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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Second Meeting of the Committee
on Development Information (CODI)**

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
4-7 September 2001**

REPORT

ATTENDANCE

1. The second meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) was held at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa, in Addis Ababa, from 4 to 7 September 2001.
2. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following member states of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda., United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
3. The following member states of the United Nations were represented by observers: Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, and United States of America.
4. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Development Bank (ADB) were represented.
5. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the following United Nations system organizations: Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Criminal Court for Rwanda, International Labor Office (ILO), , International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UN Working Group on Information Systems and Services, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Mission for Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) , United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)-Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
6. Observers participated from the following sub-regional, regional and international organizations: African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS), African Regional Organization for Standardisation (ARSO), Association of African Universities (AAU), Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD), Catholic Relief Services, Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Communauté Economique Monétaire d'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC), Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC), Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), EIS-Africa, European Commission, Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), International Cartographic Association (ICA), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), International Institute for

Aerospace Surveys and Earth Sciences (ITC), International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Islamic Development Bank, Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), Observatoire Economique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne (AFRISTAT), Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), OSIRIS, Pan African News Agency, Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), Panos Eastern Africa, Partnership In Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), PEOPLINK Europe, Programme for Environmental Information Systems for Sub-Saharan Africa (EIS), Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), School of Information Studies for Africa (SISA), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Southern and Eastern African Mineral Centre (SEAMIC), Statistical Office of the European Commission (EUROSTAT), Telemedicine/Telehealth in Africa, The British Council, and United States Agency for International Development.

7. Academic Institutions, research centers and other organizations from the following countries were also present: Angola, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, India, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, USA, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia. (see Annex VIII for details).

8. The full list of participants is attached as Annex VIII.

9. Technical exhibitions were mounted during the meeting. A list of the Exhibitors is presented as Annex IX. .

10. The meeting was organized in plenaries and three sub-committees on: Information and Communication Technologies, Statistics and Geo-information. Issues pertaining to libraries, information services and knowledge management were dealt with under the sub-committee on ICT.

ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

A. Plenary Sessions

Opening (Agenda item 1)

11. The representative of Nigeria, outgoing Chairman of CODI I, chaired the opening session. He thanked the participants and the Bureau for the support accorded to him during his tenure.

12. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Director of Development Information Services Division welcomed the participants and delivered the opening statement. The Director thanked various agencies including United States Agency for International Development, United States Bureau of the Census, PARIS21, United States Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), the United States Geological Surveys (USGS) and the Partners for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa (PICTA) for the support they provided to the success of CODI II, especially for organization of pre-CODI workshops. She also outlined the achievements and the challenges in the area of information and communication technologies and libraries, statistics and geo-information.

Election of officers and organisation of work (Agenda Item 2)

13. The meeting elected the following Bureau:

Chairman:	Mozambique
First Vice-Chairman:	Algeria
Second Vice-Chairman:	Djibouti
First Rapporteur:	Liberia.
Second Rapporteur:	Cameroon.

14. The meeting approved the draft agenda and the work programme without amendments. The agenda is attached as Annex I.

Key introductory panel: “What development information for decision making in Africa” (Agenda item 3)

15. Under this agenda item the keynote speaker, Prof. Mohamed BEN AHMED from Tunisia, made a presentation on the theme “What development information for decision making in Africa”. He defined data, information and knowledge and noted that information is a strategic capital that needs to be processed and analyzed in order to achieve effective decision-making. He indicated that knowledge has now become the main strategic resource but its creation, acquisition, dissemination and use in various economic processes raises the issue of the role of institutions, universities, research centers and businesses. He analyzed various modern tools and strategies such as On Line Text Processing (OLTP) and On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP), knowledge extraction, data mining as they apply to decision making. He referred to some of the guiding principles for knowledge management and the challenges faced by institutions in the growing knowledge economy.

16. Three panellist (Prof. Clement Dzidonou – President, Institute of Information Technology (INIT), Ghana – for the Sub-committee on Information and Communication Technologies; Prof. Ayenew Ejigou – ECA consultant on Monitoring Good Governance in Africa – for the Sub-committee on Statistics; Mr. Jes Rystersgaard from the International Federation of Surveyors – for the Sub-committee on Geo-information) took the floor to respond to the key note address.

17. In the area of statistics, the panellist indicated that although there is a lot of progress in exploiting tools such as data mining and knowledge discovery in corporate setting in developed countries, the realities and challenges are different in Africa. He noted that the greatest challenge for Africa is not how to effectively manage data mining or carry out advanced statistical analysis but to convince Africa to be genuinely information driven when charting, implementing and evaluating all its social, economic and even its political activities.

18. In the area of ICT the panellist referred to the need to define national ICT policies for knowledge economy. He noted that African countries are struggling to establish and embark on the process of harnessing information and knowledge to facilitate their socio-economic development process and warned that African countries are at risk of being further marginalized if they fail to put in place and facilitate the implementation of appropriate policies, and plans to transform their economies into information-driven and knowledge-based economies.

19. In the area of geo-information, the panellist indicated that most of the information used for decision making has a spatial component. He noted that there is a general shift towards using ICT for presenting geo information and gave two examples: National Atlas and Location Based Services that currently use full-fledged interactive Internet-based multimedia tools to support decision making. He concluded that the problem is the lack of awareness of cartographic design among application suppliers and urged that cartographers should have to make themselves heard.

20. Participants congratulated the keynote speaker and the panellists for the quality of their presentations. They indicated that data mining and knowledge discovery are good tools in corporate environment, however other approaches such as meta-analysis should also be considered in view of the importance for aggregating various data sources for decision making. It was noted that the various concepts presented are important but the challenge lies in their implementation. Participants also noted that the transition from traditional methods to knowledge management requires serious consideration.

21. The committee noted that Botswana has developed a full-fledged national atlas, which integrates geo-spatial data with overall socio-economic data. With regard to geo-information, it was emphasized that new geo-information tools for developed countries may not suit the actual conditions of African countries.

Knowledge for decision making: Practical demonstration of applications (Agenda Item 4)

22. Two case studies were presented as a follow up to the keynote address. The first case study, presented by Mr. Ajay Kumar, Managing Director of Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd., dealt with the use of information technologies for decision making in the area of employment, financial management, agricultural development based on the experiences of Kerala, India. A representative of the Secretariat presented additional case studies that dealt with telecentre projects in Mali, a comprehensive information system for the city of Tshwane in South Africa, the use of ICT by the Uganda Parliament, the Graft Management Project of Kenya that exploit ICTs, the use of ICTs to increase the flow of information between local authorities, the civil society and private sector in the city of Yoff in Senegal.

Policy and regulatory issues in the development of Africa's Infrastructure: The need to integrate Geo-Information within the NICIs. (Agenda item 5)

23. Under this agenda item, the Committee had before it a presentation by the secretariat on the theme of the session.

24. The Committee noted that there were essentially two major issues, namely, the pricing of geographical information products, and the development of spatial data infrastructures (SDI).

25. Regarding the development of SDI, the Committee identified the following challenges: lack of policy and awareness, lack of standardized data sets, poor telecommunication and utility infrastructure, and lack of qualified human and financial resources.

26. After considering the issues and challenges the Committee recommended that:

- (a) SDI should be considered and categorized as part of other infrastructure components, such as roads, telecommunications, etc. Further, SDI should be recognized as a national resource and must be maintained and upgraded appropriately;
- (b) SDI should be made an integral part of the national information and communications policies, strategies and plans and should take into account the cultural and socio-economic situations in each country;
- (c) Detailed research should be undertaken to balance cost-recovery with the rights to access and use geographical information products.

27. While it noted that the development components of the SDI can commence without having a policy, the Committee emphasized that a general policy framework should first be put in place and address issues relating to: public-private sector cooperation, changing needs and technology, participatory needs assessment and decision-making, strategies for vertical and horizontal integration at local, national, regional and global levels, and finally research to solve the problem of data semantics.

Organization, dissemination and use of statistical and geographic information (Agenda item 6)

28. Under this agenda item, the Committee had before it two presentations, the first on the Census and Survey Processing System (CSPro) made by a representative of the US Census Bureau and the second on Poverty Mapping made by a representative of Statistics South Africa.

29. CSPro is a Window based software package for entering, editing and tabulating data from surveys and censuses. In addition the package also has capabilities for generating thematic maps. Even though CSPro replaces the Integrated System for Survey Analysis (ISSA) and Integrated Microcomputer Processing System (IMPS) these software packages are still being supported.

30. The Committee:

- (a) Noted the possibility of linking CSPro to analyse regressions and carry out other statistical analyses, that CSPro uses ASCII and that data can be imported from or exported to any other statistical package. However, CSPro does not perform complex analyses as commercial software packages such as SPSS are available for that;
- (b) Noted also that CSPro can carry out simple thematic mapping and that it should be interfaced with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) products such as ArcView and ArcInfo for sophisticated analyses;
- (c) Noted further that countries using the DOS based IMPS could continue using it since it still works and is still being supported. Countries could, depending on their circumstances, migrate their data to CSPro. Also, countries starting new surveys were encouraged to use CSPro

31. Poverty mapping was key to providing decision makers and planners with appropriate and high quality information that is relevant, timely and reliable. Further information is presented with the objective of improving the targeting of resources.

