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on Development Information (CODI)

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**Report on ECA Activities in the Area of Information and Communication  
Technologies, Information Systems and Libraries in 2002-2003 and  
Programme of Work for the Biennium 2004 - 2005**

**Development Information Services Division  
(DISD)**

**2003**

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## 1. Background

In implementing the goals of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI), through assistance to member States in the development of e-strategies and policies, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) carried out a number of activities between June 2001 and December 2002.

The assistance provided to African countries is premised on the fact that formulation and introduction of policies and strategies will assist countries to deploy, harness and exploit information and communication technologies (ICTs). The assistance is intended to advance socio-economic development at the local, national and subregional levels, enabling citizens' access to affordable telephones, broadcasting, computers and Internet services. In recent years, a number of countries have made pragmatic strategies and plans to build their ICT infrastructure.

To complement policies and plans, ECA is also working to promote member State capacity to develop information and knowledge activities, strengthen ICT partnerships to ensure effective coordination and harmonization of projects and initiatives, and promote Information Society goals through outreach and communication activities. Consequently, member State awareness of the role and importance of ICTs in accelerating socio-economic development has increased, and also the number of ICT initiatives on the continent.

Furthermore, the participation of African countries in global ICT forums is increasing as a result of a number of key initiatives undertaken by the Commission in 2002. For instance, Africa's preparations for the World Summit on Information society (WSIS) to be held in Geneva, in December 2003 and in Tunis, Tunisia in 2005 are indications of ECA's proactive work in encouraging member States to participate and organize themselves with respect to Africa's needs and requirements in the global Information Society.

## 2. Policy and Regulatory Environment

During the period of this report, there has been heightened awareness on the part of member States about the need to put enabling policy and regulatory environments in place. Most countries have embarked on projects aimed at the formulation of National Information and Communication Infrastructure plans (NICI). Some of these are Central Africa Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, and Mali. Countries such as Burundi, Mozambique and Rwanda are in the process of mobilizing funds for implementation of sectoral ICT projects in such areas as education; human resources development; health; infrastructure expansion to realize universal access, governance, among others. More detailed information is available at <http://www.uneca.org/disd/ict/> and document E/ECA/DISD/CODI.3/3 is particularly useful.

There has also been increased activity at the subregional level in 2002:

- Communauté Économique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC): held on ICT for Regional Integration Workshop, in September 2002, in Yaounde, Cameroon. The workshop resulted in key decisions and recommendations on harmonization of the ICT sector, mechanisms for sharing of resources, and creation of the Central African Countries Association of Regulators (ARAC).

- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): in collaboration with ECA, a Consultative Regulatory Committee for Telecommunications was established, to ensure the consistent and coordinated regulation of telecommunications within the Community. Moreover, the West African Association of Regulators (WATRA) was launched in June 2002.
- Southern African Development Community (SADC): countries of the subregion extended their leading role in establishing and maintaining telecommunications regulation and other ICT frameworks by adopting a Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology and a Declaration on Information and Communications Technology<sup>1</sup>.
- Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA): during an event organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 22 to 24 January 2003, COMESA member States established an Association of Regulators of Information and Communication for Eastern Africa (ARICEA). This body will facilitate economic integration and co-operation and the transformation of ICT development in COMESA member States. ECA will work with ARICEA to support the mandate given to this new body.

As part of the implementation of its decentralization of public administrative programme in the country, the Government of Ethiopia, with assistance from ECA, has undertaken<sup>2</sup> a Woreda (district) study aiming at identifying the information and communication needs of the administration and defining ICT intervention strategies, to improve public administration and provision of services at the Woreda level. Consultations are underway to undertake missions to assist countries in defining strategies for e-government (Gambia), ICT in support of the Ghanaian Chieftaincy, and ICT for local governance (Rwanda).

### **The Scan-ICT process**

Most of the work of the Scan-ICT project was accomplished during 2002. Scan activities in Ghana, Morocco, Senegal and Uganda have been led and coordinated by the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) while Ethiopia and Mozambique were supported by ECA with funds from IDRC, European Union (EU) and Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD). The studies in all the six pilot countries have now been concluded and reports submitted<sup>3</sup>. Current efforts are geared towards developing tools (websites, databases, etc) for disseminating the results of the surveys conducted. The Morocco website, both in English and French, is up and running and efforts are being made in Ethiopia and Mozambique to finalize their websites.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sadc.int/>

<sup>2</sup> The Study was undertaken between September and November 2002 and the draft report submitted to ECA for review.

