civil Society for providing assistance to Member States
- With partners to assist existing information and knowledge networks among different sub-regions taking into consideration geographic and balance
- Together with GKP, should address the need for wider use of radio in Africa through CSOs to reach the grassroots

The African Stakeholders Network (ASN):

- Should initiate ICT activities in Member States with support from ECA.

6. Enhanced role of libraries

Noting

The crucial role libraries can play in promoting dissemination of knowledge and involvement of e-governance projects in Africa.

Reiterates that

Member States

- Develop appropriate training programmes for information professionals,

ECA

- Assist Member States to develop infrastructure of African libraries and other information institutions,
- Support Member States to promote African local content/indigenous knowledge, oral tradition with respect to Information Society development, particularly in the context of the AVLIN project,
- Assist Member States in undertaking baseline studies on the availability of information and library services within countries and ensure that AVLIN coordinates at the national levels and with the other sub-committees – namely Geoinformation and Statistics.

7. Promotion of Free and Open Source Software

Noting

That free and open source software can provide cost-effective solutions to African Member States and society,

Emphasizes that

Member States

- Adopt free and open source software as an important tool in promoting ICT and good governance.

- Play a key role in promoting open source software by:
 - Introducing appropriate policies and legislation;
 - Stimulating the local software industry;
 - Lowering entry barriers for various kinds of new businesses in the IT industry;
- Consider the political and economic security issues associated with the use of OSS and work with ECA to undertake research on how issues of national sovereignty can be safeguarded.

ECA

- Together with partners and Member States establish an inter–African collaboration and networking mechanism to promote open source software and a portal site on success stories;
- Assist civil society to sensitize and organize awareness activities on the need to create associations promoting the use of open source network;
- Develop capacity-building programmes on open-source software utilization for the development of ICT industry in Africa; and
- AVLIN and the other sub-committees to promote the use of OSS in their work.

8. Facilitating the Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

Noting:

The development of ICTs and their application in various sectors depend on the services and products offered by the private sector. The public sector has a key role to play in creating an enabling environment to ensure the development of a vibrant ICT industry.

Recommends that Member States:

- Encourage and license local telecom operators to invest in rural areas, and

ECA should

- Establish a framework for Public-Private partnership (PPP) for Africa in the use of ICT-enabled equitable development.

9. Rationalization of initiatives

Noting:

The proliferation of programmes responding to the needs of ICT development in Africa

Recommends that member States, ECA and the international community promote and coordinate ICT initiatives to narrow the digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world with the objective of establishing a digital solidarity fund for Africa.

Resolutions of the Subcommittee on Statistics

10. Peer review of statistical capacity

Accepting that

Official statistics produced in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics are a necessary condition for good governance,

The Meeting recommends that:

Member States adopt a process for assessing the statistical capacity of Member States. Initially volunteer countries should undertake the testing and adoption of tools and processes for the peer review of statistical capacity for adoption as part of the NEPAD commitment support by an expert group provided by UNECA/PARIS21.

Resolutions of the Sub-Committee on Geoinformation

11. Integration of information policies and technologies across CODI

Noting that:

That catalogue service protocols have been developed by the library community to support the distributed search of digital and non-digital library resources, and cataloguing and metadata development expertise and policies exist within the library community;

That emerging spatial data infrastructures (SDI) are being developed to catalogue and to provide access to geographic information that use and extend Internet-based library search and retrieval standards;

That statistical information collection and management strategies reflect a dependence on locations that should be coordinated with geographic places as well as national political subdivisions (sub-national political boundaries) and be made accessible using common search methods;

That Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) offer Internet services and capacity to locate and apply data services in support of mission requirements and e-government; and

That library, geographic, statistical, and ICT communities operate somewhat autonomously but have potential for better integration of solutions, and that potential exists for redundant, incompatible solutions to be developed despite limited available resources.

Recommends

That CODI should develop a coordinated task group to integrate and publish common policies and technical strategies for:

- Library applications;
- Metadata development;
- Geographic and statistical data and services;
- Standards-based information retrieval technologies; and
- ICT frameworks, portal, and e-government services design in order to optimize access to development information.

12. On Public Private Partnership (PPP)

Recognizing

The positive impact that the development of the private sector has in governance and the role it plays in improving the overall economy of the countries.

That national agencies can enhance the production and management of geographic information goods and services by engaging the private sector in the various phases of the process.