32. The Committee:

- (a) Noted the possibility of obtaining data for poverty analysis from household surveys and censuses. These data provide the basic data for poverty profiles and poverty mapping;
- (b) Noted also the difficulty of poverty mapping in the case of small area estimation as some census based data such as literacy and fertility do not change frequently. There was, therefore, a need to supplement such data with surveys but that was costly and difficult;
- (c) Emphasized the difficulty of obtaining samples that would capture the reality on the ground especially in cases of pockets of poverty in rich areas;
- (d) Welcomed poverty mapping as a useful decision making tool and one that also provides an opportunity for data producers and users to specifically identify and state their requirements.

B. Sub-committee sessions

Sub-committee on Information and Communication Technology including Library (Agenda Item 7)

Attendance

33. The Sub-committee on ICT, information services and libraries of the CODI held its second meeting at the UNCC in Addis Ababa from 4 to 7 September 2001.

34. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission : Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinée, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Maroc, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, République démocratique du Congo, République du Congo, Rwanda, Sénégal, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia.

35. The following member states of the United Nations were represented by observers: India, Japan, and Korea.

36. Observers from the following institutions attended the meeting : ABD-Consult; Action for Development; Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce; Addis Ababa University; Addis Ababa University Library; Africa Beza College; Africa Online Ghana Ltd.; Arput Development Network; Association for Progressive Communications (APC); Association of African Universities (AAU); Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD); BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights; Catholic Relief Services, Kenya Programme; Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA); CODESRIA; College of Technological Science; Copperbelt University; Coppernet Solutions Ltd.; CyberSoft; Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI); Entoto Ac. Tech. & Voc. School; Ericsson Ethiopia; Ethiopian Civil Service College; Ethiopian Export Promotion Agency; Ethiopian

Insurance Corporation (EIC); Ethiopian Telecommunication Agency; Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation (ETC); European Commission; External Service of Radio Ethiopia; Federal Micro and Small Enterprises Development Agency; Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE); Gambia Telecommunications & Cellular Company; Gaye & Associates; Gender In Development Division, Global Trade Networks; Gonardo Mordlaw University; GTZ - Ethiopia; Healthinfo-Ethiopia; HiLCOE; Hope Hotel Consultancy and Training Center; IDRC - Acacia; IDRC Acacia; ILO; IMPAR Insurance Company; Information Technology Solutions (ITS); Instituto de informatica e cestad; International Development Research Centre (IDRC), ; Regional Office for Central and West Africa; International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD); International Institute for Information Technology (INIIT); International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI); Java State University; Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.; Mer International Trading PLC; National College of Information Technology; Network Computer Systems; Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER); Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie; Organization of African Unity (OAU); OSIRIS; OSSREA; Pact Ethiopia Development Resource Center; Pan African Postal Union (PAPU); Panos Eastern Africa; PEOPLINK Europe; Southern African Development Community (SADC); School of Information Studies for Africa (SISA); Selma Consultancy & Communications; Sudan University of Science and Technology; Summit Strategies; Swaziland Rainbow in Talent Exposure; Telemedicine/Telehealth in Africa; The British Council; The Workstation Ltd.; Trade Point Senegal; UNDP/CEA-SURF; UNDP/SURF; UNESCO; UNESCO-IICBA; UNFPA/CST; UNICEF-ESARO; UNIDO; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); University of Pennsylvania; University of Stellenbosch; USAID/Ethiopia; Walta Information Center; Walvis Bay Development Corridor; World Bank; World Health Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Opening (Agenda item 7.1)

37. The meeting was opened by outgoing chairman of the sub-committee.

Election of Officers and organisation of work (Agenda item 7.2)

38. The sub-committee elected the following bureau:

Chairperson: Malawi
Rapporteur: Morocco

The Meeting considered and adopted the following provisional agenda:

7.1 Opening

7.2 Election of officers and organization of work

7.3 Briefing on ADF99 and follow-up of the recommendations of the first meeting of the sub-committee on Information and Communication Technologies

7.4 Presentation of the report of the African Technical Advisory Committee on the African Information Society Initiative (AISII)

7.5 Progress report on NICI implementation, evaluation of the impact of NICI in Africa: the SCAN-ICT project

7.6 Presentation and evaluation of ICT applications on the four initiatives of the ADF'99 conference (health, education, e-commerce and ICT policy and regulation)

7.7 New trends in Library automation

7.8 Report on ECA activities in the area of information and communication technologies, Information systems and libraries during the period 1999-2001 and Programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003

7.9 Any other business

7.10 Adoption of report and closing session

Briefing on ADF99 and follow-up of the recommendations of the first meeting of the sub-committee on Information and Communication Technologies (Agenda Item 7.3)

39. The session began by ECA's briefing on ADF'99 outcomes and a follow up to the recommendations of the first meeting of CODI.

40. The Chairman of the African Technical Advisory Committee presented the report of the Committee's work.

The Sub-Committee made the following recommendations:

- It was recommended that there should be a coordinating mechanism on ICT projects within the continent.
- It was recommended that there should be a coordinating and monitoring mechanisms on the various ICT projects within the countries (a sort of National CODIs)
- There should be a feedback mechanism between National CODIs and the main CODI meeting.
- It was recommended that there is a need to introduce an electronic bulletin service to communicate the various activities of CODI and utilize the existing AISI ListServ.
- It was recommended that there should be a significant African representation at high level in international fora.
- It was suggested that African countries should be sensitized on ethical related issues resulting from the use of ICTs.
- An impact analysis on the use of ICTs by Africans was suggested.
- It was proposed that there should be a good marketing strategy to sensitize African users on the potential of ICTs.
- It was recommended that African countries should be advised on engaging themselves in hardware manufacturing in order to ensure a wide use of ICTs.

Presentation of the report of the African Technical Advisory Committee on the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) (Agenda Item 7.4)

Report of the session "Policy and regulatory issues in the development of Africa's Infrastructure: The need to integrate Geo-Information within the NICIs"

41. The sub-committee considered the following issues:

- Pricing of the geographical publications
- The following challenges were identified for the development of spatial data infrastructure (SDI):
 - Lack of policy and awareness
 - Lack of standardized data sets
 - Poor telecommunication and utility infrastructure in developing countries
 - Lack of qualified human resources and financial resources

42. The following recommendations were made as regards to policy and regulatory issues related to Geo information and NICIs :

- It was recommended that SDI should be considered and categorized as part of a wider infrastructure aspects like roads, telecommunications etc. SDI should be recognized as a national resource and must be updated and improved appropriately.
- Development of SDI need to be an integral part of the national Information and communication policies, strategies and plans and policies and strategies aiming at developing SDI should take into account the cultural and socio-economic situations in each country.
- Although some participants felt that the development of SDI can commence without having a policy, others felt that there should be a general policy framework that should address the following issues:
 - Cooperation between public and private sector
 - Formulation of flexible policy that addresses the rapidly changing needs and technology
 - Involvement of all users in defining and testing expected products
 - Formulation of vertical and horizontal strategy that ensures its development at national, regional and local levels.
 - The need to undertake research to resolve the problem of data semantics.
 - The need to develop e-market strategies for SDI and matching policies on pricing to rights to access and use of SDI data. Considering the complexity of pricing SDI, it was recommended that detailed research should be undertaken on this matter.

Progress Report on NICI implementation; evaluation of the impact of NICI in Africa: the Scan-ICT Project (Agenda Item 7.5)

43. The presenter discussed progress and impact of the National Information and Communications Infrastructure (NICI) Plans, policies and Strategies and Scan-ICT: Operational issues and progress.

44. Presentation was made on the Scan-ICT methodology by representative of IDRC Acacia program. Following this, African countries involved in the Scan project were asked to report on the status of the project in their respective countries. Accordingly, brief reports were presented by Ethiopia, Mozambique, Morocco, Senegal, and Uganda.

45. The following recommendations were made:

- It was recommended that the NICI process should include issues such as infoethics, multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace.
- The ATAC was advised to lobby governments to change the frequency allocation currently employed in African countries so that more frequency can be accommodated.
- The importance of the need for commitment from policy/decision makers in the NICI policy and plan development exercise was noted.
- ECA should also extend its follow up to graduates of the CISCO and similar initiatives trained in locations outside its headquarters. It should also explore ways of providing ICT training in other areas such as software development in collaboration with the private sector such as Oracle and partners like the USAID..

- The Scan-ICT project was urged to come up with indicators that would reflect the African situation and facts.
- It was noted that the indicators in the Scan-ICT project should be linked with issues covered in the NICI policies.
- The Scan-ICT project should measure the web sites created in local languages and the integration of ICTs in local communities.

Presentation on Country Papers

46. After this session on Agenda Item 7.5, the Committee decided to consider country presentation, by the following countries and organizations: Nigeria, Uganda, Morocco, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Africa, University of Pennsylvania, Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) regarding various ICT activities in their respective countries and organizations.

Report of the session on “presentation and evaluation of ICT applications against the initiatives of the ADF '99” (Agenda Item 7.6)

47. Three presentations were made on the following topics: ICT applications in education, ICT applications in health and ICT applications in commerce and trade.

