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AN EVALUATION OF STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ADDIS ABABA PLAN OF ACTION FOR
STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA IN THE 1990S

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAPA	Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s
ADB	African Development Bank
AFRISTAT	Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa
AFSA	African Statistical Association
AHSCP	African Household Survey Capability Programme
AISI	African Information Society Initiative
CASD	Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development
CODI	Committee on Development Information
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DANIDA	Danish Agency for International Development
DFID	Department for International Development
DISD	Development Information Services Division
EAC	East African Community
EASTC	East African Statistical Training Centre
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ENSEA	Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFORD	Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographique (Training and Research institute in demography)
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INSEE	Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques (French statistical institute)
ISAE	Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics
IT	Information Technology
NASD	Needs Assessment and Strategy Development
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NICI	National Information and Communication Infrastructure
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical System
OAU	Organization of African Unity
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics in the 21 st Century
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
RSTC	Regional Statistical Training Centre
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SNA	System of National Accounts
SRDC	Sub-regional Development Centre
STPA	Statistical Training Programme for Africa
TQM	Total Quality Management
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

UNSO
USAID

United Nations Statistics Office
United States Agency for International Development

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Co-ordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) carried out a full independent evaluation of the achievements, failures, constraints and facilitating factors in meeting the objectives of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990's and the role of CASD in facilitating the implementation of the Plan.
2. The main findings and conclusions from the evaluation are that:
 - The Plan provided a basis for reversing the decline in statistical production in Africa. However, it was not publicised, popularised and owned by stakeholders within countries.
 - Indeed AAPA and its strategy of implementation were both excellent. The problem in the implementation lies elsewhere:
 - a) CASD, which had some good ideas which were not effectively followed up, was not structured for the job of coordinating and monitoring statistical development in Africa.
 - b) Lack of a culture of good governance in most of Africa and the resulting absence of accountability in Africa's ruling regimes, and
 - c) Restructuring of the ECA's statistical activities was perceived by countries to have downgraded the status of statistics at ECA's secretariat.
 - The future of statistics in Africa is brighter. Good governance and government accountability appear to be coming to many African countries and that will necessarily put Statistics as an area of priority all over the continent to ensure good government; ECA has hopefully learnt a lesson and will strengthen its statistical structure and services to provide more effective internal and external service, leadership, co-ordination and harmonization in the years to come since "charity starts at home"; Africa will continue to have more and better trained statisticians as more and more statistics graduates come out from well over 120 African universities; the press, the private sector and civil society are increasingly becoming more influential and demanding so that African governments are bound to be more responsive to the collective will of the people, thereby pushing accountability, quantitative measurement and the statistical agenda to the forefront in every African country.
 - The achievements of the last ten years, perhaps largely attributable to AAPA, are many: statistical legislation and organization have improved in a number of countries; statistical production has grown in scope, content and availability, largely as a result of increased computerization; statistical manpower development has grown many fold since African universities grew from about 30 at the beginning of the 1990s to well over 120 at the end of 1999; data dissemination has also made some modest progress.
 - In only a few countries among the 10 case studies where there have been advances in statistical development, there was the "right mix" of facilitating factors.

- ECA was able to take a number of actions as recommended by the Plan. However, it was not able to play “*best practices*” role model in the areas of statistical policy, co-ordination and database development. It was also not able to present itself as the “*authoritative source of data on African countries*”. CASD also played a useful but limited role in implementing some of the recommendations of the Plan including needs assessment, training, etc.
- Major challenges facing statistical systems in Africa include creating greater awareness among data users particularly the policy makers about the importance of statistics, getting Governments to give high priority to statistics, building ample capacity to assess and keep abreast of the changes in demand for statistics and ability to harness technology to improve the way data are collected and disseminated to users.
- Prospects for statistical development *are brighter on account of the statistical requirements associated with debt forgiveness programmes for HIPC*, new initiatives like PARIS21, increased statistical activities in sub-regional organizations to assist member countries build capacity and opportunities to harness technology.

