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CASD News & Statistical Newsletter

Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development



Economic Commission
for Africa

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Editorial

CASD was established in response to a resolution of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for African Economic Development and Planning, as a means of following up implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for African Statistical Development in the 1990s.

In this Newsletter, we report on the eighth meeting of CASD that was held in May 1998. We highlight developments in the area of environment statistics and introduce a standard section on resources. In this edition, we also report on the recent statistical publications of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The next edition of **CASD News** will carry a list of statistical publications from ECA, and from various member States. We plan to make this a standard feature of future editions, so do please send us your contributions.

Another new feature in this edition is the introduction of a profile. We are featuring AFRISTAT, an African statistical institute that is playing a major role in the promotion of African statistics.

I trust that you will find the material both informative and useful.

Karima Bounemra Ben Soltane
Chief,
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Economic Commission for Africa

UNFPA

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) extends assistance to countries at their request to help them address reproductive health and population issues. UNFPA is guided by the principles of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994, and a series of meetings related to statistics are taking place as part of the ICPD+5 review.

In collaboration with the Interagency Census Coordinating Committee for sub-Saharan Africa, the Africa Division at UNFPA Headquarters organized a donors meeting in September 1997, in an effort to raise funds for the round of censuses in the year 2000. A comprehensive document was prepared showing the funding needs for all countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and the responses from the donors have been very positive. A follow-up meeting is planned for March 1999 to update partners on the current needs. Some countries have sufficient resources to undertake censuses while others are currently in the planning stage, depending on the timing of the census.

The UNFPA Country Support Teams (CSTs) facilitate capacity building at the national level through joint missions with nationals, in-country workshops, on-the-job training and through UNFPA-supported training institutions. Through the CSTs, UNFPA has also supported the census-training initiative of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to find more effective strategies and more cost-effective ways of conducting censuses. ■

ECA

Two national workshops, both on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA), were organized by ECA during the period January to December 1998. The first was implemented for Ethiopia and focused on methods of compiling gross capital formation. Over twenty participants attended the workshop. The second workshop was implemented for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and focused on the main features of the 1993 SNA.

Regional workshops taking place in December 1998 included a joint UNSD/ECA workshop on corporate accounts that emphasized the links between business and national accounts. The second stressed the need to improve the quality of African statistics. Both workshops were for English-speaking African countries.

African Statistics Day, as in the past, was celebrated on 18 November 1998. The theme selected for the celebration was "Harnessing Information for Development". ■

Eighth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development - CASD

The Eighth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD), took place from 18 to 20 May 1998 at the United Nations Conference Centre, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The meeting reviewed the activities of CASD in such areas as training; research, methods and standards; data processing; and organization and management of national statistical systems. In addition to making appropriate action-oriented recommendations, the meeting addressed the future of the Committee as well as its work programme. Further, the meeting took note of the preparations for the first meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) and held elections of new Committee members.

Presenting the opening statement on behalf of Mr. K.Y Amoako, Executive Secretary of ECA, Ms. P. Makinwa-Adebusoye, Chief of the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD) noted that ECA has always been committed to making CASD succeed, as evidenced in the statistical activities being undertaken in the ECA subprogramme: Harnessing Information for Development under the Development Information Services Division (DISD).

Outlining the efforts made by ECA to promote statistical

development in Africa, Ms. Makinwa-Adebusoye highlighted some improvements in the application of basic statistics, electronic networking, free flow of data, national accounting systems and field testing of concepts and standards in addition to upgrading of staff skills through seminars and workshops.

She rooted the current statistical challenge on the socioeconomic crisis of the 1980s that affected many African countries and noted its residual impact on many national statistical services. "The services they rendered to the public deteriorated, with major consequences in terms of the quantity and quality of statistics for decision-making, loss of infrastructure and the disintegration of some of the statistical services." She said.

In response to the crisis, and in light of the statistical assessments carried out in 32 African countries between 1988 and 1989, the sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers held in 1990, adopted the "Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s". It addressed the factors that contributed to this negative trend such as: poor management of national statistical services, inadequate funding, lack of timeliness in the delivery of outputs, unsatisfactory quality of the data produced and inability to respond quickly to new data needs.