48. The following recommendations were made:

- More information on practical examples of applications and best practices in Africa with respect to the VarsityNet and OOSYNET programmes and projects needs to be made available. Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI)’s online distance education programme can be taken as an example.
- Apart from advanced applications in all the identified sectors, different alternative options should be proposed that would take into consideration the African socio-economic conditions. Applications that have been identified in the strategy documents such as telemedicine, expert systems, disseminating healthcare information to communities through community radios and telecentres should be effectively used to address Africa’s basic problems in the health sector - fighting infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.
- Member states are urged to co-ordinate, co-operate and hold consultation meetings at national level regarding the implementation of various ICT programmes in all sectors. Particularly sectoral ministries should play a leading role in this regard.
- The UN should take the ICT issue as a cross-cutting issue covering all sectors rather than being a sector on its own, and reflect this in the country programmes. Co-ordination is also required at the UN level to harmonise and strategize programmes and projects at country level. For this purpose, the UN ICT Task Force and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) programme needs to be strengthened.
- ECA has to develop a system or web portal whereby African products and services can be catalogued for easy access and promoting African products and services for international market through e-commerce applications. In this connection, the experience and system developed by PeopleLink can be considered as a model.

- Africa needs to be adequately represented and have a common voice at global fora to reflect its concerns on ICT governance and application of ICTs to harness its socio-economic development. For this to happen, it is imperative that member States have to work together and formulate and implement strategies aiming at raising the negotiation power of the continent in international forums.
- ECA is requested to organise and conduct an African Trade Forum whereby African policy makers and other stakeholders meet to discuss trade issues related to policies and regulatory aspects of e-commerce applications including the governance process of e-commerce initiatives in Africa.

New trends in Library automation: Report of the Expert Preparatory meeting on knowledge management and the African Virtual Library and Information Network Initiative (AVLIN) (Agenda Item 7. 7)

49. The report (ECA document no.: L/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/9) provided information on the expert preparatory group meeting on knowledge management and the African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN) held on 3 September 2001. The meeting was attended by Forty-nine experts from 16 countries and five international organizations. Two background papers were presented:

- Knowledge management for decision making, tools, institutions and paradigms (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/10); and
- ii) Building the African Virtual Library and Information Network: concepts, issues, challenges and opportunities (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/9Add.1), were presented at the meeting.

50. The experts noted with appreciation the ongoing role of ECA in promoting effective information management policies and practices in the African region.

51. The main recommendations of the workshop were:

- ECA's activities should be expanded to include awareness and capacity building in knowledge management.
- Libraries and related information centres; professional, scientific and trade associations, and other related "communities of practice"; government agencies; and groupings of civic society should be involved in the development of national knowledge systems.
- After noting that AVLIN is long overdue, it was recommended that a steering committee be set up immediately to drive the process of its development and implementation.
- ECA should provide the seed money for the immediate take-off of the project.
- During the first phase of AVLIN, efforts should be made to identify and coordinate related activities being undertaken on the continent to avoid duplication of efforts and resources.
- AVLIN should be a sustainable project, and therefore it should not depend entirely on donor funding. Participating libraries should, as much as possible, be supported with national and institutional budgets for their AVLIN related activities.
- Participation in AVLIN should be on a voluntary basis and institutions intending to join AVLIN will be expected to meet basic requirements that will be formulated later.
- AVLIN should lay emphasis on the development of relevant professional competencies as its success will depend on the technical and managerial capacities of information professionals in the participating institutions.

- ECA should initiate knowledge management activities to leverage the knowledge assets of the institution and serve as a training ground for African institutions.
- AVLIN project activities need to commence with capacity building in the field of knowledge management through appropriate awareness raising, training, policy analysis and advocacy, and development of institutional projects.
- Implementation of AVLIN should be regarded as an integral part of the infrastructure for enhancing access to development information and knowledge resources available on the continent and elsewhere.

52. The ICT Sub-Committee discussed the report and accepted it. Further, it unanimously decided to give ECA the mandate to appoint the members of AVLIN Steering Committee.

Report on ECA Programme of Work in ICT and libraries (Agenda Item 7.8)

53. The Secretariat introduced a document relating to the activities of the ECA since CODI I and the activities planned for 2002-2003. The sub-committee considered ECA programme of work in ICT and libraries for biennium 2002-2003.

54. The following recommendations were put forwards:

- It was recommended that ECA continue working in promoting ICT for development in Africa and strengthen its efforts in getting the commitments of member States and the global community to make the necessary resources available to ICTs. It was also noted that strategies in electronic commerce in Africa take the global IT slow-down into consideration.
- It was recommended that the ECA should continue with its activities in the field of sensitization of policy-makers and donors to ensure that the development projects of the ICTs are considered as priority.
- It was recommended that International Organizations, as well as donors should give priority to the development of the ICTs.
- It was recommended that the Economic Commission for Africa should take charge of the management of AVLIN.

Any other business (Agenda Item 7.9)

55. Under this agenda item, the following points were raised:

- The issue of the cost of ICTs should be reconsidered by African policy-makers, owing to the fact that the cost of ICTs has decreased, thus encouraging investments in the ICTs in an enabling and competitive political environment.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) briefed participants on a new initiative “the Health Inter-Network” and encouraged interested participants to take part in this initiative which gives access to free medical care through the ICTs.

Adoption of the report and closing session (Agenda Item 7.10)

56. The sub-committee adopted the report and the session was adjourned.

Sub-committee on Statistics (Agenda Item 8)

Attendance

57. The Sub-committee on statistics of the CODI 2 held its second meeting at UNCC in Addis Ababa from 4 to 7 September 2001.

58. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic Of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe

59. Observers from the following agencies attended the meeting: ADB, AFRISTAT, COMESA, CEMAC, Département de statistique de l'ENEA Dakar, EASTC, ECOWAS, EUROSTAT, FAO, Islamic Development Bank, ISSEA, PARIS21, UNSD, UNEP, US Bureau of the Census, Université Abdou Moumouni (Niger), University of Malawi, University of Mauritius, University of Ghana, WHO and the World Bank

Opening (Agenda item 8.1)

60. The meeting was opened by Mr. Dickson Mzumara on behalf of Ms. Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane, Director, Development Information Services Division (DISD), Economic Commission for Africa.

Election of officers and organization of work (Agenda item 8.2)

61. The Sub-committee elected the following bureau:

Chairman: Mauritius

Vice-Chairman: Benin

Rapporteur: Morocco.

62. The meeting considered and adopted the provisional agenda contained at section 8 of Annex 1.

Country reports (Agenda item 8.3)

63. Under this agenda item, the following 23 countries presented a summary of their national reports: Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The Secretariat supplemented the presentations with a synthesis of the main issues.

Actions taken by the Sub-committee:

64. The Sub-committee:

- a Noted the issues raised which included: statistical system organization, user/producer relations, statistical activities, household surveys, challenges and prospects, data-dissemination practices, major users, contribution of improved statistical capabilities to the preparation of poverty-reduction strategy papers, major activities and current plans, donor relations and contributions and national priorities;
- b Noted also the efforts that had been made to diversify and improve the quality of statistical production and monitoring services in various areas, particularly with regard to household surveys, population censuses, poverty monitoring and national accounts;
- c Observed that there was an increased need for reliable statistics under the current development agenda. Cases in point were the statistical requirements for preparing the poverty-reduction strategy papers, the need to meet international recommendations and guidelines including the GDDS and requirements for harmonizing sub-regional integration schemes. The Sub-Committee also noted the efforts made by the countries to improve the institutional framework for statistical activities, organizational and coordination structures, especially producer and user relations in spite of prevailing shortcomings;
- d Emphasized the need for efforts to improve dissemination through the Internet and to use geographic information systems in data presentation. It noted also the recurrent problem of skilled manpower and management capacity;
- e Expressed concern over the fact that not much attention was paid to the high turnover of staff that was taking a toll on national responses to current needs and that in many countries, governments were not committed to statistical development;
- f Noted the deficiencies in African statistical systems which persist in areas as vital as human and material resources, institutional capacities, coordination, harmonisation and standardisation.

Results of the Evaluation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in African in the 1990's (AAPA) (Agenda item 8.4.1)

65. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following documents:

Assessment of the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in African in the 1990's (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11)

Report of the Tenth meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11. Add. 1)

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

66. The Sub-committee:

- a. Expressed general appreciation for the Report on the Evaluation of the AAPA;
- b. Noted that the AAPA completed its period of implementation at the end of the 1990s decade and that and that
- c. the mandate of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) has ended;
- d. Noted also the reasons for the unsatisfactory implementation of the Plan of Action, in particular the failure to publicize and popularize it and the consequent absence of ownership of the Plan of Action at the national level, resource inadequacies and their continued decline;
- e. Noted further that coordination of the statistical activities at the national, regional and international levels remained a serious concern;
- f. Recommended that COMESA should be included in the list of the organizations mentioned in paragraph 27 of the evaluation report, in view of its important role in the promotion of the improvement of trade statistics;
- g. Recommended also that paragraph 61 of the report be amended to indicate that several other African countries which were not included in the survey, are currently implementing the GDDS;
- h. Expressed concern on the existence of several plans of action in some African countries and emphasized the need to integrate them into a common framework;
- i. Emphasized the need for a framework or a new plan of action to carry forward the principles of the AAPA;
- j. Underscored the important contribution of institutions of higher learning to statistical capacity building and the need to carefully review the problems they are facing with a view to strengthening them, in particular through the establishment of a Trust Fund which would provide fellowships to African statistical training centres;
- k. Urged African governments to allocate a higher and significant proportion of their national budgets to statistical development;
- l. Endorsed the evaluation report with the amendments cited above.