3. Main recommendations include:

- Rooting statistics in African realities, creating awareness about importance of statistics among users, getting national governments to give higher priority to statistics, developing statistical master plans and structures that will address current data needs, investing in quality improvement programmes, improving information dissemination and sharing, development of an African Information System and connectivity, *evaluating prevailing conditions with a view toward establishing a successor training project to the STPA*, encouraging continuous staff training, encouraging women to do statistics courses at different levels, recruiting staff on merit, ensuring better co-ordination among stakeholders including technical assistance, encouraging and coordinating regional and sub-regional organisations to play a greater role in the development of statistics in Africa.
- AAPA principles and recommendations remain largely relevant even today. However, they can still be critically re-examined and updated against prevailing conditions. A new Plan of Action and an associated implementation strategy will then need to be formulated for the decade, 2001-2010, with full recognition of the lessons from the implementation of AAPA and a stronger participation of all stakeholders at an appropriate level; *its implementation strategy will benefit from lessons from AAPA*.
- ECA’s statistics activities need to be suitably restructured and strengthened to serve effectively “...as the regional institution responsible for the development and promotion of statistics in Africa” (AAPA, Principle No.8) and to be able to provide efficient statistical support services to the various divisions of ECA.

I INTRODUCTION

4. The 9th meeting of CASD held in Addis Ababa in June 1999 established a Task Force to carry out a full independent evaluation of the achievements, failures, constraints and facilitating factors in meeting the objectives of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990's and the role of CASD in facilitating the implementation of the Plan. The Plan and the background to the evaluation are given in Annexes 2 and 3.
5. For purposes of carrying out the above evaluation, the Task Force hired a team of six (6) African statistical consultants: Messrs Oladejo Oyeleke Ajayi (Nigeria), Ben Kiregyera (Uganda), Ayenew Ejigou (Ethiopia), Martin Balépa (AFRISTAT), Michel Mouyelo-Katoula (Congo-Brazzaville) and Luc Mbong-Mbong (Cameroon).
6. The objectives of the evaluation were:
 - a) To undertake an evaluation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action (AAPA) and its associated strategy highlighting the following aspects:
 - *Achievements, failures, constraints and facilitating factors in meeting the Plan's objectives;*
 - *The effectiveness of the CASD, role of the ECA in facilitating, co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of the AAPA (including the co-ordination of donor inputs); and*
 - *The role and effectiveness of technical assistance.*
 - b) To identify relevant issues and challenges for statistical development in Africa for the next decade at national, sub-national and regional levels, including the relationship with international statistical systems.
7. To achieve these objectives, the Consultants used the methodology approved by the Task Force which comprised:
 - a review of documentation on AAPA and CASD;
 - conduct of case studies in the ten countries;
 - holding of supplementary consultations with regional and sub-regional economic organisations, statistical training centres, bilateral and multilateral donors.
8. A note on the method of work is given in Annex 5.
9. During country visits, the Consultants also collected viewpoints, proposals and directions on the expected role of statistics in a changing society and in which issues of democracy, good governance, respect of human rights, press freedom, decentralization of country administrations, country vision documents and poverty alleviation are the major concerns of the African countries.
10. Country reports were written after the country visits. Also three reports were written on regional and sub-regional organisations and training centres. Altogether thirteen (13) case study reports were written (see Annex 5). These were synthesized into this report with a zero draft first done by Messers Kiregyera and Mouyelo-Katoula, comments offered by Messers A. Ejigou, Balepa and Mbong-Mbong before Mr. O. O. Ajayi finally incorporated these comments into the final report.
11. The main difficulties encountered during the country visits included inappropriateness of appointments made in some countries, failure by some officials to appear for meetings set with the Consultants, communication problems in one of the countries, and lack of interest in the subject of statistical development by some officials.

II MAIN FINDINGS OF THE EVALUATION

Knowledge, Ownership, Relevance and Weaknesses of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action

Knowledge, Ownership and Relevance of the Plan

12. Apart from a very limited number of top officials in few countries of the ten visited, there was scanty to no knowledge of the Plan in the countries. It was clear that no efforts had been made to widely publicize and popularise the Plan and its associated Strategy let alone creating a sense of ownership of the Plan among stakeholders including the staff of the NSO's, policy and decision makers and development partners in these selected countries. In only one country of those visited, efforts had been made to get all statistical personnel to internalise the Plan and the Strategy.

13. The Plan was most relevant to African countries as it not only brought clearly out the nature and underlying causes of the decline in African statistics but also proposed a strategy for the implementation of the Plan to reverse the decline.

Weaknesses of the Plan

14. The Plan did not provide a mechanism for its publicity and popularisation among stakeholders in countries and especially among statisticians and policy/decision-makers. Also at country level, there was no Plan co-ordinator to keep monitoring Plan implementation.

15. "Institutional memory" was not strongly provided for in the Plan as regards consistent documentation even when it was known at the time of the Plan formulation that there was and would continue to be high staff turnover within NSO's.

