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on Development Information (CODI)

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**Report on ECA statistical activities during the period 1999 to 2001
and Programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003**

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I. Introduction

1. The purpose of this document is to (a) present the implementation of statistics activities since the first meeting of CODI, (b) obtain the views of the sub-committee on the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003, proposals for 2004-2005 and seek the views of the sub-committee on issues related to the implementation of activities in the area of statistics. The report is in five sections. The first being the introduction, the second section reviews the staffing situation for the implementation of statistical activities, the third section deals with the implementation of the programme of work for the period 1999 to 2001 and the fourth section presents the programme of work for the biennium 2002 to 2003. The fifth and last section draws attention to issues for consideration by the sub-committee, and provides an opportunity to the Sub-Committee to propose activities for inclusion in the programme of work for the period 2004 to 2005 which is yet to be drafted. This provides an opportunity for the Member States of the Commission to propose activities for inclusion in the programme of work.

II. The staffing situation

2. For a better understanding of the implementation of the statistics activities, it is necessary to review the statistics staff resources over the period since the first meeting of CODI.

3. The statistics activities of the secretariat are implemented with resources from seven regular budget posts (RB) professional posts, one extra-budgetary post (XB) funded with French technical support, one RB post of Regional Advisor on Organization and Management of National Statistical Offices funded under the Regular Programme for Technical Co-operation and six General Service posts. The current list of the professional staff is provided in Annex I to this report.

4. Apart from the addition of one XB professional post, the number of posts has generally remained the same since the last meeting of CODI and a 28 % RB vacancy rate obtained throughout the period. For the General service posts the vacancy rate was at 33%.

5. In addition to the statistics teams the Development Information Services Division has three other teams: the one is on Information and Communication Technology, the other on Geo-Information and the third on the Library. The teams use their different expertise synergistically. For example the Geo-information and Statistics Teams are currently working on a technical publication on the "Use of Geo-information Systems in National Statistical Offices". Another joint activity is the servicing of the current meeting CODI.

III. Implementation of activities, July 1999 to August 2001

6. The period under reference covers the biennium 1998 -1999 and 2000–2001. A report on the implementation of the first part of the 1998-1999 biennium was presented to the first meeting of CODI. Since then, implementation of the work programme for the rest of the biennium has been completed and a report made to the ECA Conference of Ministers.

7. The main areas of activity have been policy analysis, maintenance, networking and dissemination of the ECA multi-sectoral regional database and derived products, user needs assessment and technical design of the new statistical information system, international co-operation, liaison and harmonisation of standards, methods and technical co-operation.

8. Several collaborative activities were implemented and new partnerships were established including with the newly established PARIS21 secretariat. Collaborative activities implemented included policy advocacy, organization of meetings including conferences, workshops and seminars, and technical cooperation activities comprising of advisory services and operational projects. Resources from the partners assisted in leveraging the reach and impact of the activities of the sub-programme, specifically in the promotion of statistical development in the region.

9. A list of the activities implemented during the period is provided in Annex II to the present report.

IV. Proposed Programme of Work for the biennium 2002-2003

10. The proposed programme of work for the biennium 2002–2003 contains, as in the past, the following output categories:

A. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT BODIES

1. Parliamentary services

- i. Substantive servicing of meetings,
- ii. Parliamentary documentation,
- iii. Other services provided.

1. Ad hoc expert groups established by a legislative mandate,
2. Other Ad hoc expert groups.

B. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Mandated recurrent publications
2. Mandated non-recurrent publications
3. Electronic audio and video issuances
4. Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits
5. Technical materials for outside users (data bases; software etc)

C. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND LIAISON

D. TECHNICAL COOPERATION

11. Details of the programmed outputs are presented in Annex III. However, two new activities may be pointed out, the first is a proposed Advisory Board on Statistics for African Development and the second the reintroduction of an annual publication on socio-economic indicators. The proposed programme of work for 2002 – 2003 is presented for consideration by the sub-committee. Even though late, the sub-committee may wish nevertheless to make its observations and propose some changes. It should be noted in this connection that additional activities will have programme budget implications, entailing an additional outlay of resources.