The way forward (Agenda item 8.4.2)

67. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following documents:

Report of the Tenth meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development

(CASD) (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11/Add.1); and

The Way Forward (Open discussion on the next steps of the process of strengthening statistical development in Africa for the next decade) - (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11/Add.2))

68. The Sub-committee also had before it a powerpoint presentation by the secretariat on the Way Forward as a follow-up to the assessment of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

69. The Sub-committee:

- a Noted:
 - i. The outcome of the electronic discussion which had been conducted in August 2001 on the subject;
 - ii. The very low degree of participation by statisticians from African statistical institutions;
 - iii. The thrust of discussion which had focused on the type of regional action to be pursued in future, the role of ECA in that event, how to help countries to achieve ownership of regional initiatives;
 - iv. The proposed new mechanisms and structures, namely: (i) a new plan of action or a framework or guiding principles for African statistical development in the next decade using the outcomes of the assessment of the AAPA as well as emerging data requirements; (ii) the establishment of an Africa chapter of the PARIS21 consortium; and (iii) of an Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa.
- b expressed its support for the recommended machinery and structure namely:
 - i. The adoption of a framework for African statistical development over the next decade;
 - ii. The African chapter of PARIS21 consortium, and
 - iii. The Advisory Board on African Statistical Development.
- c Expressed concern over the insufficiency of human resources, high mobility and the high rate of attrition of African statisticians from national institutions which was perceived as inimical to the implementation of national programmes;
- d Noted also the terms of reference used by the Sub-committee on information and communications technology, similar to the one proposed for consideration by the statistics Sub-committee. The ICT organs include an Advisory Board (ATAC), a forum of donors and other partners (PICTA), a follow up and evaluation programme (SCAN-ICT).

- e Invited Donors to assist national statistical institutions in meeting financial constraints and in supporting national capacity building of those institutions so that they could carry out research in the statistical field and participate actively in international fora on statistical concepts, norms and standards.
- f Emphasized that although all the AAPA objectives were not achieved, care should be exercised in interpreting the results of the evaluation of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for statistical development in Africa, as remarkable progress was recorded by some national institutions under the plan;
- g Recommended that:
 - i. the activities undertaken by all the actors working towards statistical development in Africa should be coordinated in order to, on the one hand reduce the adverse effects of dispersion and duplication actions, which are to a large extent due to conflicts of interest, and on the other ensure a rational and efficient distribution of the resources allocated for statistical development in Africa;
 - ii. There should be effective ownership of new initiatives by member States and policy-makers, if need be, with the establishment of advocacy groups to support the participation of the different actors and the new mechanisms and structures;
 - iii. The relations between ECA and PARIS21 should be clearly defined.
 - iv. With regard to the Advisory Board, there should be a clarification of the following aspects: its mandate; the role and responsibilities of national statistical institutions, subregional institutions like AFRISTAT and regional institutions and the objectives and follow-up and evaluation mechanisms of its recommendations;
 - v. Member States should be closely associated with the establishment of the Board and with the formulation of the Terms of Reference and the framework for statistical development in Africa;
 - vi. Users should be represented in the Board;
 - vii. Appropriate Mechanisms for the coordination of producers of statistics should be established at all levels;
 - viii. The Africa chapter of PARIS21 should be defined at the national level;
 - ix. Capacities for negotiation through preparation of plans, strategic frameworks and guiding principles for the development of statistics should be strengthened as these elements are instruments of transparency;
 - x. a greater use should be made of the sub-regional institutions operating in the field to ensure an effective and a speedy implementation of the new initiatives envisaged; and

- xi. An enlarged consultation mechanism should be established at the regional level and with partners.

Assessment of the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in Africa (Agenda item 8.5)

70. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Assessment of the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) in Africa (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/12)

Actions taken by the Sub-committee:

71. The Sub-committee:

- h Noted:
 - i. The methodologies used to assess the implementation of SNA93 in Africa and the results of the survey conducted to that effect
 - ii. The low response rate, which was due to the reluctance of national statistical services to respond to this type of survey;
 - iii. The poor level of transfer of technical knowledge to national experts by visiting experts and lack of sustainability in the actions taken to this effect;
 - iv. Persistent lack of financial and human resources to enable effective actions for the implementation of the 1993 SNA;
 - v. The reluctance of the authorities to fully utilize the data produced within the framework of the 1993 SNA, due to the change in concepts and additional details leading to the sharp increase in the value of the aggregates;
- b Expressed concern at the inadequate assistance provided by ECA to African countries in the implementation of the 1993 SNA;
- c Emphasized that the implementation of the 1993 SNA requires extensive details such that the proposed timeframe of 15 months for the publication of the data is hard to attain, since the basic data are not easy to obtain;
- d Recommended the establishment of a mechanism at the national and regional level for monitoring the implementation of the 1993 SNA.

ECA database management and development activities (Agenda item 8.6.1)

72. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Report on ECA database management development activities (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/14).

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

73. The Sub-committee took note of the report

The use of database and statistical information system as support for decision-making **(Agenda item 8.6.2)**

74. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Use of database and statistical information system as a tool for decision-making.
(E/ECA/DISD/CODII.2/16)

75. The Sub-committee noted :

- a. The latest developments that had taken place in the field of decision-making;
- b. The synergies between decision-making and new information and communication technologies and between decision-making and geographic information systems;
- c. The proposal to launch an initiative called “Statistics as a support for decision making” which would aim, *inter alia*, at providing assistance for the harmonization of the sectoral indicators and their analytical dimensions at the national, subregional, regional and regional levels, and launching similar initiatives at the level of subregional institutions like ECOWAS, UMA, CEMAC and SADC; and
- d. The technical specifications of the second generation LDB, (live database) as well as the World Bank’s readiness to assist countries and institutions in acquiring the tool.

76. The sub-committee recommended that:

- a. There should be a correct and rational definition of the statistical function in order to tone it down to decision-making initiatives that go beyond the primary role of the statistician;
- b. There should be a wide dissemination of the progress achieved in the establishment of the Live Database in Africa initiated by the World Bank and which fits in well with the model presented;
- c. The Statistical Capacity Building Trust Fund managed by the World Bank on behalf of donors should be used to improve equipment and statistical staff capacities in national institutions;

- d The model presented should be implemented in order to integrate meta-data, centralize databases to make them form a single system, cross micro-data and strengthen the reliability of safety systems.

Presentation of the UNICEF Childinfo database (Agenda item 8.6.3)

77. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it a presentation of the database made by a representative of UNICEF.

Actions taken by the Sub-committee:

78. The Sub-committee recommended that the database should be adapted to the current realities prevailing in member States.

International cooperation and inter-agency-coordination and liaison in the area of statistics (Agenda item 8.7)

79. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document: International cooperation and inter-agency-coordination and liaison in the area of statistics (E/ECA/DISD/CODI./17).

Actions taken by the Sub-committee

80. The Sub-committee:
 - a Noted with interest the information provided by the representative of the World Bank on the establishment at the global level of a Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building;
 - b Noted also the existence of a multilateral cooperation agreement in the area of statistics among Portuguese speaking African countries and the launching of common statistical development programmes with the support of the Portuguese government;
 - c Recommended that indicators on food security and agricultural statistics should be duly taken into account while redefining national priorities in the area of statistical development in African countries
 - d Recommended further that due consideration should be given to the issues pertaining to the organization and management of national statistical systems in particular the definition of the roles of the various statistical organs (national and sectoral) and the establishment of efficient coordination mechanisms for statistical activities;

- e Emphasized the need to integrate statistical programmes into the national development plans of African countries;
- f Emphasized also that promotion of south-south cooperation should be a key element of international and regional assistance programmes in the area of statistics.
- g Requested bilateral and multilateral donor agencies as well as regional and subregional institutions to put special emphasis on training within the framework of their assistance programmes to African countries in the area of statistics;

Report of the working groups on strengthening statistical capacities for poverty monitoring (Agenda Item 8.8)

81. Under this agenda item the Sub-committee considered the recommendations of the Working group on Strengthening Statistical Capacity for Poverty Monitoring. A summary of the recommendations are presented at Annex -V.

82. The Sub-committee noted and endorsed the recommendations of the working group.

Follow-up to the first meeting of the Sub-committee on Statistics of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) (Agenda item 8.9)

83. The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Follow-up to the first meeting of the Sub-committee on statistics (E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/13)

Actions taken by the Sub-committee:

84 The Sub-committee noted the report of the secretariat on the implementation of the recommendations of its first meeting.

Report on ECA statistical activities during the period 1999-2001 and program of work for the biennium 2002-2003 (Agenda Item 8.10).

85 The Sub-committee considered this agenda item and had before it the following document:

Report on ECA statistical activities during the period 1999-2001 and program of work for the biennium 2002 to 2003 (E/ECA/DISD/CODI2/15).