The "Strategy for the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action" was adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers soon after, in 1992, and this calls on all concerned to use the Strategy as the overall framework for development of statistics in Africa. Thus, the CASD was established as an interagency committee to act as a coordinating body for statistical development activities in Africa and to monitor the overall implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action.

Alongside the CASD meeting, presentations and discussion sessions enriched the meeting with new knowledge. The workshops and presentations were the joint work of both ECA as a member of CASD and other CASD members, in particular the World Bank and DFID.

A session on database and data banks highlighted the experience of the World Bank with the Africa Live Database and the Common Database of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) currently being developed within the framework of the United Nations Economic and Social Information System (UNESIS). Other sessions focused on information resources on the Internet and highlighted the African Information Society Initiative (AISII) and its implications for statistical development in Africa.

A presentation by ECA on "Best Practices in the Formulation of Statistical Development Plans" highlighted issues arising from a study conducted recently by the

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Commission, and outlined the experiences of some African countries with statistical development plans. The key elements of such plans were underscored.

The United Kingdom Department of International Development (DFID) made a presentation on "Measuring Progress towards the International Development Goals" which focused on the International Development Goals (IDGs) and associated indicators that emerged from a series of UN conferences from early to mid -1990s. Complemented by the UNSD representative, the session addressed a set of indicators and the implications for national systems of data collection, analysis and dissemination.

Update on CASD Task Forces

Five task forces were established by CASD in 1997, as follows:

1. **Connectivity for statistics**, the objective of which is to improve coordination and communication, first among CASD members, and ultimately, in national statistical services through introduction of e-mail connectivity;

2. **Monitoring implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action**, to assess progress and assist in the implementation of the Plan;

3. **Strengthening of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) centres**, whose objective is to review the most recent evaluations of the centres and identify problems which are hampering the successful operation of the centres;

4. **Country and regional micro data service units and library-pilot project**, whose objective is to assist 2 to 5 pilot countries to establish census and household survey data service centres and a similar regional service centre at ECA; and

5. **A country live database-pilot project**, whose objective is to establish country-level live database containing core macro and sectoral statistical indicators in selected countries with eventual links to a regional database facility.

The Committee noted that work on task forces 1, 2 and 3 was continuing. Task forces 4 and 5 were merged into a new task force 4 on Data Bases and Data Banks and a new task force 5 on Gender in National Accounts was endorsed by the Committee.

The meeting also stressed that mobilization of resources for CASD activities was a priority. The Committee called upon ECA to prepare a budgeted proposal that would cover a wide range of CASD activities for presentation to donors for financing.

The need to increase the membership and create a new category of observer members was also agreed upon at the meeting. The new CASD membership will now comprise 10 ECA members States; 2 African Statistical Training Institutions; 8 African and non-African bilateral and multilateral agencies and donors; and 10 African and non-African subregional, regional and international organizations as observers.

Over the years, many agencies and donors have continued to endorse

the importance of CASD. The increased interest and higher participation at the eighth CASD meeting confirmed this. In this regard, the following CASD members and associates to task forces attended the eighth CASD meeting:

- ◆ ECA members States: Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Ethiopia, South Africa and Uganda;

- ◆ Regional training centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA); Instate of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE), Makerere University; and Ecole nationale superieure de statistique et d'economie appliquee (ENSEA);

- ◆ African and non-African bilateral and multilateral agencies and donors: Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the World Bank, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Observatoire economiques et statistiques d'Afrique subsaharienne (AFRISTAT), and the United States Bureau of the Census, International Programs Centre (IPC); and

- ◆ Associates to CASD task forces such as Djibouti, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), African Development Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and Organization of African Unity (OAU). ■

Environmental Statistics, Indicators and Accounting in Africa

ECA and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) jointly organized a Workshop on Environmental Statistics, Indicators and Accounting which took place in Addis Ababa from 17 -21 November 1997. Twenty-three participants from Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe attended the Workshop, which was funded by the Netherlands Government. This was the first workshop and was held for English speaking countries; the second for francophone countries, which was to be held in November 1998, is now postponed to 1999.