16. AAPA was designed to strengthen statistical systems to play the traditional role of providing data to users. It did not go further to recommend strategies for identifying and illuminating causal factors for many social and economic phenomena including societal trends.

17. The training programmes designed under the Plan were not flexible enough to allow for multi-disciplinary approach and develop skills in qualitative methods for data collection. In addition data analysis and research were not emphasized enough.

Development of National Statistical Systems

Organisation and Management of Statistical Services

18. In many countries, laws governing statistical organisation and activities particularly the provision for coordination are very much out of date and no longer reflect the new realities in the countries. This, among other things, has contributed to the ineffectiveness of the National Statistical Systems (NSS's).

19. The NSS's in a large number of countries studied are structured in a similar manner. In many countries, NSO's have been restructured and technical departments created by functions or subject matters. Also in these cases, the restructuring was not done with specific reference to AAPA recommendation that "The organisational structure of the NSS should be examined carefully and, where necessary, restructured in

order to meet the various data needs”. In particular, there is no evidence to show that restructuring was done to equip NSO’s to appropriately meet user needs.

20. The NSS’s are essentially decentralized with the NSO’s acting as co-ordinating agencies. However, in a majority of the countries, the NSO’s have failed to perform their function of co-ordinating the systems because they are understaffed, under-resourced and over-stretched. With lack of co-ordination, the NSS’s have continued to produce data that are sometimes not consistent or comparable.

21. The AAPA recommendation that “In order to attract and retain suitable manpower Governments are urged to develop attractive schemes of service for statisticians” has been implemented in only one Anglophone and one Francophone country of the countries visited. In other countries, existing schemes of service for statistical personnel are a far cry from the above recommendation. This is because the statistical service in almost all countries visited is part of the civil service and generally the terms and conditions of the civil service are unattractive.

22. In only three (3) of the countries visited, organisational units on research and methods have been established as recommended by the AAPA. There was no evidence to show that countries have included research as an integral part of their statistical activities as recommended by the AAPA or that such research is actually being undertaken. This is because generally research and methodology are not taken as seriously in African NSO’s, as they should be. Also there are shortages of research methodologists in the countries. In addition, the NSO’s have tended to take shortcuts to solve methodological problems by either using proxies or methods applied elsewhere (which may not be appropriate), or to resort to externally conceived solutions.

Legal Framework and structure of the NSS’s

23. In a few countries, the law governing the national statistical system has been amended to ensure utmost effectiveness of the system by providing for an “autonomous statistical agency” to co-ordinate the development of the national statistical system. In one country, policy making and monitoring of the implementation of the agency’s work programme has been reposed in an independent “policy-making body” composed of high-level professionals and has included statistics in those areas which are protected from budgetary cuts. Also in the same country, there has been observed increased involvement of the statistical agency in critical decision-making and reflection processes such as the preparation of economic policies framework papers.

24. In those countries where the statistical agency has been made autonomous, and where also leadership of the statistical agency with “good knowledge of statistics and proven managerial ability” has been appointed, there has been noticeable improvement in assessing user requirements and adequately responding to such requirements. And with improved budgetary support, statistical personnel are getting better remunerated and facilitated and at the same time, through training, skills and expertise which are necessary to sustain national statistical systems, are being systematically built.

Statistical Committees

25. In many countries, statistical committees have been formed as recommended by the AAPA. In particular, User/Producer and Producer/Producer Committees have been established or revived especially in some Anglophone countries, and some encouraging results have been recorded. However, in many countries these Committees have become dormant or even moribund.

26. It was found that the composition of these Committees has a lot to do with their capacity to function and play a useful role. Where the Committees are not functional, it was found that many members of the Committees are co-opted on the basis of their official position. Some of these ex-officio members do not necessarily feel any personal interest in their participation in the Committee. Even when they actually participate in Committee meetings, they may not have any alternative solution to propose to emerging problems.

Challenges and Establishment of Statistical Priorities

27. A comprehensive analysis of the worsening plight of African countries, plagued by economic downturns, debts and famine led the ECA to recommend in the AAPA implementation strategy (1992) the following priority areas in future statistical programmes: food and agriculture, industry, human resources, transport and communications, trade and finance, environment, energy, women and development, population and development and the informal sector.

28. Since then, the challenges of African societies have been aggravated by new scourges such as poverty, HIV/AIDS and internal and external conflicts. In addition, new societal and political challenges such as democracy, decentralization, human rights, gender issues have emerged. Yet, structural statistical priorities in the countries have not changed, and some attempts to address some of the new challenges have been made through unsustainable and not always relevant donor-driven programmes in terms of initiative, conceptual frameworks, methodology, scope, timeframe, recommendations to policy-makers, dissemination of data, mobilisation of human resources and funding.