Actions taken by the Sub-committee:

86 The Sub-committee:

- (a) Noted the report of the secretariat on the implementation of its work programme;
- (b) Noted also the statistical capacity building role of ECA;
- (c) Emphasized that ECA should become a center of excellence as well as the key depository of all statistical information of Africa;
- (d) Welcomed the proposed Advisory Board on African Statistical Development and stressed that it should comprise of people who had thorough knowledge of African statistics.
- (e) Decided to review the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Board further and subsequently revised the Terms of Reference to ensure that the National Statistical Offices are adequately represented on the Board, that the Board meets annually and that the membership of the Board is established at 15 members. The Terms of Reference of the Board as revised are presented in Annex III:

Any other business (Agenda item 8.11)

87 The Sub-committee noted the following:

- (a) That the African Commission for Agriculture Statistics (AFCAS). is scheduled to meet in Pretoria from 27 to 30 November 2001 for its 17th session. AFCAS is an FAO's statutory body which meets bi-annually; its last meeting was held in Conakry in June 1999. The meeting will be preceded by a technical workshop from 23 to 26 of November on good practices and statistical tools in the field of food and agricultural statistics. Official invitations will be sent to the countries according to FAO procedures.
- (b) That Côte d'Ivoire will host the conference of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) in Abidjan in August 2004.
- (c) The announcement by the secretariat that year 2001's theme of the African Statistics Day is : "Transforming Africa's Economies : The role of statistical information" and that the Secretariat has taken the required measures so that the organisation of this year's events may be timely. The Sub-Committee however expressed concern about the organisation of the African Statistics Day for which the information and the communication materials (theme, press release, posters) are not available in timely for the countries to adequately prepare the celebration's events.

Closing session (Agenda item 8.12)

88 The Sub-committee adopted its report, a draft resolution and Terms of Reference of the Advisory Board on African Statistical Development for submission to the Conference of Ministers (See Annexes II and III respectively).

89 The Chairman thanked the participants for their work and closed the session.

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

Attendance and organization

90 The Second Meeting of the sub-committee on Geoinformation was held at the Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 7 September 2001.

91 Representatives from the following member countries attended the sub-committee meeting: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome e Principe, Senegal, and Swaziland.

92 Observers from the following international, regional and sub-regional institutions were represented at the Meeting: the African Organization for Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS), the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), the Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Surveys (RECTAS), the Southern and Eastern Africa Mineral Centre (SEAMIC), EIS-AFRICA, the US Federal Geographic Data Committee (US-FGDC), the US geological Survey (USGS) and EROS Data Centre, the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI), the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), Working Group on Information Systems and Services, the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), AFRICOVER (FAO), and the UN Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG).

93 Observers from the following national and international organizations, and the private sector: University of Hanover, German Society for Technical Co-operation (GTZ), International Institute for Aerospace Surveys and Earth Sciences (ITC), Information Systems Services (ISS-Ethiopia), Defence Geographic Centre (DFG(UK)); Institut Géographique National- France (IGN-France), Dutch National Cadaster - Netherlands; Ethio-Italian Development Co-operation.

94 The sub-committee elected the following bureau:

Chairman:	Botswana
Vice-Chairman:	Algeria
Rapporteur:	Benin

95 The subcommittee elected a technical working group for the preparation of resolutions. The working group consisted of the following members: Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania, RECTAS, AOCRS, and ECA.

Agenda

96 The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Report on progress made since last conference and follow-up on the recommendations of CODI
5. Policy issues with special reference to future orientation of GI activities in Africa and economics of Geoinformation
6. Technical issues: New means for data collection and management with special reference to “new trends and developments on GI” and “National and Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDIs)”
7. Applications: Case studies
8. Report on the ECA activities on Geoinformation during 2000-2001 and work programme for the biennium 2002-2003.
9. Any other business
10. Seminar on SIDS
11. Adoption of Report

Account of Proceedings

97 Mr. Marcel Djamat-Dubois, Côte d'Ivoire, Chairman of the First Meeting of the Subcommittee opened the meeting. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the objectives and importance of the Sub-committee, as well as the work done by the Standing Preparatory Working Committee of CODI-Geo under his chairmanship. He expressed appreciation to the members of the Working Group and its scientific committee for their effective contribution and to ECA for giving the necessary support.

Country reports (Agenda item 9.3)

98 Under this agenda item ECA presented some preliminary results on questionnaires received from member countries. The secretariat informed the meeting that the results as they were now were not adequate as the number of member countries that responded was relatively low.

99 The meeting discussed the various chapters of the presentation in which some suggestions were made, noting that the exercise initiated by ECA was timely and relevant for improving the overall national capacities in the area of Geoinformation. In this regard the countries were asked to submit their responses as soon as possible.

100 In addition to the summary submitted by ECA, delegates from member countries and observers presented their progress reports complementing the above exercise. These reports comprised the various tasks undertaken in cartography, geodesy, remote sensing geographic information systems and capacity building. Participants informed the Meeting on their

achievements and problems encountered such as the issues of funding and maintenance of equipment.

Policy Issues (Agenda Item 9.4)

101 In this agenda item, four papers were presented, namely: the future orientation of GI activities in Africa; a geographic data facility for Africa; economics of Geoinformation; and economics of Environmental Information systems.

102 In the ensuing discussion the following questions were raised and responded to:

- The role of private sector and
- where and what they should be involved in:
- The issue of moving from paper to digital – There was a need to understand the power of maps even in digital form;
- As priorities lie somewhere else there was a need to bring up proper arguments to governments and policy makers in order to make Geoinformation a central issue;
- How could senior government officials (technocrats) convince policy makers. It was noted that sensitisation was essential at the highest level of governments.
- There was need to co-ordinate development projects at country level and to integrate geographic information components.

103 Participants expressed the following concerns:

- Information provided at regional level is not sufficient enough to satisfy the needs at national and local levels. Therefore, it is important to improve the existing institutions instead of creating new ones;
- Though there is a need for some regional settings, concerns were voiced on their appropriate management as countries are already facing enormous problems. Moreover, national and community based information was necessary;
- The pricing policy and cost recovery aspects were crucial for institutions involved in Geoinformation in Africa and should be explored within the framework of spatial data infrastructure development.

104 The following recommendations were made:

- As ECA has accessibility to policy makers, the issue of proper funding for Geoinformation institutions should be advocated through the Commission;
- There is an urgent need for building a sustainable spatial data infrastructure;

- National mapping agencies should be allowed to compete with a private sector for value added products if fair competition is guaranteed.

Technical Issues (Agenda Item 9.5)

New Trends and Developments (Agenda Item 9.5.1)

105 Three papers were presented namely:

- New Trends and Development in Cartography, by ICA
- Developments in the Acquisition of Spatial Data from imagery, by ISPRS
- Interactive approaches to timely data provision, by USGS.

106 A question was raised regarding the participation of African countries in ICA activities. It was reported that ICA sponsors African students to participate in its activities and training. It was also hoped that by convening the ICA Conference in Durban, many African countries and experts would participate.

107 The key discussion issues centered on:

- Justification of high investment in mapping activities. It was agreed that the awareness on the importance of mapping data should be created at the highest level in Government. Also Geoinformation should be elevated to the level of a national infrastructure.
- The issue of mapping activities by international agencies in Africa was raised and discussed. It was noted that their activities were not known or co-ordinated. It was recommended that ECA should co-ordinate and disseminate their activities.

Spatial Data Infrastructures (Agenda Item 9.5.2)

108 Four presentations were made:

- Evolution of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI), by the GSDI/FGDC Steering Committee.
- Growth and evolution of the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas (PCIDEA), by the PCIDEA Steering Committee.
- Africover by FAO.
- The UNEP.dot.NET and the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG), by UNEP.

Applications: Case Studies (Agenda Item 9.6)

109 Under this agenda item the following papers were presented:

- An example of Geoinformation development within an operational institutional framework, by Côte d'Ivoire
- Application and interpretation of participatory approaches and GIS in Land use planning, by LUPO/Ethiopia
- African – German Cooperation, by GTZ

110 Concern was raised on the appropriateness of use of the names “Cartography” and “Remote Sensing”, vs. the name “Geoinformation”. It was noted that the first two refer to concrete disciplines, whereas the latter has a holistic meaning embracing all the disciplines of Geoinformation.

111 After the presentation on African-German Cupertino, the meeting has informed of a workshop on the North African Reference Frame (NAFREF) held early this year in Algeria and the status of implementation of the project.

Report of ECA on activities of Geoinformation during the period 1999-2001 and programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 (Agenda Item 9.7)

112 After receiving the report by ECA, questions were raised concerning:

- communication problems between ECA and national and regional institutions:
- access to ECA data bases
- the replacement of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa by the Sub-committee on Geoinformation of CODI. Several delegates expressed their wish to see the Regional Cartographic Conference reinstated.

113 The required clarifications were provided. On communication problems, it was found convenient that the national institutions designate a focal point for ECA Geoinformation activities.

Any Other Business (Agenda item 9.8)

114 The new Permanent Preparatory Working Group for CODI-Geo was constituted as follows:

Chairman:	Botswana (Southern Africa)
Algeria	North Africa
Kenya	East Africa
Benin	West Africa
Republic of Congo	Central Africa

Permanent members

AOCRS, RECTAS, RCMRD, EIS-AFRICA

Adoption of the report and closing of the meeting (Agenda item 9.9)

115 The meeting adopted its report with amendments. Three resolutions were adopted on: (i) Spatial Data infrastructures, (ii) Geoinformation policy, and (iii) Capacity building, annexed to this report.

116 The Chairman closed the meeting on 6 September at 20:00, with a vote of thanks to the delegates, observers, resource persons, interpreters and the secretariat for ensuring a successful meeting.