The Workshop noted the historic perspective of the development of environment statistics at the international level and that a "Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) had been proposed by the United

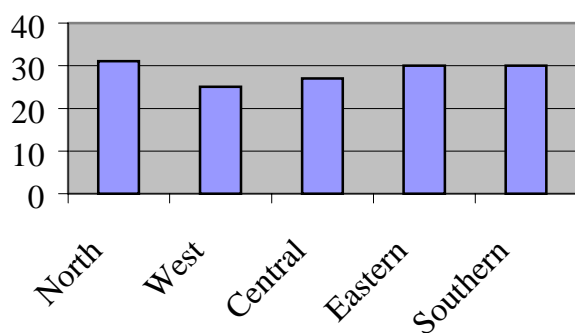
Nations and endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The existing FDES approaches which are "media-stress response", "resource accounting " and ecological" had a description of statistical topics with general environmental concerns but do not contain any statistical variables. These variables are described in follow-up publications such as, "Concepts and Methods of Environment Statistics - Statistics of the Natural Environment and Methods of Environment Statistics - Human Settlement Statistics". A "Manual on Environmental Indicators" is being developed by UNSD. Environment and sustainable development indicators are currently being developed under the umbrella of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The Environment Statistics Programme acknowledges the importance of sustainable development, the relevance of producing quality data and building national capacities in the environment domain as well as the pivotal role of information and communication technology. The medium-term goals and objectives, which include assisting African countries, have a viable and responsive

environmental statistics programme with reliable standardized environmental and environment-related data. It was noted that identification and documentation of major environmental concerns in some selected countries was being undertaken and that a regional multi-sectoral database with environment as one of the components was under construction. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) activities were to be brought closer to the traditional environment activities in order to achieve synergy. Future collaboration with UNEP and other UN agencies conducting activities in the area of environment is to be promoted.

The Workshop concluded that an integrated approach to economic, environmental and social policies requires comprehensive databases that are organized and compiled through appropriate statistical frameworks and systems in order to achieve sustainable development. It also recognized that timely and reliable environment statistics and accounts are crucial to monitoring and evaluation of the state of the environment and sustainable development. The selection of relevant environment indicators is important and should be the result of close collaboration between data users and producers. The Workshop also acknowledged that the FDES presents a particularly important and useful approach. Also that the System of integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) permits an assessment of the interactions between the environment and the

Africa's Population Doubling in Time (Years)



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Census Activities in Africa

The 2000 round (1995-2004) of population and housing censuses is on and the Scheduled (S)/Projected (P) dates of censuses in the African region as provided by the United States Bureau of the Census in their latest report, October 13, 1998, are as follows:

North Africa	Date of census	Central Africa	Date of census
Algeria	25, June 1998	Cameroon	April 1998 (S)
Egypt	18-19 November 1996	Central African Republic	December 1998 (S)
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	August 1995	Chad	2003 (P)
Mauritania	March 1999 (S)	Congo	6, June- 30, July 1996
Morocco	---	Equatorial Guinea	2004 (P)
Sudan	2003 (P)	Gabon	2003 (P)
Tunisia	2004 (P)	Sao Tome and Principe	August 2001 (S)
West Africa	Date of census	East Africa	Date of census
Benin	February 2002 (S)	Burundi	15 August 2000 (S)
Burkina Faso	10-20 December 1996	Comoros	2001 (P)
Cape Verde	2000 (S)	Democratic Republic of Congo	---
Cote d'Ivoire	November 1998 (S)	Djibouti	1996/1997
Gambia	2003 (P)	Eritrea	10 December 1998 (S)
Ghana	2000 (S)	Ethiopia	2004 (P)
Guinea	1-15 December 1996	Kenya	August 1999 (S)
Guinea Bissau	---	Madagascar	2003 (S)
Liberia	---	Rwanda	July 2001 (S)
Mali	April 1998	Seychelles	1997 (P)
Niger	May 1999 (S)	Somalia	---
Nigeria	2001 (S)	Tanzania (United Republic of)	1999 (S)
Senegal	December 1999 (S)	Uganda	August 2000 (S)
Sierra Leone	1998 (S)		
Togo	April 1998 (S)		
Southern Africa	Date of the census		
Angola	2002 (P)		
Botswana	2001 (P)		
Lesotho	April 1996		
Malawi	1-21 September 1998 (S)		
Mauritius	---		
Mozambique	1-15 August 1997		
Namibia	October 2001 (S)		
South Africa	10 October 1996 2001 (S)		
Swaziland	12 May 1997		
Zambia	15 August 2000 (S)		
Zimbabwe	18 August 2002 (S)		