29. The NSS's have not had in place a structured and permanent mechanism for identification of the new challenges and opportunities for addressing these challenges. This can be attributed in part to institutional rigidities and in part to failure to seize new opportunities.

Statistical Development

30. There have been noticeable advances in statistical development in African countries in the last decade. In many countries, for instance, where there is improved co-ordination between data users and producers, the scope for statistical production has expanded with activities in new fields like energy and environment being undertaken, many countries are at different stages in implementing the new system of national accounts (SNA 1993), there have been improvements in the compilation and release of GDP estimates, improved dissemination procedures are in use, etc. Although AAPA's recommendation B22 (see Annex 2) requested for support of bilateral and multilateral donors in implementing these programmes only some advances can be attributed to various forms of direct assistance to countries by bilateral and multilateral donors, sub-regional and international organisations, including among others: The European Commission, DANIDA, SIDA, NORAD, The French Cooperation, INSEE, USAID, World Bank, IMF, ADB, DFID, UNDP, ECA, FAO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, AFRISTAT, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, etc. The issue of sustainability of these advances, however, remains an important one.

31. NSO's in some countries are not making the desired contribution in resolving major challenges faced by African countries despite the recognized need for policy decisions to be informed by statistical information. This can be attributed to statistical training programmes not focusing enough on production of official statistics. In

addition, there are potential users of data at all levels who lack awareness about the kind of statistical information they can demand and get from data producers.

32. In only four (4) of the ten countries visited, statistical production is high on the list of Government priorities as recommended by the AAPA. In these countries, planners and decision-makers have realized the importance of statistical information and are extensively using statistics in evidence-based macro-economic management and policy-making as well as programme monitoring and reporting. They are giving budgetary support albeit inadequately to statistics, building statistical components in important national programmes and raising the profile of statistics. There is no doubt that politicians, policy and decision-makers need to be more sensitised about the strategic importance of statistical data and information in the management of public affairs.

33. No visible actions have been taken on the Plan recommendations for the Governments to “assist in establishment of a Statistics Development Fund with contributions from the public as well as the private sector, and to continue to give support to the African Statistical Association (AFSA)”. One explanation for this may be that little awareness has been created among stakeholders on development of statistics as a public good.

34. The recommendation made by the AAPA that “*African governments are urged to continue to give support to the African Statistical Association (AFSA)*” has not been implemented. Moreover, most National Statistical Associations, where they were formed, have been dormant. Apparently, actual and potential members of these associations have not been made aware of the benefits that accrue to membership of the associations.

Towards Creating Statistical Awareness

35. The recommendation that “National seminars covering specific or broad areas with participation of civil service as well as research and training institutions should be organized on a regular basis and should be included in the programme of work” was hardly implemented in the countries. The reasons for non-implementation of this recommendation include lack of financial resources, non-suitability of NSO’s as “prime movers” as NSO’s would not present, for discussion, issues with wide enough scope to interest participants.

36. The main users of statistics in the countries are Government Ministries, Departments and institutions; the public and private sectors; research and training organisations; donors, regional, sub-regional and international organisations; the civil society (NGO’s, Community Based Organisations, etc.); the press; and the wider public. However, not all these users are adequately empowered to either articulate their requirements or effectively use statistical data when available.

37. Many countries continue to celebrate African Statistics Day as recommended by the AAPA in order to increase awareness about the importance of Statistics in the social and economic life of a country. However, the celebrations, as they have been organised, have not had the desired impact.

Work programme

38. As recommended by the AAPA, many countries have designed statistics master plans paving the way for effective coordination of statistical activities. Short, medium and long-term programmes covering all classic statistical areas have been drawn up in relation to the master plans.

39. However, for a number of countries visited, the plans did not anticipate new challenges that emerged after the plans were launched. In particular, the NSO's seemed to lack the capacity to adapt to the new challenges and to meet the new demands for data. Moreover, in many countries visited, no strategy has been put in place to systematically assess, on a continuous basis, changing requirements for data.

40. It was observed that statistical programmes have failed to enhance statistical development in many cases because, among other things, statistical personnel have failed to observe non-formal realities in their countries, many of these are ad hoc donor funded programmes to meet specific data needs, and the programmes have largely failed to address themselves to the national policy agenda and priorities for development.