<sup>3</sup> Pilot countries include: Ethiopia (Faculty of Business and Economics of Addis Ababa University – AAU); Ghana - Institute of Information Technology – INIT; Morocco - la Informatics Information Technologies and Géomatic –ITEGO; Mozambique - Centre for Informatics of the University of Eduardo Mondlane – CIUEM; Senegal - L'Observatoire sur les Systèmes d'Information, les Réseaux et les Inforoutes au Sénégal – OSIRIS; and Uganda - Uganda National Council for Science and Technology – UNCST.

### 3. Information and Knowledge Development

A great deal of activity has been undertaken under this sub-programme.

#### The Information Technology Centre for Africa (ITCA)<sup>4</sup>

ITCA has developed databases, portals, and touch-screen information kiosks especially designed for illiterate users, on HIV/AIDS and other health issues. The database on African experts in the Diaspora is being enriched and results will be disseminated by various media such as CD-ROM, websites and printed materials. This database is expected to provide essential input for decisions and policy exercises in relation to human resource development and utilization.

Apart from this, there are various websites being maintained by ECA. These include, but are not limited to:

- ECA (<http://www.uneca.org/>)
- AISI (<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/>)
- ADF99 (<http://www.uneca.org/adf99/>)
- ADF 2000 (<http://www.uneca.org/adf2000/>)
- ADF III (<http://www.uneca.org/adfiii/>)
- NICI (<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/nici/>)
- ITCA (<http://www.uneca.org/itca/>)
- POPIA (<http://www.uneca.org/popia/>)
- PICTA (<http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/>),
- ASN (<http://www.unicttaskforce.org/regional/africa/main.asp>)

#### Online Discussions

Several online discussions are underway, moderated by ECA. These include:

- **E-governance online discussion.** This discussion began on 15 July and ended in October 2002. The list was launched to:
  - Provide valuable input to the WSIS;
  - Provide a space for discussion on e-government in Africa;
  - Determine trends and directions;
  - Provide appropriate strategies for accelerating the e-government process in Africa;
  - Sensitize decision makers in Africa on practical approaches to e-government and e-governance programmes; and

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/itca/>

- Serve as an input into the production of briefing papers on e-governance for decision makers.

In collaboration with the Association of Progressive Communication (APC), ECA held another discussion on e-governance for African civil society organizations (CSOs). This discussion was moderated from

- Debate the bases for articulating African CSO views at the World Summit;
  - Prepare participants for the Workshop on CSOs and ICT policy-making in Africa;
  - Prepare an African CSO position for the WSIS process; and
  - Examine overall CSO contributions to emergence of the Information Society in Africa.
- **The Bamako 2002 discussion list.** Launched in October 2002 to serve the Bamako 2002 Bureau members, its objectives are to:
    - discuss Africa's participation in the WSIS process;
    - follow up on recommendations coming out of Bamako 2002;
    - exchange views on the national preparatory process;
    - prepare joint strategies towards the World Summit.
  - **The Diaspora discussion list.** This discussion began on 10 February 2003 and will run up to 28 March 2003. Its objective was to:
    - identify a core list of African academics, ICT experts and consultants in the Diaspora that have a keen interest in the ICT arena on the continent;
    - develop a strategic action plan outlining the core focus, including the core thematic areas where the deployment of ICT tools will have an immediate impact in Africa, involving the Diaspora;
    - produce a comprehensive report, for the WSIS on possible diaspora interventions in Africa.

### Library Services

In the area of library and technical information services, ECA implemented a fully integrated library information system to strengthen its capacity for policy analysis and provide an integrated socio-economic information service for the region. This has resulted in the following new and improved services to the Secretariat and member States:

1. Integration and improvement of workflow to enhance efficiency and consistency of operations. Repetition of work will be eliminated as inputs made at process initiation is used throughout other processes up to communication of information to users;
2. International standardization of inputs and outputs to position the library for effective international co-operation and exchange of information and knowledge, including implementation of regional networks, e.g. the African Virtual Library and Information Network (AVLIN) and the African Knowledge Networks Forum (AKNF). These

- networks will provide an enhanced information platform for African research and knowledge-based institutions;
3. Enhanced professionalism in the delivery of library and information services, by incorporating standard professional tools and processes, for example, authority control, standard metadata formats, etc.;
  4. Enhanced communication and dissemination of ECA outputs through the Internet and other channels; and
  5. Compatibility with ECA and United Nations standard technology architecture, thereby facilitating integration and interfacing with other ECA information services, and the wider United Nations system.