--- No census listed in this round

(S) Scheduled, not yet taken or known if taken.

(P) Predicted based on past census dates.

It has been reported that all the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries have decided to schedule censuses within their member countries during the year 2001. Any country that has taken a recent census will hold an intercensal demographic survey instead. Statistics South Africa office will serve in an advisory role for the other countries as needed.

L' Observatoire économique et statistique Subsaharienne (AFRISTAT)

Nature et mission d'AFRISTAT

L' Observatoire économique et statistique Subsaharienne (AFRISTAT) est une organisation internationale créée par un traité signé le 21 septembre 1993 à Abidjan par les Ministres de l'Economie et des Finances des 14 pays africains membres de la Zone Franc. Tout Etat d'Afrique Subsaharienne ou de l'Océan Indien peut demander son adhésion¹. Ce traité est entré en vigueur le 13 mai 1996.

AFRISTAT a pour objectif de contribuer au développement des statistiques économiques, sociales et de l'environnement dans les Etats membres, et de renforcer leurs

compétences dans ces domaines. Il dispose de pouvoirs réglementaires dans le domaine de l'harmonisation des concepts, des normes et des méthodes statistiques. AFRISTAT s'inscrit ainsi dans la préoccupation africaine d'intégration économique régionale, qui suppose l'homogénéité et la comparabilité des informations statistiques. Cette volonté d'harmonisation et d'intégration est mise en oeuvre par AFRISTAT à travers des opérations d'appui à la collecte, au traitement et à la diffusion de l'information statistique ou aux analyses et synthèses économiques, selon le programme de travail qui est défini par les Etats membres.

AFRISTAT sera constitué à terme

(en 1999) par une équipe de douze experts assistée par neuf personnes recrutées localement. Depuis le mois de mars 1998, dix experts et l'ensemble du personnel local sont en poste.

Situation actuelle et premières réalisations

Les organes statutaires (Conseil des Ministres, Comité de direction, Conseil scientifique) se sont déjà réunis chacun au moins trois fois. Le schéma de financement a été adopté en 1996. Il prévoit la création d'un fonds doté d'un capital initial de 3,35 milliards de FCFA dont les revenus et une partie du capital permettront d'assurer le financement continu des activités

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From page 5 Environmental Statistics Indicators and Accounting in Africa

economy of a country in an integrative manner thus rendering it a useful tool for measurement of economic performance and growth.

The Workshop recommended that:

- ◆ The availability and quality of environmental statistics produced in member States be improved, with appropriate use made available statistical concepts and definitions;
- ◆ Available environmental statistics should be presented in statistical

compendia and these presentations should be based on international statistical standards in order to enhance international comparability;

- ◆ Member States should participate in the international compilation of environmental indicators carried out by UNSD and contribute to ECA's African Compendium of Environment Statistics;

- ◆ Training courses in environmental statistics and accounting should be developed by the relevant organizations and institutes in the region and should be adequately

supported by member countries as well as by international organizations;

- ◆ ECA should assist member countries to access financial and technical support for environmental statistics and accounting projects and programmes;

- ◆ ECA and UNSD should continue to facilitate collaboration and information exchange among member States through appropriate technologies, workshops, seminars, etc. on environmental statistics, indicators and accounting. ■

Theme: Harnessing Information for Development

November 18 marked African Statistics Day 1998, which was aimed at increasing public awareness of the important role of statistics in the socioeconomic development of the continent. This year's theme was 'Harnessing Information for Development', an issue which is particularly relevant given the development challenges that Africa faces in a world that is changing rapidly and becoming increasingly smaller and more interdependent.