C. Resumed Plenary Sessions**Reports of the Sub-committees (Agenda item 10)**

117 Under this agenda item, each of the three Sub-committees briefly reported on their activities and outcomes to the Committee

118 The Committee noted and endorsed the reports of the Sub-committees.

Date and venue of next meeting (Agenda item 11)

119 The meeting noted that the third meeting of the Committee on Development Information will be held in March 2003 at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, so as to provide a timely input to the meeting of the Conference of Ministers, which is expected to be held in May 2003.

Any other business (Agenda item 12)

120 The theme for the third meeting of CODI will be decided in due course. Suggestions from member States and other stakeholders are expected.

121 A representative of the European Union made a presentation on the European Development Fund (EDF), highlighting

- a the priority areas for funding, these being: trade and development, regional integration and co-operation, support to macroeconomic policies with an explicit link with poverty reduction strategies, transport, food security and sustainable rural development strategies, institutional capacity-building, good governance and the rule of law, with ICT treated as a tool in these sectors.
- b the rules governing project selection, the procedures for proposing projects and indicative examples of projects being funded, and that projects submitted for funding should be based on country or regional strategy papers and operational indicative programme. Such projects should include ICT and bring out regional integration aspects;
- c the three rules that must be observed in funding proposals, namely: (i) any demand should come from within the country or region, (ii) a demand should fit in one of

the areas that is covered by the Country or Regional Strategy Paper and (iii) ownership and leadership of the project should be by the ACP countries, in partnership with the EU.

122 The Committee observed that with the ever-increasing depth and complexity of deliberations, it is becoming difficult for the secretariat to note all that was said. Further, delegates are equally too busy to make good rapporteurs. The possibility of ways to ensure that all emerging issues were adequately addressed and focus on statements that would lead to good resolutions was enquired upon. ECA was then called upon to explore the option of engaging a firm to support that structure to be sure that all deliberations and issues are recorded.

123 The secretariat noted request and explained that it would do its best to ensure that the report reflects the deliberations and will explore the possibility of external assistance, resources permitting.

124 Participant requested that the report of other sub-committees be circulated in advance so that others can make informed comments. It was also agreed that the reports should be put on the web for comments for two or three weeks and that the secretariat should collect comments and make corrections as necessary. Participants also noted that having access to the reports before the final sessions allows for maximum interaction between the three subcommittees. It was also suggested that plenary session reports from the subcommittees should concentrate on the resolutions so that participants from other subcommittees can make more informed comments.

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

125 The draft report was approved, with amendments, on 7 September 2001. Discrepancies between the English and French versions of the draft reports were noted and the secretariat was requested to align the reports. The Secretariat was further requested to revise the list of participants to accurately reflect the participation during the second meeting of CODI.

126 The Director of Development Information Services Division in conclusion noted that the achievement of the second meeting of CODI were beyond expectations in terms of participation, level and richness of the exchanges, and in terms of the outcome and the way forward. She highlighted the conclusions of the meeting and urged participants to convey the results of the second meeting of CODI to all concerned actors. Finally she thanked the participants for their work and declared the meeting closed.

D. Annexes

Annex I: Agenda of the meeting

Theme of the Meeting : « Development Information and Decision Making »

Plenary Sessions

1. Opening
2. Election of officers and organization of work
3. Key introductory panel: *“What development information for decision making in Africa”*
4. Knowledge for decision making: Practical demonstration of applications
5. Policy and regulatory issues in the development of Africa’s Infrastructure: the need to integrate Geoinformation within the NICIs
6. Organization, dissemination and use of statistical and geographic information Sub-committee sessions
7. Sub-committee on Information and Communication Technology including Library
8. Sub-committee on Statistics
9. Sub-committee on Geo-information

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

Sub-committees sessions

Sub-committee on Information and Communication Technology including Library

- 7.1 Opening
- 7.2 Election of officers and organization of work
- 7.3 Briefing on ADF99 and follow-up of the recommendations of the first meeting of the sub-committee on Information and Communication Technologies
- 7.4 Presentation of the report of the African Technical Advisory Committee on the African Information Society Initiative (AISII)
- 7.5 Progress report on NICI implementation, evaluation of the impact of NICI in Africa: the SCAN-ICT project
- 7.6 Presentation and evaluation of ICT applications on the four initiatives of the ADF’99 conference (health, education, e-commerce and ICT policy and regulation)
- 7.7 New trends in Library automation
- 7.8 Report on ECA activities in the area of information and communication technologies, Information systems and libraries during the period 1999-2001 and Programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003
- 7.9 Any other business
- 7.10 Adoption of report and closing session

8. Sub-committee on Statistics

- 8.1 Opening
- 8.2 Election of officers and organization of work
- 8.3 Country reports (for noting and panel discussion)
- 8.4 Evaluation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action (AAPA) for statistical development in b Africa in the 1990s
 - 8.4.1 Results of the evaluation of the AAPA
 - 8.4.2 The way forward
- 8.5 Assessment of the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts in Africa
- 8.6 Use of statistical databases and information systems for data dissemination and decision making
- 8.7 International cooperation and inter-agency co-ordination and liaison in the area of statistics
- 8.8 Report of the working group on strengthening statistical capacity for poverty monitoring
- 8.9 Follow-up of the recommendations of the first meeting of the Sub-committee on Statistics
- 8.10 Report on ECA statistical activities during the period 1999-2001 and Programme of work for the biennium 2002 - 2003
- 8.11 Any other business
- 8.12 Adoption of report and closing session

9. Sub-committee on Geo-information

- 9.1 Opening
- 9.2 Election of officers and organization of work
- 9.3 Country reports
- 9.4 Follow-up of the recommendations of the first meeting of CODI on Geoinformation
- 9.5 Policy issues, with special reference to:
 - 9.5.1 Future orientation of GI in Africa
 - 9.5.2 Economics of Geo-information
- 9.6 Technical issues : New trends for data collection and management, with special reference to :
 - 9.6.1 New trends and developments
 - 9.6.2 National and Regional Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDIs and RSDIs)
 - 9.6.3 LIS: Report of the workshop
- 9.7 Applications: Case studies
- 9.8 Report on ECA activities on geo-information during 999-2001 and programme for the biennium 2002- 2003
- 9.9 Any other business
- 9.10 Adoption of the report and closing

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Working Group sessions:

WG1: on Land Information Systems

WG2: on Strengthening statistical capacity for poverty monitoring

WG3: on the use of ICT by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs)

WG4: on Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs)

WG5: on Monitoring and measuring good governance in Africa

PICTA Meeting (Partners for Information and Communication Technologies in Africa)

Demonstrations and poster sessions

Exhibition

Annex II. Draft Resolution on statistical development in Africa

(Sponsored by Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa)

The Conference of Ministers,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Working Group on Strengthening Statistical Capacity for Poverty Monitoring as endorsed by CODI¹, specifically the issues relating to the new millennium goals and their application to the New African Initiative, the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), poverty monitoring and reports of the regional meetings of PARIS21;

Recalling its resolution on the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;

Noting the country reports presented CODI by: Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe;

Having examined the report of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) on the evaluation of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s (AAPA)², the Way Forward³ and the implementation of 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA)⁴ in the region;

Bearing in mind of the role of sub-regional institutions such as SADC, ECOWAS, COMESA, EAC, CEMAC and IGAD in the development of statistics in Africa;

Aware of the progress made by a number of countries in preparing strategic plans for statistics, and that many National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are constrained in their operations due to the traditional civil service practices;

Appreciative of the important role of PARIS21 in promoting the use of statistics at the world-wide level with advocacy tools;

Recognizing the various initiatives undertaken by National Statistical Offices in data collection;

Recognizing further the significant advancements in the information and communication technologies;

Noting the slow pace of adapting new statistical methodologies and the deficit in number of statisticians,

Noting also that the major constraints to the implementation of the AAPA included lack of advocacy, lack of ownership, inadequacy of financial resources, lack of institutional and human capacity;

¹ ECA/DISD/STAT/WG/SSCPM/01

² E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11, and Add.1

³ E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11, Add.2

⁴ E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/12

Concerned that only a small proportion of member states have made progress in the implementation of 1993 SNA and that was largely made possible by the existence of technical capacity, local or external and the availability of appropriate tools;

Convinced that member states should take appropriate steps to address these issues;

I. Strengthening statistical capacity

1. *Calls* upon national statistical offices of member states to submit country reports to ECA on the previous year by end of June of each year;
2. *Urges* member states to put in place strategic plans to provide a holistic approach and optimise the utilisation of resources available for statistical development;
3. *Further urges* NSOs to take all appropriate steps to sensitize political leaders on the fundamental importance of statistics for planning and decision making and requests ECA and all partners to assist them in this endeavour;
4. *Recommends that:*
 - a. NSOs should become autonomous organisations with independent Boards of Directors;
 - b. NSOs should establish integrated information management systems that bring together data on social benefits, censuses, GIS, and household budget surveys to better equip users with information necessary for planning, monitoring and evaluation;
 - c. sub-regional institutions such as SADC, ECOWAS, COMESA, EAC, CEMAS and IGAD should be the building blocks for the implementation of the various initiatives on African development;
 - d. human development in statistics should be accelerated through strengthening of Regional Training Institutions and the establishment of a fund for statistical training;
 - e. the process of adopting the latest international standards should be speeded up;
 - f. national capacities in the analysis of data on poverty at the national level should be enhanced and priority areas for action (education, health etc.) should be defined;
 - g. the replication of AFISTAT type arrangements in other countries and in particular the Anglophone countries;
5. *Emphasizes* that statistical development plans should be an integral component of national development plans.