Recommends that

African countries engage in Public Private Partnerships to collect and process the geographic information that is needed for the execution of development projects at local, sub-national and national levels, following the principles of transparency and mutual trust.

Governments should include the private sector in all consultative processes related to national/local geoinformation policies and plans.

It is imperative that African countries establish national committees on PPPs to advocate and advance appropriate and successful frameworks for PPP implementation.

13. On Data Infrastructure

Recognizing

That the realization of the objectives of NEPAD, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and WSSD will require a vast amount of geographic information, which, for the majority of African countries, is not available and accessible in a usable form by governments and the society

That SDIs are a robust response to the constraints that inhibit the availability, access and use of Geoinformation

That many African countries have made achievements in the establishment of NSDI, but there are still many countries with little progress in this sense

That fundamental datasets are a crucial component of SDI, and these are missing in most African countries

Resolves

To adopt the recommendations of the Pan African Workshop on a Permanent Committee for Africa, expanding the Terms of Reference of CODI-Geo to include the functions of the proposed Permanent Committee.

Reiterates to Member States

That they give priority to the establishment of NSDIs, to fully participate in the Global Mapping Project, AFREF and to participate in and provide support for the activities of the Working Groups of CODI-Geo, which now has included the functions of a Permanent Committee on SDIs for Africa.

Recommends that

- Africa must take ownership of its future by developing its own SDI
- Donor-financed projects should be provided framework data from government, and that all data resulting from a project should be produced, maintained and disseminated according to the principles of the NSDI. The negotiations of the terms of the loan should take this into account.
- Those agencies responsible for the implementation of AFREF should incorporate GI managers in the process.
- National agencies producers of Geoinformation should give priority to digitize their analogue spatial data holdings, using published data models, following the principles of SDI.

14. On funding for Geoinformation

Noting that:

- Information is crucial for good governance and should be made readily accessible to governments and communities
- The current cost of GI to the end user is high and so discourages use for good governance
- Production of GI is a capital intensive activity
- That GI is now mature and marketable

Recommends;

- That governments should recognize GI production as an investment and as a national asset and, therefore, should increase the allocation of funds in their national budgets;
- CODI Geo should facilitate the sourcing of funds in the development of SDI at all levels;
- Costs for maintaining data can be reduced by sharing them among producers and users, by proper cost-effective methods, and by utilizing data produced by other data producers;

15. On awareness raising

Noting:

- The way Geoinformation is presented to non-experts makes it appear too technical and difficult to understand and appreciate.
- There is a lack of knowledge in how to utilize Geoinformation in decision-making.

Recommends;

- Key players in GI production and management at international, regional, and national levels should take measures in demystifying concept and use, and relate GI to other forms of information, such as statistics and ICT.
- That all the three CODI sub-committees (ICT, Stat, GEO) at national level should undertake concerted actions and work together, through the establishment of a national committee on development information in order to sensitize and educate policy-makers of the benefits and value of information for development and good governance.
- That national committees for spatial information be established.

16. CODI GEO support of data standards for NEPAD

Noting;

That many members of CODI GEO are representatives of national mapping organizations within Africa and are familiar with and can advocate data provider requirements for Framework or Fundamental data themes. Vital development information is maintained by statistical, environmental, natural resources, and infrastructure management agencies within a country. Much of this information has a geographic context and is used in resource management practices by the government. These organizations may not be represented in CODI activities or yet participate in SDI activities. The availability of structured and documented Fundamental and Thematic data is critical to governance. The NEPAD initiative will require common data models and access methods that are supportive of multiple user needs.

Recommends

That CODI should convene a multi-disciplinary, multi-national work group to formalize data models and access methods that address both data provider and consumer needs for geographic and statistical information in support of NEPAD.

17. General

Considering

That many of the recommendations and issues raised by the sub-committee– on capacity-building, policy and coordination, and other aspects– are already contained in previous resolutions of CODI

Reiterates

That all concerned should ensure implementation of the recommendations and resolutions.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Theme of the Meeting: « Information and Governance »
E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/1

Plenary Sessions

1. Opening
2. Election of officers and organization of work
3. Key introductory panel: “ Information and Governance ”
4. *Decentralization, community empowerment, and the role of the Civil Society*
5. *Facilitating transparent public financial management and accountability*
6. Involving the private sector

Agenda Item 0.1.1.2: Sub-committees sessions

7. Sub-committee on Information and Communication Technology including Library
8. Sub-committee on Statistics
9. Sub-committee on Geo-information