AVLIN was conceived as follow-up to development of the library information system. The expert group, meeting during the Second Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI-2) in September 2001, discussed the AVLIN concept document that outlines the mission, objectives and operational framework. The expert group gave ECA the mandate to develop AVLIN as a platform for sharing development information and knowledge in Africa. This platform will serve as a network of internet-based information and knowledge resources and services that form a web of virtual libraries and knowledge-exchange mechanisms linking African libraries, information centres and specialized networks.

The main objective is to help bridge the digital divide between Africa and the developed world by focusing on institutional capacity building at national and regional levels. It also focuses on regional co-operation, especially on standardization, system development, and facilitation of research and development, in terms of infrastructure and digital and virtual libraries. The enthusiasm and unanimity with which AVLIN was launched indicate that African countries have become aware of the need for co-operation and networking in sharing development and socio-economic information in the region.

The ECA Library intensified efforts to fulfill its mandate to provide library and technical information services to the secretariat and member States through acquisition, processing and dissemination of relevant print and electronic resources. To this end, it participated in the United Nations system-wide consortium on acquisition of electronic information resources and developed enhanced bibliographic information retrieval services. ECA also produced and distributed several socio-economic information sources for use by the secretariat, researchers and policy makers in member States during the period. These included: *Africa Index*, *ECA-in-Print*, *New Acquisitions*, and *Index to African Official Publications and Journal Contents*.

#### **4. Outreach and Communication**

In response to recommendations made during CODI 2, ECA has introduced an Outreach and Communication sub-programme to support awareness creation activities on ICT for development issues and promote the goals of the Information Society. The outreach and communication programme entails a series of activities aimed at supporting the AISI goals, and it involves all societal actors in addressing the continent's quest for an information society. Specific objectives include:

- Creating greater awareness on the information society within the AISI framework;

- Stimulating national debate through the production of targeted outputs and joint collaboration with the media in various countries;
- Sensitising decision and policy-makers on ICT issues and trends and implications for the development process;
- Encouraging various stakeholders and partners in the development process to develop the information society across Africa;
- Developing strategies for greater access to the information society by various groups including, women, youth, the poor and disadvantaged
- Encouraging the development of appropriate ICT socio-economic frameworks that nurture innovative and creative applications to suit the African context.
- A number of information outputs have been introduced as follows:

The major outreach products so far are described below:

*The PICTA Bulletin* is a monthly publication that provides information on activities of members of the Partnership for ICTs in Africa (PICTA), as well as news on ICT-related issues in Africa<sup>5</sup>.

*iConnect Africa* is a quarterly web, paper and email service that aims to raise awareness in the wider African development community regarding the possibilities offered by ICTs in development<sup>6</sup>. Produced by ECA and the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), the newsletter reports on activities forming part of the Africa Information Society Initiative "AISI" and Building Digital Opportunities Programme "BDO". It is funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for International Development Co-operation (DGIS) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC).

*AISI Radio Series* is based on the ECA "Harnessing ICTs for Development Programme"<sup>7</sup>. The Radio Series is aimed at creating greater awareness on the information society. It serves as a tool for media practitioners, especially radio broadcasters, to engage various groups in debating the role of ICTs in the development process. The Radio Series is composed of four programmes - Africa and ICTs, Ghana and ICTs, Mali and ICTs, and Uganda and ICTs. The programme was made possible with funding from the Africa Region of the World Bank. "ICTs in Mali", was broadcast by the English Language International Service of Radio Netherlands and was a special edition in their weekly development programme, "A Good Life". The programme will also be made available through Radio Netherlands' affiliate stations such as World Radio Network (WRN) broadcast worldwide with specific feeds to

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/PICTAbulletin/index.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/IConnectAfrica/index.htm>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/radioseries/index.htm>

National Public Radio (NPR) in North America, SAfm, South Africa, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), and the Australia Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

*AISI Media Award Programme*, launched recently by ECA, is aimed at encouraging reporting by African journalists on ICT-for-development issues within the AISI context. ECA and the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) have kick-started the process with sponsorship for various categories from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), IDRC, and IICD.