Human Resources

41. Many NSO's have Human Resources Development Strategies. However, their implementation has not been satisfactory. As a result, the staffing situation at many NSO's leaves much to be desired. In some countries visited, there are a lot fewer personnel in office than are required even to maintain basic routine activities. In a number of countries, this is due to the fact that qualified personnel cannot be attracted into statistical service because of poor terms and conditions of service or because there is a temporary ban on recruitment of civil servants including statistical personnel. This has made it difficult to attract or retain qualified personnel.

42. Apart from three (3) of the countries visited, it was observed that the number of women in the statistical service is low indeed. It is even lower at management level. No country visited has a quota or target for women to be recruited into statistical service. This gender-imbalance has been attributed to the fact that many fewer women than men in these countries study statistics. It is noteworthy that in countries where the number of women is reasonably high, there had been stability in the organisation's workforce.

43. There is a general shortage of skills in important classical areas of national accounts, sampling, agricultural statistics, data analysis, etc. and in new areas like energy statistics, environment statistics, gender statistics, etc. These shortages can perhaps be explained in terms of limited opportunities for specialised training amongst others.

44. In only one country visited, the terms and conditions of service for personnel in the NSO can be described as attractive and competitive. This has made it possible for the NSO to attract and retain very highly qualified and skilled personnel in various fields – statistics, economics, accountancy and management. The mentioned country presents an example to be emulated by other countries in Africa if this model is sustained. NSO's may also consider hiring specialists in the areas of sociology, psychology, geography, etc on a temporary or permanent basis, should the need arise and resources permit. In addition, communication specialists such as journalists may be added to the staff to strengthen the publicity, dissemination and outreach function.

Other resources and infrastructure

45. Almost all NSS's are experiencing financial problems in varying degrees. In countries where statistics is not given high priority, there have been severe (albeit arbitrary) cuts in the budget. In almost all the countries where NSS's are experiencing financial problems, donor funding has played a key role in keeping some important statistical activities running. In two countries visited, it was reported that 70-90% of the NSO's' budgets were supported by donors.

46. NSO's in some countries visited are supplementing the financial support from Government by selling statistical products like CD-ROMs, diskettes and publications, and carrying out contracted consultancy work. It was reported in one country that the NSO is making considerable income annually from sale of statistical products. This country presents an example to be emulated by other countries in Africa.

47. Not all NSO's have a building of their own that is adequate for their purposes. Almost all the NSO's have a problem of shortage of equipment—computers, photocopiers, printers and vehicles. These problems have affected the performance of the offices.

48. Few of the countries visited had an operational Local Area Network (LAN). Only one (1) country has an operational Intranet to which many institutions in the country are connected. Most of the countries have, however, developed a Web Page and are using the Internet to disseminate some of their statistical products.

49. Although there is general awareness and the intent to build comprehensive and up-to-date databases for storage and easy retrieval of statistical data, it is in only one country that such a database exists. Failure to establish databases was attributed to shortage of equipment, computer skills and related problems.

Statistical Training

Formal training

50. Regional Statistical Training Centres (RSTC's) and Departments of Statistics at national Universities have contributed immensely to human resources development by producing statistical personnel to manage the NSS's. However, the demand for statisticians in African countries still outstrips the supply. The main regional statistical training centres in Africa include: ENSEA (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire), ISSEA (Yaounde, Cameroon), Department of Statistics at the University of Ibadan (Nigeria), ISAE at Makerere University (Uganda), EASTC (Tanzania), IFORD (Yaounde, Cameroon), and INSEA (Rabat, Morocco).

51. The STPA (as long as it lasted) very much helped the RSTCs with curriculum development, fellowships for trainers' training, facilitation of staff exchange among the training centres and where necessary fielded short missions to assist in teaching specialized subjects.

52. The current programmes at training centres except perhaps at ISAE and University of Ibadan have tendency to be theory biased. In addition, they have not been opened up to other domains and subjects such as law, history, political science, etc.

53. Computer training is part of the training programme at all training centres. However, some aspects of computer application do not seem to be emphasized. A case in point is building databases.

54. The training centres are facing a number of problems. Key among them are shortages of teaching staff both in terms of numbers and experience, limited fellowships which has made it difficult for the RSTC's to get many trainees from outside the host countries, scholastic materials (mainly books and computers), less than adequate budgetary support from host Governments, space problems, etc.

55. The linkages between training centres and the NSS's are generally weak and not formalized. This is unhealthy as it affects the relevance of the training programmes to the national social and economic challenges. It also does not render "live data" readily available for use in practical courses at the training centres.