12. The sub-committee may also wish to make proposals for activities to be included in the draft programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium.

13. As the Advisory Board on Statistics is being proposed for the first time, the secretariat has prepared draft Terms of Reference for the Sub-committee's consideration and these are presented in Annex IV.

V. Issues for Consideration by the Sub-Committee

The sub-committee may wish to provide its views, advice and recommendations on the following points:

- a. Implementation of programmed activities during the period from the first meeting of CODI to August 2001;
- b. Proposals for activities to be implemented during the biennium 2002 – 2003;
- c. Proposals for activities to be included in the draft programme of work for the biennium 2004 – 2005;
- d. Orientation, role, responsibilities, and composition of the Advisory Board on Statistics for African Development.

ANNEX I

List of DISD Professional and General Service Statistics Posts

| Title | Name of incumbent and country | Funding |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| A. Regular Budget Staff | | |
| Senior Statistician | Dickson Mzumara (Malawi) | RB |
| Statistician | Rene Rakotobe (Madagascar) | RB |
| Statistician-economist | Koffi Amelewonou (Togo) | RB |
| Statistician | Oumar Malick Sy (Mali) | RB |
| Statistician | Soulemayne Traore (Mali) | RB |
| Statistician | Victoire Tankou (Cameroon) | RB |
| Statistician | Vacant | RB |
| Statistician | Vacant | RB |
| B. Extra-budgetary (XB) staff | | |
| | Boris Samuel (France) | French bilateral support (two Years) |
| C. Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation | | |
| Regional Advisor for organization and management of national statistical offices | Ms. Awa Thiongane (Senegal) | RB |
| D. Statistical Assistant Posts | | |
| Number of posts | 6 | RB |
| Number of posts vacant | 2 | RB |

ANNEX II

List of activities implemented during the period 1999 to August 2001

1. Meetings, seminars and conferences organized by the subprogramme

Participation in other meetings, conferences and seminars

- AFRISTAT Expert Group Meeting on Harmonization of Activities and Product Classifications (Bamako, Mali 6-10 March 2000);
- National Accountants Association 8th Colloquia on National Accounts (Paris, France 19 – 22 January 2000);
- United Nations Statistical Commission, (New York, 29 February – 3 March 2000 for the 31st Session and 6 – 9 March 2001 for the 32nd Session);
- Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts meetings (New York, USA 5-7 April 2000, Washington DC 4-6 April 2001 and New York July 2001)
- Joint ECE/EUROSTAT/OECD Meeting on National Accounts (Geneva, 26 – 28 April 2000)
- Millenium Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians (Gaberone, Botswana, 1-5 May 2000);
- Second and Third Meetings of the John Hopkins Consultative Group on Development of a Handbook for Nonprofit Institutions in the 1993 System of National Accounts (New York, 8-9 June 2000 and July 2001)
- Meeting launching the Partnerships In Statistics for development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) Initiative and follow-up meetings (Paris, November 1999);
- SADC/PARIS 21 Workshop on "Developing the information needs of Poverty Reduction Strategies, Lusaka, 5 to 8 December 2000);
- PARIS21 Workshop for East Africa and The Horn: 23-26 July on “Supporting Policy with Statistics – Developing a Strategic Approach”;

- African Head of States meeting on Growth and Poverty Reduction – Agenda for Africa at the dawn of the third millennium;
- Joint AFRISTAT/IMF/WORLD BANK workshop on the IMF GDDS: 27 March - 10 April 2001, Bamako, Mali.

2 Documents/Studies

- Within the framework of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development the secretariat completed an evaluation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa (December, 2000);
- 1999 African Statistical Yearbook : Volume I Part II West Africa ; Volume II Parts IV and V East Africa and Southern Africa;
- 2000 African Statistical year book:

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|---|-----------------|
| Volume I: | Part I | - | North Africa |
| | Part II | - | West Africa |
| Volume II | Part III | - | Central Africa |
| | Part IV | - | East Africa |
| | Part V | - | Southern Africa |

- Reports to the present meeting of CODI on:

Assessment of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s, Progress report on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts in Africa, Follow-up to the first meeting of the Sub-Committee on Statistics, Database development and management activities, Report on ECA statistical activities during the period 1999 to 2001 and the programme of work for the biennium 2002 to 2003, Use of statistical databases and information systems for data, dissemination and decision making, International cooperation and inter-agency cooperation and liaison.