*NICI Maps and Graphs* were developed based on data collected from different sources. Currently, maps show the status of NICI strategies, Africa's Internet and teledensity, the number of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and their ownership, mobile teledensity, and broadcasting (regulation, radio, TV): <http://www.uneca.org/disd/ict/>.

*AISI Briefing Papers* are being produced on various issues related to promoting ICTs for development. The briefing papers aim at sensitizing African policy makers about the issues that need to be addressed for achieving Africa's digital inclusion. Briefing papers on NICI plans have already been produced.

*Websites* have been developed to disseminate information, best practices, and Africa's ICT stories. The websites are also being used to document the status of e-readiness and national e-strategies at the country level. See section 3 for a list of some of the websites.

## 5. Partnership and Networking

Partnership and networking have been important mechanisms for implementation of the AISI framework and development of an information society in Africa. ECA is using partnership platforms such as PICTA<sup>8</sup>, the African Stakeholders Network of the United Nations ICT Task Force, and the New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD)<sup>9</sup> to support ICT activities on the continent.

ECA has been working in collaboration with national, regional and international partners on a number of initiatives, and in 2002, an increased number of partners implemented the AISI goals. ECA was able to secure financial resources from bilateral and multilateral sources for supporting the implementation of various ICT initiatives at national and regional levels. Some of these are shown in the table below:

Country	Funding organization	Area of support
Canada	Government of Canada IDRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a Centre for Connectivity in Africa (CCA) used to showcase the deployment and development of ICTs in Africa as well as to promote innovation</li> <li>• The International e-Development Resource Network (IeDRN), as a resource and regional hub for e-strategies in Africa</li> <li>• Scan-ICT baseline Studies in Ghana, Morocco, Senegal and Uganda</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta.htm>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.nepad.org>

European Union	European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scan-ICT baseline studies in Ethiopia and Mozambique</li> <li>• Regional study on the state of telecommunications regulatory policies</li> <li>• Development of NICI policies, plans and strategies in Central African Republic, Djibouti, Ghana, Mali, Niger</li> </ul>
Finland	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening ECA capacity for coordinating and monitoring national ICT policies and strategies</li> </ul>
France	Ministry of Development and Co-operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting strengthening of the ECA web presence</li> </ul>
Netherlands	IICD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production and dissemination of iConnect Africa, a quarterly web paper and email service</li> <li>• Contribution to the AISI Media Award Programme</li> </ul>
Japan	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment for ITCA standing and mobile exhibitions</li> <li>• Participation of women from Anglophone countries in the CISCO Internet and Networking course</li> </ul>
Korea	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment and strengthening of ITCA</li> </ul>
Norway	NORAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scan-ICT baseline studies in Ethiopia and Mozambique</li> </ul>
United States of America	USAID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a manual for training policy makers to address</li> </ul>
World Bank	Africa Bureau InfoDev	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of the AISI Radio Series</li> <li>• Training African women to develop and use Internet and Networking resources</li> </ul>
	Cisco Systems Inc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting ITCA training programmes</li> </ul>
	La Francophonie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on ICTs and Regional Integration</li> </ul>
	Open Society Initiative for Southern and West Africa (OSISA and OSIWA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to the AISI outreach programme</li> </ul>

### ICT Events and Conferences

As in previous years, ECA has been active in organizing joint ICT conferences and other events with partners and has participated in and contributed to various national, regional and international meetings.

- **Africa Regional Meeting of the UN ICT Task Force:** was convened in January 2002, and the African Stakeholders Network (ASN) was set up. The consultative meeting brought together over 60 representatives from governments, development agencies, donors, private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations. It is intended to link existing African activities and initiatives with the focus areas of the UN ICT Task Force. As the secretariat of ASN, ECA presented a report on ASN activities and plans during the third meeting of the UN ICT Task Force, which was held in New York, 30 September – 1 October 2002.