Agenda Item 0.1.1.3: Plenary sessions

10. Reports of the Sub-committees
11. Date and venue of next meeting
12. Any other business
13. Adoption of the report and closing session

(Agenda Item 0.2) Sub-committees sessions (parallel sessions)

7. Sub-committee on Information and Communication Technologies and Library (CODI- ICT)

- 7.1 Opening
- 7.2 Election of officers and organization of work
- 7.3 Report of activities
 - 7.3.1 Report on recommendations from CODI II
 - 7.3.2 Report of the African Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC) on the implementation of the AISI
 - 7.3.3 Progress report on African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN)
 - 7.3.4 Report of African Stakeholders’ Network (ASN) meeting
- 7.4 ICT in support of governance; opportunities and challenges
- 7.5 GKP Africa Day
 - 7.5.1 Opening

- 7.5.2 ICT & governance
 - 7.5.2.1 Country experiences
 - 7.5.2.2 Presentation of AISI electronic discussion on e-governance
 - 7.5.2.3 GKP lessons learnt from Asia
 - 7.5.2.4 Exchange of experiences
 - 7.5.2.5 Strategies for promoting e-governance: an African action plan
- 7.5.3 Progress in ICT policies
 - 7.5.3.1 ECA's progress report on NICI implementation
 - 7.5.3.2 Presentation on selected NICI countries
 - 7.5.3.3 Presentation on the outcome of the study on telecommunication policy and regulation in Africa
- 7.5.4 Information & Knowledge Developments
 - 7.5.4.1 National SCAN-ICT baseline studies
 - 7.5.4.2 e-Pol-Net
 - 7.5.4.3 Report on the value of library services in development
 - 7.5.4.4 The Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)
 - 7.5.4.5 Report on ECA activities in ICT & Library during 2002-2003 & work programme for the biennium 2004-2005
- 7.5.5 Closing
- 7.6 Any other business
- 7.7 Adoption of report and closing session

8. Sub-committee on Statistics

- 8.1 Opening
- 8.2 Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work
- 8.3 Statistics and governance
- 8.4 Country reports
- 8.5 Follow-up of the conclusions and recommendations of the second meeting of the sub-committee of CODI on statistics
- 8.6 The 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA93) in Africa
- 8.7 Policy issues
 - 8.7.1 The establishment of the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA)
 - 8.7.2 Report of the Working Group on "Statistics and Governance"
- 8.8 ECA initiatives on development indicators
 - 8.8.1 Economic and Social Policy Division (ESPD)
 - 8.8.2 African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD)
 - 8.8.3 Development Management Division (DMD)
- 8.9 Regional and sub-regional initiatives for statistical development in Africa
 - 8.9.1 IMF (GDSS)
 - 8.9.2 AFRISTAT (PROSMIC)
 - 8.9.3 UNSD
 - 8.9.4 ILO
 - 8.9.5 THE WORLD BANK
 - 8.9.6 DFID

- 8.9.7 PARIS21
- 8.9.8 THE US BUREAU OF CENSUS
- 8.10 Report on ECA statistical activities during 2002-2003 and the programme of work for the biennium 2004-2005
- 8.11 Any other business
- 8.12 Adoption of the report

(Agenda Item 0.3) 9. Sub-committee on Geo-information

- 9.1 Opening
- 9.2 Introduction, organization of work and election of officers
- 9.3 Geographic Information and Governance
- 9.4 Progress reports on status of development and implementation of resolutions of CODI.2
E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/1
- 9.5 Policy issues, with special reference to:
 - 9.5.1 Permanent Committee on SDIs for Africa (PC-SDIAf)
 - 9.5.2 African Reference Framework (AFREF)
- 9.6 Technical Issues: New trends and developments, with special reference to:
 - 9.6.1 The SDI African Handbook
 - 9.6.2 AFREF implementation
- 9.7 New trends and developments
 - 9.7.1 Internet mapping
 - 9.7.2 High-resolution imagery
 - 9.7.3 New ways of data collection with GIS
- 9.8 Any other business
- 9.9 Adoption of report and closing session

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Special Events:

- SE1: Symposium on establishing Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructures for Africa
- SE2: Workshop on open source software for improved administration in Africa
- SE3: AVLIN Advisory Committee
- SE4: African Stakeholders' Network (ASN) meeting
- SE5: Workshop on technical aspects of building digital libraries and electronic information
- SE6: Working Group on Statistics and Governance
- SE7: AISI Media Awards and launch of the African regional node of e-Pol-Net
- SE8: Seminar Series for Ethiopian Parliamentarians
- SE9: General Assembly of the African Association of Linux Users Group
- SE10: Presentation of the Africa version of the CHILD INFO UNICEF software
- SE11: Workshop on spatial data content standards
- SE12: Addis Ababa University Library Programme for the Enhancement of Research Information