Statistical information has a crucial role to play in the achievement of sustainable social and economic development. Indeed, regular, reliable and complete statistical information is indispensable for research, sound decision-making, and in the planning of economic and social development.

However, since the mid-1980s, most countries in Africa have experienced a major decline in budgetary resources allocated to support statistical activities. These constraints have adversely affected data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination activities — including the implementation of survey programmes, a critical source of information for socio-economic planning, decision making and also as a basis for compilation of integrated economic information systems such as the national accounts.

In May 1990, with a view to reversing the negative trend, the **Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s** was adopted by the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Planning and Economic Development. The main objective of the Plan of Action is for African countries to achieve national self-sufficiency in statistical production - including the creation of comprehensive national statistical databases — by the end of the century.

In that context, important progress has been achieved in the area of statistical production and data quality. Many statistical offices are now using common standards, concepts, methods and new tools. The collection of statistical information is no longer confined to the largest urban centres, and the number of studies aiming at better knowledge of the structure and functioning of the socio-economic sectors is continuously growing. Furthermore, price indices now cover rural areas, and the 2000 year round of

population censuses is well underway.

That said, national statistical offices in Africa still face the following challenges:

- ♦ How to meet the needs of both the public and private sectors for timely, accurate and reliable statistical information;
- ♦ The need for greater client focus and responsiveness to be able to respond rapidly to changing information needs; and
- ♦ How to exploit and harness the new information and communication technologies to provide reliable information in a cost-effective manner.

On the part of the users of the statistics, the challenges include:

- ♦ How to effectively utilize the data published by the statistical services; and
- ♦ How to influence what is collected and to have indications on the quality of the data published.

One major obstacle preventing users from harnessing the information is the lack of «metadata», which provides systematic descriptions of the statistical data and indications of its limitations. Metadata will enable further evaluation, interpretation and analysis of the data with clear understanding of its quality and limitations. It is therefore necessary for statistical offices to provide metadata along with the statistical information they publish.

To be able to meet these challenges, the statistical services in Africa need support. ECA continues to assist in capacity building at the national level in the areas of policy advocacy, consensus building, harmonization of statistical classifications, standards and methods, and in coordinating statistical development within the framework of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development - a gathering of partners and member states organized by ECA and aimed at improving national statistical systems in member States.

Implementation of census activities always requires greater support. In that context recognition is being given to the bilateral and multilateral donors for the support they are rendering to African countries in the implementation of the 2000 round of population and housing censuses and household surveys. Recognition is also given to the role played by statistical training centres in Africa and elsewhere for their contribution to statistical development in Africa. ■

Thème: Exploiter l'information aux fins du développement

Le 18 novembre marque la Journée africaine de la statistique, dont l'objectif est de sensibiliser davantage le public à l'importance du rôle de la statistique dans le développement social et économique du continent. Le thème de l'année dernière l'année était: «Exploiter l'information aux fins du développement», un thème qui est particulièrement pertinent compte tenu des défis en matière de développement auxquels l'Afrique doit faire face dans un monde qui change rapidement et qui devient de plus en plus petit et interdépendant.

L'information statistique a un rôle crucial à jouer dans la promotion d'un développement social et économique durable. En effet, une information statistique régulière, fiable et complète est indispensable pour la recherche, la prise de décision et la planification du développement social et économique.

Cependant, depuis le milieu des années 80, la plupart des pays africains ont enregistré une baisse très sensible des ressources budgétaires allouées aux activités statistiques. Ces contraintes budgétaires ont eu un effet pervers sur la collecte, le traitement, l'analyse et les activités de diffusion des données — y compris l'exécution des programmes d'enquêtes, une source d'information capitale pour la planification du développement social et économique, la prise de décision et la mise au point de

systèmes d'informations économiques intégrés tels que la comptabilité nationale.