56. Fellowships for specialized study abroad have become more and more difficult to obtain. In most cases, fellowship support has come from various donor-funded projects and this has in some cases distorted priorities for human resources development.

Informal training

57. Although in-house seminars were almost never organised, on-the job training has been pursued with the help of consultants and advisers in different areas of statistics. It was, however, observed that on-the-job training has often not been well planned and carried out systematically and effectively.

58. Thematic seminars and workshops on various subjects continue to be organized by the training centres and the NSO's. These have helped in building skills and expertise. However, they are infrequent and far in between and have mainly not been funded out of the recurrent budgets but rather by projects.

59. Where they have been carried out, study tours have been found useful. However, these have been very few and of too short a duration to have the desired impact due to limited funds.

Data Quality and Dissemination

Data quality

60. Only two (2) of the countries visited have adopted the Total Quality Management (TQM) principles as set out to produce better statistics in the country. This is an example to be emulated by other countries. Other countries use different quality assurance procedures for specific censuses or surveys.

61. In many of the countries visited, the quality of some data series leaves a lot to be desired. We give a few examples.

Coverage: Coverage of important indexes like GDP and CPI remains limited in many of the countries visited. National accounts compilation leaves out NGO sector, informal sector, and women's contribution to national economic and social activities, etc while CPI is compiled for only the main urban centres.

Accuracy: The accuracy of some data series have been questioned including national accounts, labour and employment statistics, statistics on crops and livestock numbers, external trade statistics, etc.

Consistency: Where co-ordination of statistical programmes has not been effected, there has been data inconsistency among sources. Examples in this regard include external trade statistics and agricultural statistics.

Data disaggregation: The tendency to provide highly aggregated data mainly at national and regional/provincial levels have continued in many countries where administration and planning functions have been decentralised to lower administration units like districts.

Metadata: In many countries, metadata on major statistical programmes are not compiled due mainly to lack of training in handling metadata.

Relevance: Many series being produced have not been of use to a great proportion of users. In any case, the users have not been involved in their production.

Timeliness: Most of the statistics being released have unacceptable lag such that they are no more of use or of little use when published.

Availability/Accessibility: Because of absence of data banks/databases and very inefficient dissemination strategy, most of the statistical series could not be easily accessed thereby discouraging usage of the products.

African NSO's may still need to do more along these lines. The current decade should target quality improvement and harmonization of statistical practice in the continent.

62. In all cases, quality problems have been attributed to lack of resources, inappropriate training, use of inappropriate methods and lack of clear consciousness about the need for providing quality data to users.

Dissemination

63. In many countries, some data are published with long time lags. In two of the countries visited, for instance, the last published current (annual) agricultural statistics are for 1995 and yet the data have continued to be collected every year in these countries. GDP estimates were also reported to be published in many countries with considerable time lag. However, in one of the countries visited, preliminary results of an ongoing National Household Survey were released even before all fieldwork could be completed. This is a good example to be emulated by other countries.

64. Only two (2) of the countries visited are participating in the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) and this has not only improved the quality of their statistics but has also improved the timeliness with which data are released. In fact these countries operate a release timetable, with CPI being released on a given day of the month.

65. Different dissemination methods are used in the countries. These include the traditional statistical reports and dissemination seminars. In addition, many countries are increasingly adopting electronic media e.g. CD-ROM, diskettes, intranet and Internet for dissemination of statistics.

Major constraints

66. Limited financial, human and technical resources constitute the major constraint to statistical development in the majority of African countries. Many NSO's have experienced serious budgetary cuts that have caused suspension, delays or even cancellation of important statistical activities like censuses and sample surveys. There are countries where, for instance, collecting current agricultural data has ceased due to lack of funds. In addition, problems of outdated registers of business establishments, non-response in Industrial Surveys, methodological problems in Agriculture Statistics and many other areas, conceptual frameworks (National Accounts, Poverty, Gender, etc.) and relevance of existing methods, paradigms, and ability to adapt to changing needs have constrained statistical development in virtually all African countries.

Role of International Organisations, Bilateral and Multilateral Donors

67. The international organisations have played a critical role in the development of statistics in African countries in the last decade. In particular, they have provided funding for institutional and statistical manpower development, developed methodologies and frameworks for collecting and handling statistical data, organized working groups to review methodologies and frameworks. However, funding levels for the then Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA) which was being implemented by ECA was less than desired.

68. Both bilateral and multilateral donors have also played a key role in funding statistical programmes and projects at regional, sub-regional and country level.