- SE13: Workshop on corporate GI coordination
- SE14: Ethiopian National SDI Stakeholders' workshop
- SE15: Second Media Forum: media and capacity building in the information society
- SE16: Inaugural meeting of ABSA
- SE17: Workshop on institutional and technical issues for GIS managers with a vision on NSDI

Exhibition - Demonstrations and poster sessions

- EX1: GKP Market Place
 - EX2: Country reports upon request
-

Observer institutions

International and Regional Institutions:

African Union, Ethiopia; AFRISTAT, Mali; Agence de la Francophonie, Benin; Agence intergouvernementale de la Francophonie, France; Canadian International Development Agency; CARTEL SECURITE, France; ECA Subregional Office, Central Africa, Cameroon; ECOWAS Secretariat, Nigeria; COMESA, Zambia; DFID/IMF GDDS Project, Kenya; DIAL, France; ESRI, United States of America; FAO Regional Office for Africa, Ghana; Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany; Federal Strategic Consulting, United States of America; Global Commerce Network INC, United States of America; IGAD Secretariat, Djibouti; Institute of Surveying, Remote Sensing and Land Information, BOKU, Austria; International Affairs, South Africa; International Cartographic Association (ICA), Sweden; International Institute for Information Technology (INIIT), Ghana; International Labour Office, Switzerland; International Policy Industry Canada, Canada; International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Australia; International Telecommunications Union, Ethiopia; InWent - Munich Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics, Germany; ITC, Netherlands; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Kenya; Leica Geosystems, Switzerland; MAPS Geosystems, United Arab Emirates; Maritus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mauritius; UEMOA, Burkina Faso; UNDP, Ethiopia; UNDP/CEA-SURF, Ethiopia; UNDP/ECA-SURF, Ethiopia; UNECA, Ethiopia; UNECA/AVLIN Secretariat, Ethiopia; UNEP, Kenya; UNESCO, Ethiopia; UNHQ/DESA/SD, United States of America; UNICEF ESARO, Kenya; United Nations Information and Communications Technologies Task Force, United States of America; USAID/Ethiopia, Ethiopia; WAICENT Outreach Programme, FAO, Ghana; WFP, Ethiopia; Women of Uganda Network WOUNET, Uganda; World Bank, United States of America; Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Switzerland; Organisation internationale de la francophonie, Ethiopia; Southern and Eastern African Mineral Centre (SEAMIC), Tanzania; SURF/UNDP, Senegal; Nile Basin International Discourse, Uganda; PARIS21/OECD, France; SADC Secretariat, Botswana; RECTAS, Nigeria; Election B. /UNDP, Ethiopia; ESMT/IMPACT-Africa, Senegal;

Financial Institutions

African Development Bank (ADB), Tunisia; BCEAO, Senegal; CEMAC, Central African Republic;

Academic Institutions and Research Centres :

United Nations University, United Kingdom; Université de Conakry, Guinea; Université de Kinshasa et association Congolaise des utilisateurs des logiciels libres (ACOULL), Democratic Republic of Congo; Université de Nouakchott, Mauritania; University College of Lands and Architectural Studies (UCLAS), Tanzania; University of Cape Town, South Africa; University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; University of Ghana, Ghana; University of Hannover, Germany; University of Ibadan, Nigeria; University of Jos Nigeria, Nigeria; University of Lagos, Nigeria; University of Witwatersrand, South Africa; University of Yaounde, Cameroon; University of Zambia, Zambia; Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; Advanced School of Management and Information Technologies, Algeria; Alemaya University, Ethiopia, Association of African Universities, Ghana; Centre for Media Studies & Peace Building, Liberia; IDRC, Mozambique; Informatique développement et Etudes, Tunisia; Orebro University, Sweden; Modern Sciences and Arts University, Egypt; National Documentation Centre, Morocco; African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS), Algeria; Centre d'information et de documentation économique et sociale (CIDES), Ministère des finances et

de l'économie, Niger; Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), Tanzania; Ecole nationale d'économie appliquée (ENEA), Senegal; Ecole nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ENSEA), Côte d'Ivoire; Ecole nationale supérieure polytechnique, Cameroon; Direction de la prévision et de la statistique (DPS), Senegal; Direction de la statistique, Morocco; Direction de la Statistique, Morocco; Direction général de la statistique et des études économiques (DGSEE), Gabon; Direction nationale de la planification, Mali; Centre de Calcul El Khawarizmi, Tunisia; Ethiopian Civil Service College, Ethiopia; Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa; INRIA & LaBRI, Université Bordeaux I, France; International Development Research Centre, Canada; The American University in Cairo, Egypt; PACT Ethiopia Development Resource Center, Ethiopia;