- **GKP Annual Meeting and Africa Day:** ECA hosted the GKP annual meeting in April 2002, at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and ended with a special Africa Day that examined the role of various actors in the ICT-for-development arena in Africa. The recommendations of this meeting were presented during Bamako 2002, and led to another event during CODI-3.
- **The African Regional Conference – Bamako 2002:** this preparatory meeting of the WSIS, was convened in Bamako, Mali, 26-30 May 2002. The conference, known as Bamako 2002, was organized by ECA with support from key development partners. The Bamako 2002 Conference was preceded by 14 pre-conference workshops. The main event focused on facilitating understanding of what benefits could be drawn from the global information society. It also looked at what Africa could bring to the Information Society and what cultural heritages and values it should preserve through the dynamic process. Bamako 2002 adopted the Bamako Declaration, which will be part of Africa's contribution to the WSIS process.
- **Effective Use of ICT to create a New Environment for Learning and Teaching, July 2002:** ECA facilitated and co-organized this conference with the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Carnegie Corporation, and the Ford, MacArthur and Rockefeller Foundations jointly sponsored the conference.
- **CSO ICT Policy Workshop, November 2002.** ECA organized, in collaboration with the Association of Progressive Communication (APC) a successful workshop on ICT Policy and the Civil Society, in Addis Ababa. This event was preceded by a vibrant discussion list on the role and expectation of African Civil Society on matters related to ICT policy formulation.
- **The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts:** organized by the ECA Regional Office for West Africa, Niamey, September 2002.
- **Workshop on ICT and Regional Integration:** convened by CEMAC, with support from Agence Internationale de la Francophonie, Yaounde, Cameroon, in September 2002.
- **Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts:** for the ECA subregional Office for East Africa, in Kigali, October 2002.
- **Consultative Meeting on e-governance training in Africa:** organized in co-operation with UNESCO and IICD in Tangiers, Morocco, January 2003.

## 6. Africa and the WSIS process

Recognizing the importance of the participation of African countries in the WSIS preparatory process, ECA organized the African Regional Preparatory Conference in Bamako, Mali in

May 2002. The conference, known as Bamako 2002<sup>10</sup>, was held under the auspices of His Excellency, Alpha Oumar Konare, former President of the Republic of Mali. Bamako 2002 provided an opportunity to revisit and evaluate implementation of the recommendations of the first African Development Forum (ADF '99) and Bamako 2000<sup>11</sup>. The conference was also a unique opportunity to renew the commitment of member States and of Africa's bilateral and multilateral development partners to attainment of the visions enshrined in AISI.

The conference set up a task force called the Bamako 2002 Bureau<sup>12</sup> with ECA serving as the secretariat, for following up and implementing the major recommendations in the Bamako 2002 Declaration, regarded as Africa's WSIS position, and for working closely with the WSIS secretariat. The Bamako 2002 Bureau and ECA met several times during the First Preparatory Conference for the WSIS (PrepCom1)<sup>13</sup>, held 1-5 July 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland, and explored ways and means of implementing the Declaration.

During Bamako 2002, in collaboration with Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC) and the Global Knowledge Partners (GKP), ECA organized a pre-conference Media Forum for African journalists. A total of 50 participants drawn from government, private media, and regional and international organizations attended the forum.

As part of the follow-up to Bamako 2002 and to assist member States to prepare for WSIS, ECA, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Telecommunication Authority (ETA), organized a half-day workshop on Ethiopia's preparations for PrepCom2, held in Geneva, 17 February 2003, and for PrepCom3 and the Summit to be held in Geneva, in December 2003. Other countries will be assisted along these lines throughout 2003.

## **7. Programme of Work for the Biennium (2004 – 2005)**

### **A. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies**

#### *Substantive servicing of meetings*

- Fourth session of the Committee on Development Information (CODI-4)
- One meeting of the Standing Preparatory Working Group for CODI-Geo.

#### *Parliamentary documentation*

- Four reports to CODI-4 on: (a) progress made on geo-informatics (GI) development and impact, (b) the status of development of national and regional ICT policies, plans and strategies, (c) national knowledge systems and the status of information access policies in Africa, and (d) the role and contribution of Africa to WSIS.