En mai 1990, en vue de renverser cette tendance, le **Plan d'action d'Addis Abeba pour le développement de la statistique en Afrique dans les années 90** a été adopté par la Conférence des ministres africains responsables de la planification et du développement économique. Le principal objectif du Plan d'action est d'atteindre l'autosuffisance nationale dans la production statistique — y compris la création d'une base de données statistique nationale — d'ici à la fin du siècle.

Dans ce contexte, d'importants progrès ont été réalisés dans le domaine de la production et de la qualité des données. Plusieurs services nationaux de statistique utilisent aujourd'hui les mêmes normes, concepts, méthodes et outils nouveaux. La collecte de l'information statistique ne se limite plus aux grands centres urbains, et le nombre d'études visant à approfondir les connaissances sur la structure et le fonctionnement des secteurs social et économique ne cesse de croître. En outre, les indices de prix couvrent actuellement les zones rurales, et les recensements de la population de la série 2000 sont bien lancés dans la région.

Cela dit, les services nationaux de statistique en Afrique font encore face aux défis suivants:

- ♦ Comment répondre à la fois aux besoins des secteurs public et privé en informations statistiques produites à temps, précises et fiables;
- ♦ La nécessité d'une plus grande souplesse et d'une orientation accrue des Activités statistiques vers les aspirations des utilisateurs, afin d'être à même de répondre rapidement à des besoins en informations qui varient continuellement; et,
- ♦ Comment exploiter les nouvelles technologies de l'information et des communications de manière à pouvoir fournir des informations fiables au moindre coût.

Du côté des utilisateurs de données statistiques, deux défis majeurs sont à relever: d'une part, comment utiliser effectivement les données publiées par les services nationaux de statistique et, d'autre part, comment influencer les activités de collecte et obtenir des indications sur la qualité des données publiées.

Un obstacle majeur qui empêche les utilisateurs d'exploiter l'information disponible est l'absence de méta-données susceptibles de fournir une description systématique des données statistiques produites, ainsi que des indications sur leurs limites. Les méta-données permettent de surcroît l'évaluation, l'interprétation et l'analyse des données, mais aussi une bonne compréhension de leur qualité et de leurs insuffisances. Il importe par conséquent que les services nationaux de statistique assurent également la mise à disposition de méta-données lors de la diffusion des informations

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From Page 7 **AFRISTAT**

courantes de l'Observatoire pendant une période de 8 ans commençant le 1er janvier 1998. Ce fonds est en cours de constitution. La France apporte 45% du capital du fonds et chaque Etat membre contribue à hauteur de 132 millions de FCFA.

A la fin du mois de septembre 1998, 78% du capital total étaient réunis.

Le programme de travail pour 1998 adopté par le Comité de direction lors de sa troisième réunion a comme priorités: les statistiques des prix, la comptabilité nationale, les nomenclatures, le secteur informel et le renforcement institutionnel des systèmes statistiques nationaux.

AFRISTAT a participé activement à l'exécution du projet d'harmonisation des indices des prix à la consommation de l'UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine) qui est arrivé à sa phase finale en décembre 1997 avec l'adoption officielle de l'Indice Harmonisé des Prix à la Consommation (IHPC) par le Conseil des Ministres de l'UEMOA. Les premiers résultats mensuels ont été publiés à la mi-février 1998.

AFRISTAT a organisé, en mars 1997, un séminaire international sur le secteur informel et la politique économique en Afrique Subsaharienne. Les actes de ce séminaire (4 volumes) ont été publiés en mars 1998.

AFRISTAT publie tous les quatre mois un bulletin d'information dénommé la lettre d'AFRISTAT. Sept numéros ont été publiés à ce jour.