69. There has been a shift in support for statistical development in Africa away from statistical capacity building support to support for those statistical activities that have immediate policy relevance. The result was that the development had not been sustainable.

Role of Regional and Sub-Regional Organisations

ECA

70. Between 1970-1993, ECA mainly through the regional co-operation programmes and also through its regular programme, assisted in developing capacity in various areas of African statistics. The main programmes included the African Census Programme, the African Household Survey Capability programme, the National Accounts Capability Programme and the Statistical Training Programme for Africa. Apart from the National Accounts Capability Programme, the other programmes met with a good measure of success. Details of these programmes are given in Annex 4.

71. The above programmes ended in 1993 when funding for them from UNDP and UNFPA ceased. In order to continue regional projects, ECA sought other avenues of financing and in 1994 and 1997, two projects were launched with financial assistance from the governments of the Netherlands and South Korea.

72. ECA took a number of actions as recommended by the Addis Ababa Plan of Action including convening a working group meeting in 1991 which led to the formulation of the Strategy for the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action, convening an inter-agency working group which led to the establishment of the Coordinating Committee for African Statistical Development (CASD) in March 1992, production of comprehensive guidelines for Needs Assessment and Strategy Development, etc.

73. ECA also spearheaded development of concepts, definitions and classifications suited to the African region, provided advisory services, prepared guidelines in respect of national statistical development plans and prepared for adaptation handbooks and manuals prepared at international level. Because of these programmes and other efforts, both the quantity and quality of African statistics improved.

74. ECA has continued to provide the Secretariat for the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD).

75. Restructuring of the ECA in 1997 should have been an opportunity for the Commission to take into account data needs of all its substantive divisions and to recognise the heavy responsibility placed on ECA for developing statistics in Africa. Moreover, the ECA restructuring reorganised the then existing Statistics Division into a team in the newly created Development Information Services Division (DISD). This sent wrong signals to countries and donors about ECA's commitment to African Statistical Development.

76. Although ECA has a close relationship with sub-regional organisations which often participate in meetings, workshops and seminars organized by ECA on statistical development, collaboration on data collection has been minimal.

77. Even though the demand for advisory services by countries is greater now than ever before mainly because of emerging issues, the full team of regional advisers envisaged by the Strategy for the Implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action was never put in place.

78. ECA has not updated its statistical policy, in view of the new emerging demand, since its restructuring. Also ECA has not yet finalised the data needs assessment to determine the statistical needs of its substantive Divisions. Many Divisions do not consider the Development Information Services Division (DISD) the "first point of call" when data are required. Often, the Divisions collect and manage their own data without reference to DISD for technical advice and support. This data is collected from

countries by experts from different substantive Divisions in uncoordinated and costly manner without DISD being consulted. It is likely that data processing and analysis is done without using “best practices” and its quality may be questionable. Where data are not available from countries, or even where the data are available ECA Divisions (including DISD) have tended to use data from international organisations like World Bank and IMF.

79. The DISD has continued to collect all types of data from member states mainly by questionnaires. It supplements this data by its own estimates and data published by specialized organisations and publishes them in the African Statistical Yearbook, Africa in Figures, Compendium of Environment Statistics (a new publication) and Statistical Annex of the Annual Report on the Economic and Social Situation in Africa.

80. DISD has not been able to build a “state-of-the-art” dynamic database which would, inter alia, serve as a “best practices” model for African countries. It has thus not lived up to expectation as a source of “authoritative statistical data” on African countries.

81. The staffing position at DISD is a far cry from the capacity recommended by the Strategy for the implementation of the Plan of Action. In addition, DISD does not have the requisite skills mix.

82. There is a major rethinking of statistics going on at ECA. It is hoped that this exercise will continue and contribute towards a statistics policy at the Secretariat and re-investigating of DISD.

ADB

83. The mission of the ADB is to provide financial resources and technical assistance for social and economic development in African countries. The Bank has provided funding for stand-alone statistical projects and statistical components have been incorporated in some ADB funded projects in African countries. However, ADB assistance for statistical development in Africa has not been systematic and regular. In addition, ADB has installed the “Live Database (LDB) System” which was developed by the World Bank. The LDB has facilitated the creation of an online central database which is accessible to over 500 Bank staff. Furthermore, ADB collects, processes and publishes data on member countries as well as on co-operation for Africa’s development.