- “Conception et développement du Système d’information Statistique de la CEA: inventaire de l’existant, identification des besoins des utilisateurs et architecture fonctionnelle d’ensemble”.

3. Technical Cooperation

- Five assessments of national statistical systems for:
 - (i) the elaboration of a medium term programme (RDC);
 - (ii) a statistical master plan (Mauritania);
 - (iii) the change of status of a national statistical office (Tchad);
 - (iv) the design of a sectoral statistical information system (Rwanda);and
 - (iv) the design of an integrated information system (Lesotho).
- Conduct of a survey on the statistical systems in place in the ports of Reunion, Mauritius and Mombasa at the request of the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA) and provision of technical support to the First PMAESA Port Statistics Expert meeting, (Mombasa, Kenya 27 –30 June 2000).

4. Training courses and seminars/workshops in specific fields:

- Three workshops for the sixteen Directors of NSO of the Bamako, Mali-based AFRISTAT member States, on:
 - (i) Management of a National Statistical Office (NSO);
 - (ii) Strategies of Data Dissemination and Communication within an NSO; and
 - (iii) Quality and Statistics;
- Training workshop for national census personnel within the framework of the 2000 round of population and housing censuses for English speaking countries Addis Ababa 15-19 November 1999;
- Workshop on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts with special emphasis on the links between the business accounts and national accounts for French speaking Africa countries (Addis Ababa 20–24 March 2000);

- Joint UNSD/ECA Workshop on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts with special emphasis on the Household Sector (Addis Ababa, 20-24 November 2000);
- In collaboration with UNSD, a workshop on International Economic and Social Classifications (Addis Ababa, 27 November–1 December 2000);
- Regional Seminar Training Course on Statistics and the development of Tourism Satellite Accounts, Tangier, February 2001; Beneficiaries: All African member States;
- One group training on Data Dissemination Strategies and Development of Web pages for a National statistical Office;
- One seminar on the Chart of Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and Statistical Coordination for the stakeholders of a national statistical system;
- Two seminars on:
 - (i) Statistical Organization; and
 - (ii) Management of statistical systems for students of two francophone statistical training centres, ENSEA-Abidjan and ENEA -Dakar;
- Technical support as resource persons to:
 - (i) ECOSOC panels discussions on Indicators for Monitoring the Goals of the International Conferences and Summits of the years 1990s;
 - (ii) FAO Round Table on New Trends in Agriculture Census in Africa;
 - (iii) IAOS Conference on Statistics, Development and Human Rights;
- A meeting to discuss a paper on Rethinking Statistics at ECA in the context of the Change Management Team work;
- Preparation of technical material such as databases of African countries household surveys to be shared on ECA network or on CD-ROMS.

ANNEX III

Proposed Programme of work for the Biennium 2002-2003

A. SERVICING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT BODIES

I. Substantive servicing of meetings

- i. Substantive servicing of the third meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) Plenary and sub committees one each on statistics, (2003).

II. Parliamentary documentation

- i. Reports to CODI on:
 - a) Follow-up to the recommendations on the evaluation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action (2003);
 - b) ECA statistical activities (2003);
 - c) New database development technologies and organisation and development information, including dissemination on the Web and use of geo-information in statistical offices in Africa (2002).
- ii. Report to the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts of the ECA Subregional Development Centres on harnessing information for development (jointly with the ICT and Geo-Information).

III. Other services provided

1. Ad-hoc expert groups established by a legislative mandate:
 - Advisory Board on Statistics for African Development (2003)
2. Other Ad-hoc expert groups:
 - i. On statistical data base development in Africa (2002).

B. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Mandated recurrent publications

- i. African Statistical Yearbook (annually);
- ii. African Socio-economic Indicators (annual);
- iii. Compendium of Intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics (3rd quarter, 2003).

2. Mandated non-recurrent publications

- i. Technical publication on statistical database development in Africa.