II. The Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s

6. *Acknowledges* that the principles and objectives of the AAPA were and still remain relevant to statistical development in Africa;

7. *Regrets* the slow level of implementation of the AAPA identified by CASD in the evaluation;
8. *Appreciates* the commendable work done by CASD and resolves that its mandate has come to an end;
9. *Resolves* that a new plan, as proposed in the evaluation report, will not be necessary. Instead, a new framework for statistical development in Africa be put in place that will take into account:
 - a. full stakeholder participation at all levels;
 - b. new demands for information (PRSPs, New African Initiative);
 - c. strategies at national, sub-regional and regional levels for enhancing statistical capacity;
 - d. the plight of countries emerging from war and other crises;
 - e. mechanisms of continuous monitoring and evaluation;
10. *Approves* that
 - a. full stakeholder participation at all levels;
 - b. a broad based Advisory Board on African Statistical Development (ABASD) be constituted;
 - c. in order to effect the proposed framework, the Advisory Board design the modalities of statistical advancement in the region;
 - d. the Board works in close partnership with sub-regional, regional and international organisations.

III. Information and Communication Technologies

11. *Strongly recommends* that member states be proactive in adapting the new technologies in information capturing, processing and dissemination for timely and effective policy decisions;

IV. Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (1993 SNA)

12. *Urges* member States strive to speed up the implementation of the 1993 SNA by strengthening technical capacity in national accounts and accessing and using available tools.

Annex III. Advisory Board on African Statistical Development

Draft Terms of Reference**Establishment**

1. The Advisory Board on African Statistical Development (ABASD), is recommended for establishment.

Functions

2. The functions of the Advisory Board are to:
 - a. Advise the ECA secretariat on emerging issues relating to statistical development in Africa, as well as the direction and content of its work programme;
 - b. Propose approaches, actions and means for the mobilization of resources for the implementation of regional statistical programmes;
 - c. Advise on the implementation of any strategy or framework recommended by CODI for the development of statistics in Africa;
 - d. Advise on the coordination of statistical activities at national, subregional and regional levels;
 - e. Promote and disseminate good practices in the area of statistical development to all stakeholders, including member States and sub-regional organizations.

Membership

3. The Board shall comprise of 15 experts, appointed by the ECA Secretariat in close consultation with all stakeholders.
4. Efforts will be made to ensure that national statistical offices, sub-regional organizations, statistical training institutes and data users are adequately represented in the Board.
5. Efforts will also be made to ensure gender and sub-regional balance in the composition of the Board.
6. Appointments to the Board will be for a term of two years, and may be renewed.
7. The Director of the Development Information Services Division will serve as an ex-officio member of the Board.
8. ECA may invite observers to attend meetings of the Board.

Officers

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

Meetings

10. Meetings will be held once a year. Additional emergency meetings may be called. If funding is not available, these shall be held electronically.
11. The ECA secretariat will organize the meetings of the Board and prepare documentation for the meetings.
12. The ECA Secretariat will also organize the sharing of information and communicate with the stakeholders.
13. In accepting appointment, members accept the obligation to attend meetings of the Board and participate in other activities organized in furtherance of the objectives and functions of the Board.
14. The meetings of the Board shall last no longer than three days. Where possible, virtual conferences may be organized and these shall constitute the annual meetings of the Board.
15. A report shall be prepared at the end of each meeting containing a summary of the discussions of the Board, its advice and recommendations.

Funding

16. ECA will be expected to fund attendance at annual meetings of the Board.

Annex IV. Draft Resolutions on Geoinformation

1. On Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the importance of Geoinformation (GI) as backbone for planning, decision making and sustainable development, as well as the need for food security, poverty alleviation, environmental monitoring and control, and natural resources management;

Noting the low progress made since CODI-1 on the recommendation for the establishment of SDI in African countries;

Further noting the progress made by other regions in the implementation of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) through the establishment of regional permanent committees, and the need to promote rapid implementation of NSDI in African countries and at regional level;

Recommends that

Member States give priority to establish their NSDIs with all the necessary components (national standards, metadata, clearing house, national database). The content of the core datasets should be defined by a collective effort of all GI stakeholders in the country;

For regional applications, Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (RSDI) be established with an African Regional Database as a component, based on a unified African Reference System;

A permanent committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for Africa be established to:

- promote the coordinated establishment of SDIs in African countries,
- facilitate the establishment of RSDI and the African Regional Database.

The permanent committee should follow the model of the Permanent Committees for the Americas (PC-IDEA) and for Asia and Pacific.

And urges

Member states to participate in the work of the proposed permanent committee and in the work of appropriate technical committees of the International Standards Organization, notably Technical Committee 211 (ISO/TC 211);

African countries to participate fully in the Global Mapping project, under any of the three categories that is found most suitable to each country.

2. On Policy

The conference of Ministers,

Recognizing Geoinformation as an essential component of the knowledge base for the development of any country;

Noting the lack of national policies on GI backed by legislation to guide its acquisition, dissemination and use;

Observing that land administration organizations play a growing role in the provision of foundation data (property data and large scale maps);

Aware that governments are urging National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) to strive for cost recovery;

While endorsing the findings and recommendations of ECA's ad hoc experts' group meeting on future orientation of GI in Africa;

Recommends that

Mechanisms be immediately set in motion by African countries to develop the national GI policy as an integral part of the National Information and Communication Policies;

African countries should develop appropriate institutional, legal and technical framework to integrate land administration and topographic programmes within the context of a wider national strategy for spatial data infrastructure;

African countries should follow, properly adapted, the model policy guidelines presented in ECA's position paper on Future of GI activities in Africa;

Further investigation be done on the regulatory conditions under which NMA's are eligible for competitive valued-added production and on the concept of cost recovery in various accounting and financial regimes.

3. On Capacity Building

The Conference of Ministers,

Realizing the need for continuing education and professional development to keep pace with advances in GI technology;

Recognizing the need for the design and implementation of geo-spatial solutions for specific problems related to sustainable land use management and natural resource administration, and the well-being of the people of Africa;

Noting the need for institutional capacity building, especially for the implementation, management and maintenance of spatial data infrastructures at local, sub-national and national levels;

Bearing in mind that low cost technology is now available to facilitate most of the procedures to build the fundamental data sets;

Recommends that:

The existing specialized regional centers involved in GI training and education (e.g. RECTAS, RCMRD, SEAMIC, CRTEAN) be strengthened to cope with the training and

retraining of the required personnel at the levels of technicians, technologists and professionals;

International Organizations be urged to give support to these regional centers of excellence to enable them to be proactive to the training needs of African countries in GI technology;

Educational and training institutions be encouraged to modernize their curricula to keep pace with modern technology and SDI issues; the curricula should be modular, to give room for short term training and retraining, and where possible, web-based distance learning should be introduced;

An African network of GI education be established to coordinate the standardization of GI education and training programmes and share resources;

A network of African Organizations, Centers and Institutions involved in GI, such as AOCRS, EIS-AFRICA, AARSE, RECTAS, RCMRD, in cooperation with international organizations such as the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Association of Cartography (ICA), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and EuroGeographics, be established under the secretariat to coordinate conferences and seminars such that conference themes, timing, venues, etc can be harmonized to enable better planning and wider participation.

Annex V. Recommendations of Working Group 2 on Strengthening Statistical Capacity for Poverty Monitoring

1. New Development Agenda

The working group:

- a. Noted the international development goals and that new Millennium Goals would soon be introduced;
- b. Noted also :
 - i. the New African Initiative developed by the African leaders with its objective of putting Africa on the path of sustained growth, its evolution, and the principles of the ECA Compact for African economic recovery and the role that the ECA would play to backstop the New Africa Initiative;
 - ii. the preconditions for development as established by the new initiative, namely: Peace security, democracy, political governance and economic and corporate governance with a focus on the public finance management and regional cooperation and integration.
- c. Noted further the priority areas of the initiative, those being: Infrastructure, Information and communications technology, Human development, with a focus on health, education, and skills development, agriculture, promoting diversification of production and exports with a focus on market access for African exports to industrialized countries.
- d. Emphasized the need to identify the linkages between the new development initiative for Africa and the UNDP long term perspective;
- e. Recommended that the subregional institutions such as SADC, ECOWAS and COMESA should be the building blocks for the implementation of the various initiatives on African development;
- f. Expressed concerns regarding the relevance and usefulness of the one dollar a day measure of poverty. It noted, however, the complexity of measuring poverty and that the objective of the one dollar a day measure was to simplify measurement, understanding and facilitate international comparability. Even though countries were, expected to establish their own country specific measures, there was nevertheless a need further review;
- g. Urged the need for statisticians to participate in the policy debate as there was a need for better data for better policy coordination;
- h. Observed that whereas PARIS21 was promoting the use of statistics at the worldwide level, there remained concerns regarding operationalization at the national level. The sensitization of political leaders to the importance of statistics was emphasized and that role had to be taken by the statisticians themselves with the technical backstopping of ECA;