#### *Ad-hoc expert group meetings*

- New trends on digital and virtual libraries

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.geneva2003.org/bamako2002/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.anais.org/SITES/BAM2000?>

<sup>12</sup> The bureau is chaired by Mali and is composed of five government officials representing Senegal, Tunisia, Cameroon, South Africa and Rwanda, three representatives of civil society, two representatives of the private sector and an ECA staff member as General Rapporteur.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.itu.int/wsis/>

- AISI and WSIS phase II: the African position to WSIS (one in 2004 on evaluation of the Geneva process and one in 2005, on preparation for the Tunis 2005 summit).
- Strategies for information and knowledge resources development in Africa.
- Geographic data as a national asset.

## **B. Other Substantive Activities**

### ***Recurrent Publications***

- Publication on ICT for development.
- Index to African Official Publications

### ***Non-recurrent publications***

- Publication on digital libraries development: imperatives and best practices.
- Publication on the African position to the World summit on the Information Society to be presented at the 2005 Tunis WSIS.
- Publication on the development and utilization of information and knowledge resources in Africa: challenges and opportunities.
- Publication on the integration of national geo-spatial data infrastructure within national information policies.

### ***Exhibits and information kits***

- Side events during major meetings including exhibitions for policy makers on the use of information sources and services, Internet, databases, discussion lists, etc.

### ***Technical material for outside users***

- Development and maintenance of a clearinghouse gateway at ECA for member States to publish their data holdings and for users to access available data and information products;
- Knowledge base on the progress of information for development in Africa (including a database on the status of GI progress and development, AISI websites, database of African experts).
- Development of Information-for-Development materials for policy makers, decision-makers and other stakeholders (studies, briefing papers, etc).
- Development of an African GI (geographic data collection and management) curriculum based on a modular system of short courses, responsive to long-term education at various levels as well as short-term training and re-training in geo informatics.

### ***Electronic video issuance***

- Information-for-development outreach programme: production of audio and video programmes, electronic bulletins, newsletters, and Web-based briefing papers.

## **C. Technical co-operation**

### ***Advisory services***

- Advisory services to governments, RECS and IGOs upon request (5 on ICT policies and plans, 4 to member States on GI technologies and management, 2 statutory missions to technical and consultative meetings of regional GI centres.

### ***Group training***

- Seminar on Cooperative Mechanisms for Management of Information Resources and Services, with special attention to geo-spatial products;
- Two workshops on “spatial data standards, clearinghouse and metadata (one per year);
- Workshop on African languages and content (indigenous knowledge);
- Two regional capacity-building workshops on effective management and use of UN documentation for depository libraries and their key potential users (one in French and one in English).

### ***Fellowships***

- A visiting scholars, fellows and interns programme, for research on selected aspects of geo-information management (one fellow per year);
- Two fellows (one each year), selected from AVLIN-participating centers, to engage in development of digital and virtual library networking;
- Four fellows to do research on various aspects of the information society.

### ***Field projects***

#### (a) AVLIN

- Providing one-stop access to information on Africa’s development-related fields;
- Digitization of African development information sources;
- Two capacity-building workshops;
- Mid-term evaluation meeting of partner and participant institutions;
- Promoting regional co-operation on standardization of information processing and dissemination;
- Facilitating research and development activities in both infrastructure and development of digital and virtual libraries.

#### (b) ITCA

- Training: organization of courses on several aspects of ICT for development in support of the major orientations of the programme of the division. Courses will be offered to different stakeholders;
- Information resources: development of Web based information resources, with special focus on sector applications;
- Exhibitions: development of exhibition materials for ECA major events (and in particular ADF) and organization of ad hoc and mobile exhibitions.

#### (c) Promoting the information society in Africa with focus on new trends

- ICT regulatory issues with focus on the regional dimension;
- Development of ECA capacity in the areas of outreach, training, NICI policies and plans, evaluation and monitoring of ICT progress, impact evaluation (Scan-ICT).

**D. Conference Services**

*Library Services*

- Technical information and knowledge services, information resource development and acquisitions;
- Information processing, system development, management and administration;
- Inter-agency co-operation activities in the area of acquisitions (UNSEIAC). UN bibliographic databases (UNBIS) and UN parliamentary documentation (ODS);
- Training activities to upgrade information skills at ECA Headquarters and Offices;
- Networking activities with library associations (e.g. IFLA Africa Regional Section) and other groups to expand access to information;
- An assessment of the operations of the UN depository libraries programme in Africa (for Dag Hammarskjold Library, UNHQ).