3. Electronic audio and video issuances

- i. One Africa Development CD ROM including statistical and bibliographic data, the Economic report and indicators on women and gender.
- ii. One CD-ROM (annually) containing: African Statistical Yearbook (annual), Compendium of Intra-Africa and Related Foreign Trade Statistics (2003), African Socio-Economic Indicators (annual)

4. Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits

- Promotional materials for African Statistics Day including a Press Release (one in 2002, one in 2003)

5. Technical materials for outside users (data bases; software etc)

- i. ECA Regional Statistical database
- ii. African household survey database

C. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTERAGENCY CO-ORDINATION AND LIAISON

1. Participation by the Secretariat in activities of the intergovernmental bodies outside the United Nations system (national, regional, interregional)

- i. Meetings of regional and sub-regional economic groupings: AFRISTAT, SADC, ECOWAS and UMA, etc on statistical development in Africa (three meetings per year).

2. Participation of the Secretariat in activities of non-governmental organizations (seminars, symposia, other meetings):

-None-

3. Participation in activities of funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system (in meetings, joint missions, and other undertakings):

- i. Meetings of the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts of SRDCs on matters relating statistical development, (5 meetings per biennium).

4. Participation in activities of ACC and its subsidiary machinery:

- i. Meetings of the Statistical Commission (1st quarter, 2002 and 2003);
- ii. Meetings of the ACC Sub-Committee on statistical activities (one meeting each year);
- iii. Meetings of the ACC Task Force on international trade statistics (one meeting each year);
- iv. Meetings of the Inter-Secretariat working Group on National Accounts (two each year).

E. TECHNICAL COOPERATION

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments, sub-regional and regional institutions

- i. On enhancing the quality of statistical data and institutional statistical capacity building (one mission per biennium).

2. Group training :

- i. One regional bilingual workshop on the implementation of the 1993 system of National Accounts (2003) (XB);
- ii. One workshop on statistical database development in Africa (2002) RB/XB.

3. Field projects

- i. On strengthening African statistical capacity, regional (XB).

ANNEX IV

Draft Terms of Reference for the Advisory Board on Statistics (ABOS) for African Development

Establishment

1. The Advisory Board on Statistics for African statistical Development as proposed by CODI, is recommended for establishment by the ECA Conference of Ministers.

Functions

2. The functions of the Advisory Board are to:
 - a. Assess regional user needs for statistical data and statistical training needs;
 - b. Advise the ECA secretariat on emerging issues as well as direction and content of its future work programmes;
 - c. Propose approaches, actions and means for the mobilization of resources for the implementation of regional statistical programmes;
 - d. Advise on the implementation of any strategy or framework established by CODI for the development of statistics in Africa.

Membership

3. The Committee shall comprise of 10 members appointed by the Executive Secretary in their personal capacities as experts in their own fields.
4. Efforts will be made to ensure gender balance in the composition of the Board. Efforts will also be made to ensure a sub-regional balance;
5. Members of the Board are individuals who have been appointed in their personal capacity and represent neither their institutions nor their countries;
6. Appointment in the Board will be for a term of two years. Appointments may be renewed;

7. The Executive Secretary reserves the right to change the membership during the two years;
8. The Director of the Development Information Services Division will serve as an ex-officio of the Board;
9. ECA may invite observers to attend meetings of the Board.

Officers

10. At each meeting the members shall elect a Chairperson, a Vice-chairperson and a Rapporteur;

Meetings

11. Meetings will be held once every other year, and in the years when CODI is not meeting;
12. The ECA secretariat will organize meetings of the ABOS and prepare documentation for the meetings;
13. Between meetings members will share information and communicate with the secretariat as appropriate;
14. In accepting appointment members accept the obligation to attend meetings of ABOS and participate in other activities organized in furtherance of the objectives and functions of ABOS;
15. Meetings of ABOS shall last no longer than three days. And where possible virtual conferences may be organized, and these shall constitute the annual meetings of ABOS;
16. A report shall be prepared at the end of each meeting containing a summary of the discussions of the Board, its advice and recommendations.

Transport and Daily Subsistence

17. ECA will pay economy class airfare and daily subsistence at United Nations rates and standards for attendance at the annual meetings of ABOS.