- i. Agreed that there was a need to enhance national capacities in the analysis of data on poverty at the national level on the one hand and to define the priority areas for action (education, health etc.) on the other;
- j. Emphasized the fundamental importance of statistics in the war against poverty and the need to enhance national statistical capacity to that effect;

2: Management Information Systems

The working group:

- a. Noted:
 - i. That the Uganda HMIS is a good example of effective use of information to establish, monitor and review policy. This had led to improved health service and health outcomes. The involvement of stakeholders, particularly local authorities, in the whole process ensured commitment to continual improvement in the service and the accountability of political leaders to their communities.
 - i. That integrated, prioritised systems use resources more effectively, but some countries mentioned that it was difficult to co-ordinate the activities of line ministries with those of the national statistical office.
 - ii. The request of country statisticians for more assistance in devising indicators and prioritising the indicators to be used. Countries advanced in the process of devising indicators in programmes offered their support to other countries at the beginning of the process of developing monitoring and evaluation systems.
 - iii. That a number of countries had asked for clarification and technical assistance in the development of poverty measures, and clarification of the global indicator of \$1 per day and its relationship to the differing purchasing power of a dollar in individual countries.
- b. Agreed on the need to keep indicators to a minimum in order to have a fast responsive system. One effective indicator can give an early warning that further investigation is needed. MIS systems must not be overburdened, and the data should be easy to collect.
- c. Expressed concern that an MIS system may not cover all groups in the population, and neglect issues such as access to services. A combination of MIS, census and survey data was recommended.

3. Poverty Monitoring

The working group:

- a. Focussed on the difficulties experienced by statistical offices in accessing the policy-making process. Countries complained that line ministries often used the data

produced by the NSO, but did not involve statisticians at the early stages in the planning for data needs and establishing the monitoring requirements.

- b. Noted the request of country statisticians for assistance from the international community, including other African countries, in introducing processes to make their voice heard by policy makers in order to design effective, feasible, credible poverty monitoring systems.
- c. Felt that the “basket funding” or funding pool approach was a very positive innovation, but many countries feared that there was insufficient trust between themselves and the partner donor community.
- d. Recommended that statisticians be involved in the design of poverty monitoring systems at the early stages, and all the stakeholders adopting agreed poverty monitoring plans, which avoided ad hoc approaches.
- e. Recommended also that negotiation and discussion with planners and other stakeholders throughout government could establish trust and mutual understanding. A business plan for the statistical system and master plans have to be jointly developed by all stakeholders including planners, civil society, donors and the international community.
- f. Favoured the production of statistics at the local authority and community level, and encouraged countries to adopt the cost-sharing approach introduced in Ghana, where the local authority funded the local field costs of the CWIQ survey.

4. Statistics for decision making: Issues and challenges

The Working Group noted:

- a. the reports of the PARIS21 sub-regional workshops held for the SSADC countries in December 2000 and for East Africa and the Great Horn in July 2001. In particular it noted the spirit of partnership in the sponsoring and organization of the workshops;
- b. The problems identified by the workshops as main constraints to statistical development in the countries, include inadequate funding for statistics, lack of coordination, broken data series, lack of disaggregated data, inadequate data analysis, poor dissemination and lack of capacity for many data users to handle data and information;
- c. The recommendations from the workshops on the need to for enhanced statistical advocacy, sharing experiences in “good practices” among countries of the sub-regions, capacity building efforts at country and sub-regional levels, ensuring sustainability, carrying out user needs assessment, providing disaggregated data to support decentralized governance, applying Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ) survey methodology to poverty monitoring, harnessing Information and Communication Technology (ICT), restructuring National Statistical Offices, ensuring that Population and Housing Censuses get done when they are due, enhancing South-

South cooperation, ensuring donor coordination, developing user friendly dissemination strategy and holding national stakeholders' workshops;

- d. The efforts made by the countries to develop outlines of Action Plans and strategies for statistical development during the workshops and identification of areas of assistance in which PARIS21 and donors can lend support during the workshops. It also noted that these plan outlines were to be comprehensively developed in-country during the stakeholders' workshops;
- e. The good work of AFRISTAT (established in 1993 after the launching of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa) was doing in 14 West African countries. AFRISTAT is involved in the preparation of sub-regional statistical programmes starting with the harmonization of concepts and promotion of statistical standards as well as implementation of the Minimum Statistical Programme (PROSMIC) for 2001-2005. The constraints to the implementation of PROSMIC were noted, including poor country commitment, insufficient funding and ownership.

The discussion focused on issues of strengthening statistical capacity at national and sub-regional level, and how to effectively collaborate to maximize the efforts. Emphasis was given to improved capacity to produce key, policy relevant information and to analytical capacities of data producers and users. Partnerships with NGOs, policy-makers and development partners were seen as essential.

The working group endorsed the recommendations of the sub-regional workshops. In addition, it recommended that a mechanism be worked out for sub-regional organizations to come together to discuss problems and share experiences. It further called for the establishment of the equivalent of AFRISTAT in other regions of Africa.

Annex VI. Working Group on Monitoring and Measuring Good Governance in Africa

The Working Group:

- a. Noted the overall objective of the project on Monitoring Progress towards Good Governance: The African Governance Report is to monitor the progress of African states towards Good Governance and the activities already accomplished in that respect, namely: defining Good Governance in a comprehensive manner, conceptualizing and operationalizing the indicators to measure good governance; and devising and fine-tuning the research methodology and instruments that will serve as the mechanism for monitoring and assessing progress towards good governance.
- b. Expressed appreciation and commended the secretariat for the initiative;
- c. Noted that the study would include major linguistic groups on the continent including Arabic, French, English and Portuguese;
- d. Noted also that that the following countries would be included in the first phase of the project, those countries being: Algeria, Botswana, Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda;

- e. Observed that there were different views with regard to the role of government in the whole exercise – one view being that governments should not be involved in the exercise, and the second that governments should. However, the critical role that government had to play in the exercise, and its participation was emphasized;
- f. Stressed the need to involve planners and policymakers in the initiative;
- g. Emphasized, the major role of the NSOs in the exercise, particularly with regard to sample design and the planning of survey operations;
- h. Emphasized also the need for partnerships in conducting the work. Such a partnership would bring together government, private sector and civil society and would ensure ownership of the outcomes.

Annex VII. List of Documents

Item no.	Document Symbol	Document title
1	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/Inf.1	Provisional List of Participants
2	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/Inf.2	Provisional Programme of work
3	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/Inf.3	Provisional List of Documents
4	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/Inf.4	Information for Participants
5	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/1/Rev.1	Draft Provisional Agenda
6	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/1a	Draft Provisional Annotated Agenda (CODI-Geo)
7	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/1b	Draft Provisional Annotated Agenda (CODI-Stats)
8	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/1c	Draft Provisional Annotated Agenda (CODI-ICT)
9	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/2	Progress report by ECA to CODI-Geo-information
10	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/3	The future orientation of GI in Africa
11	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/4	Policy and Regulatory issues in the development of Africa's Infrastructure : the need to Integrate Geo-information within the National Information and Communication Infrastructures (NICIs)
12	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/5	Economic issues in the evolution of Geo-information
13	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/6	Experiences and visions on Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs)
14	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/7	Economics of Geo-information
15	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/8	Establishment of a geographic database facility for Africa
16	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/9	Report of the Expert preparatory Group meeting on knowledge management and the African Virtual Library Network (AVLIN)
17	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/9	Building the African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN): Concepts, Issues, Challenges and opportunities.
18	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/10	Knowledge management for decision making: tools, institutions and paradigms.
19	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11	Assessment of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s
20	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11. Add. 1	Report of the Tenth meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development
21	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/11/Add.2	The Way Forward (Open discussion on the next

		steps of the process of strengthening statistical development in Africa for the next decade)
21	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/12	Progress report on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts in Africa
22	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/13	Follow-up to the first meeting of the Sub-Committee on Statistics
23	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/14	Database development and management activities
24	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/15	Report on ECA statistical activities during the period 1999 to 2001 and the programme of work for the biennium 2002 to 2003
25	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/16	Use of statistical databases and information systems for data dissemination and decision making
26	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/17	International cooperation and inter-agency cooperation and liaison
27	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/18	Progress report on the NICI implementation, and evaluation of the impact in Africa; the SCAN ICT project
28	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/19	Follow up of the recommendations of the first meeting of the Sub Committee of ICT
29	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/20	Report of the African technical Advisory Committee on the African Information Society Initiative (AISII)
30	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/21	The African Learning network: Emerging from behind the Knowledge Curtain
31	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/22	Information and Communication technology Policies and Strategies
32	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/23	Electronic Commerce in Africa
33	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/24	Information and Communication Technology for Health Sector
34	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/25	A Strategy to accelerate African Development through the Increased use of Information and communication technologies
35	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/26	Report on ECA's activities in the area of information and communication technologies, Information systems and libraries (1999-2001) and Programme of Work for the biennium (2002-2003)
36	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.1/46	Report of the First Meeting of CODI
37	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/27	Information Connaissances et Intelligence au service du développement et de la prise de décision.
38	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/28	The Information Technology Centre for Africa Business Plan for 2001-2002
39	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/29	Brief note on ITCA
40	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/30	Pan African E-Commerce Initiative.
41	E/ECA/DISD/CODI.2/31	Report of the Second Meeting of CODI

Annex VIII

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