Government Institutions and Embassies:

Department of State for Finance, Gambia; EPA, Ethiopia; Ethiopian Science and Technology Commission (ESTC), Ethiopia; Ethiopian Mapping Authority, Ethiopia; Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation, Ethiopia; Ministère de l'enseignement supérieur, Cameroon; Ministère de la communication, de la culture chargé des postes et des télécommunications, Djibouti; Ministry of Capacity-building, Ethiopia; Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Namibia; Tunisie Telecom, Tunisia; U.S Census Bureau, United States of America; National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania; Embassy of Algeria in Ethiopia; Embassy of Burkina Faso in Ethiopia; Embassy of Congo in Ethiopia; Embassy of Gabon in Ethiopia; National Statistical Institute, Mozambique; Présidence de la république, Senegal; Presidential National Commission on Information Society and Development, South Africa; Prime Minister Office, Morocco; Technology Promotion Council, Government of Assam (India), Ethiopia; The British Council; U.S. Geological Survey & Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Secretariat; Service des dépenses d'eau de l'état, Côte d'Ivoire; Swedesurvey AB, Sweden; Swiss Federal Statistical Office, Switzerland; National Urban Planning Institute, Ethiopia; Partenariat pour le développement municipal (PDM), Benin;

Private Sector:

Bizsoft, Ethiopia, Computer Systems House, Ethiopia; Concepts Data Systems, Ethiopia; Consultant, Benin; Cote d'Ivoire telecom aviso, Côte d'Ivoire; CyberSoft plc., Ethiopia; Ethiopian Airlines, Ethiopia; ICTAfrica, Ethiopia; Information Systems and Technology Management, Malawi; Information Systems Services, Ethiopia; Information Systems Services (ISS), Ethiopia; Information Technology Solutions (ITS), Ethiopia; Mer International Trading, Ethiopia; Mobil Ping Africa, Ethiopia; Open Source in Morocco (OSIM), Morocco; Sambus Company Ltd, Ghana; Online Systems House, Ethiopia; OAKAR Services Ltd., Kenya;

Media :

African Media Productions, Netherlands; Daily Monitor, Ethiopia; Fenote Selam Newspaper, Ethiopia; Journal N'Djamena-Hebdo, Chad; Maghreb arab presse agency, Morocco; Maison de la presse de Bujumbura, Burundi; Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), Namibia; Radio Afrique Espoir FM, Benin; Radio IFM, Gambia; Swazi Observer, Swaziland; Trans World Radio, Kenya; Morocco News Agency, Ethiopia; Ethiopian Herald, Ethiopia National Computer & Information Centre (NCIC) Ethiopia; Network Computer Systems, Ghana; Tesfa Publishers, Ethiopia; Tamesol Communications, Ethiopia; ZCP Information, Burkina Faso.

NGOs/CSOs:

African Centre for Women, Information and Communications Technology, Kenya; African Youth Initiative (AYI), Ghana; Comboni Sisters, Ethiopia; ENDA, Senegal; Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria; Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA), Kenya; I.I.C.D., Netherlands; Institut Panos Paris, Congo; PFI Foundation Ethiopia,

Other:

AG3L, Gabon; AMULL, Mali; Bokk Jang Senegal; CERSGIS, Ghana; CNI-CBINET, Burundi; DRSP, Burundi; EIS-AFRICA, South Africa; Freelance, Senegal; Junior Achievement of Nigeria, Nigeria; Ligth of Eda/AP, Ethiopia; LUSA, Ethiopia; MCC, Ethiopia; MENA, Egypt; MoFED, Ethiopia; NASRDA, Nigeria; NIC-MG/AMUL, Madagascar; OCDE, France; OMAC, Democratic Republic of Congo; Opus Lingua, Senegal; Oxford Policy Management, United Kingdom; Ethiopia; RCMRD, Kenya; SAP, Kenya;