Projets

A court terme, AFRISTAT va apporter son assistance technique à la réalisation du Programme d'appui régional statistique à la surveillance multilatérale des pays de l'UEMOA (PARSTAT). Ce programme d'une durée de deux ans est financé par l'Union Européenne à la demande de la Commission de l'UEMOA. Il a comme axes prioritaires la comptabilité nationale (harmonisation des méthodes de calcul du PIB, élaboration de comptes prévisionnels, installation du logiciel ERE-TES d'aide à la confection des comptes nationaux dans tous les Etats membres), la mise en

place d'un indice harmonisé de la production industrielle, le secteur informel et l'emploi en milieu urbain, la publication régulière par la Commission de l'UEMOA d'une note de conjoncture au niveau régional ainsi que la création au sein de cette Commission d'une base de données sur la compétitivité des pays de la région, accessible aux institutions nationales et régionales impliquées dans le processus d'intégration économique.

AFRISTAT a procédé en février 1998 au lancement du projet d'harmonisation des indices des prix à la consommation dans les pays membres de la Communauté Economique et Monétaire d'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC).

Depuis le mois de mai 1997, un projet concernant l'ensemble des Etats membres est mis en oeuvre. Dénommé PROSMIC et financé par l'Union Européenne, ce projet comprend trois volets: le renforcement institutionnel, l'harmonisation des nomenclatures et l'harmonisation des méthodes d'élaboration des comptes nationaux.

Au cours de l'année 1998 sera adopté un Programme statistique minimum commun. Il s'agit d'un programme quinquennal (1er janvier 2000-31 décembre 2004) dont l'objectif est de doter les systèmes statistiques nationaux des Etats membres de capacités de production, d'analyse et de diffusion statistiques durables. Ce programme est articulé autour des cinq axes suivants: la coordination statistique, la comptabilité nationale, la conjoncture économique et sociale, la diffusion et les statistiques sociales (éducation et santé).

Une table ronde avec des bailleurs de fonds sera organisée pour examiner les modalités de financement du programme.

A moyen terme seront progressivement mises en place quatre séries de publications: "Méthodes", "Résultats", "Etudes" et "Annuaire Statistiques".

Enfin, AFRISTAT mettra en place des banques de données régionales et aidera les Etats membres à créer et/ou gérer des banques de données nationales selon des normes harmonisées. ■

ECA publications

The following publications were:

(a) Issued

- ◆ 1992/93 Africa Statistical Yearbook, Volume II. Part 4: Central Africa
- ◆ 1996 African Statistical Yearbook, Volume I. Part 1: North Africa

(b) Sent for reproduction

- ◆ 1996 African Statistical Yearbook

Volume I. Part 2: West Africa
 Volume II. Part 3: Central Africa
 Part 4: East Africa
 Part 5: Southern Africa

- ◆ 1997 African Statistical Yearbook

Volume I. Part 2: West Africa
 Volume II. Part 4: East Africa
 Part 5: Southern Africa

- ◆ Compendium of Intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics, 1997.

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statistiques.

Pour être en mesure de relever ces défis, les services nationaux de statistique en Afrique ont besoin de soutien. La CEA continue d'aider au renforcement des capacités au niveau national dans les domaines de la promotion des politiques, l'adoption d'un consensus ou la formulation de positions communes, l'harmonisation des classifications statistiques, des normes et des

méthodes et, la coordination du développement de la statistique dans le cadre du Comité de coordination pour le développement de la statistique en Afrique — un regroupement de partenaires et d'États membres organisé par la CEA et dont l'objectif est l'amélioration des systèmes statistiques nationaux des pays africains.

L'exécution des activités de recensement requiert toujours un

soutien plus important. A cet égard, il convient de rendre un vibrant hommage à tous les donateurs bilatéraux et multilatéraux pour l'appui qu'ils apportent aux pays africains dans l'exécution des activités de recensement de la population et de l'habitat de la série 2000, ainsi que dans l'organisation des enquêtes auprès des ménages. Il convient également de souligner ici le rôle éminemment positif joué par les centres de formation statistique en Afrique et ailleurs dans la promotion du développement de

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