84. ADB does not have a policy on statistics. Some substantive Divisions perceive data held by the Statistics Division as incomplete and out-of-date. As a result, different Divisions collect and manage their own data, often in an ad hoc manner and without reference to the Statistics Division for technical advice and support. They usually do not systematically forward the data to the Statistics Division. So sometimes, the substantive Divisions have more recent data on countries than the data held at the Statistics Division. Where data are not available from countries, or sometimes even where the data are available, ADB Divisions (including the Statistics Division) have tended to use data from international organisations like the World Bank and IMF.

85. The staffing situation at the Statistics Division is unsatisfactory and this has affected its capacity to carry out its mandated functions and especially its role in the implementation of AAPA.

AFRISTAT and other sub-regional organizations

AFRISTAT

86. In the framework of the harmonisation of statistics necessary for implementing and monitoring sub-regional economic integration, AFRISTAT is working to strengthen the statistical capacity of its member states, as well as that of sub-regional economic groupings such as ECOWAS (*Economic Community of West African States*), UEMOA (Economic and Monetary Union of West-Africa) and CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa).

87. During the 1990's, AFRISTAT assisted its member states in several areas: (i) statistical programming through the development of the PROSMIC (Minimum Common Statistical Programme), medium-term development framework of national statistical systems; (ii) national accounts based on a common guide for the compilation of national accounts in compliance with the 1993 SNA; (iii) classification of products and activities by the adoption of a regulation applicable in member states; (iv) consumer price indices by the adoption of a common approach; (v) definitions and concepts related to the informal sector, etc. Other initiatives are currently being launched in other areas such as short-term economic forecasting, the development of a methodology for estimation of fruit production in Sahelian zones, and the creation of national and sub-regional databases.

88. AFRISTAT works in close collaboration with on the one hand, national statistical institutes, sub-regional economic organizations, central banks, sub-regional statistical training institutes, and on the other hand development partners in terms of relaying their new statistical development initiatives (e.g. GDDS, Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics, PARIS21, etc.).

Other sub-regional organizations

89. Sub-regional organisations have played an important role in the development of statistics in Africa in the last decade. These organisations include, among others, AFRISTAT (see above), COMESA, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, etc.

90. One sub-regional organisation, ECOWAS, has an elaborate policy on statistics which regional and other sub-regional organisations can learn from in designing their own policies.

91. Periodic meetings of Directors of the NSO's as well as technical meetings and workshops are periodically organized by the sub-regional organisations in order to address the problems of existing data gaps, harmonization of statistical definitions and concepts, methodologies and lack of expertise in specific areas.

92. In all the sub-regional organisations, the importance of a dynamic database is appreciated and with donor support, the organisations are at different stages in the development of sub-regional databases. In the meantime, they continue to publish periodic Statistical Bulletins on member states.

93. The sub-regional organisations depend on the NSO's and/or country "contact persons" to collect data from countries. The data are collated and published.

94. The sub-regional organisations have identified statistical training as a major development area. There is a lot of training to be done especially for middle-level staff and for specialized areas. With assistance of donors, the organisations are developing comprehensive statistical training programmes.

95. With assistance of donors, the sub-regional organisations are helping countries to implement the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA). In this connection, one sub-regional organisation has produced a "Simplified Manual" to be used by countries in the sub-region to implement the 1993 SNA.

96. The sub-regional groupings see a need to cooperate with each other in the development of classifications, national accounts and participating in each other's meetings. They also see a need for closer relations with regional organisations like ECA and ADB.

97. None of the Statistics Units in the sub-regional organisations is well staffed. Invariably, there are one or two statisticians in each organisation. This has affected their capacity to perform their functions.

98. All sub-regional organizations face the following challenges: harmonization of concepts, definitions and classifications to ensure that comparable data are collected; ensuring that countries use "best practices" and harmonized methods in their data production and compilation; assisting countries to adapt international guidelines for statistical production and compilation e.g. 1993 System of National Accounts; ensuring that NSS's in countries are well coordinated so that comparable data are produced within the countries; ensuring that the NSO's build multi-sectoral databanks linked to sectoral databases (connectivity for statistics) in the countries; ensuring connectivity between NSO's and the sub-regional organisation; and ensuring provision of up-to-date data to national Governments and the Secretariat of the sub-regional organizations.

The Coordinating Committee for Statistical Development in Africa (CASD)

99. Throughout the period, the CASD Secretariat remained very active in implementing the Committee's Terms of Reference through regular reviews of the overall progress of implementation of the AAPA. It convened the annual meetings of CASD regularly, undertook surveys, prepared and disseminated guidelines and studies on statistical developments in the region.

100. With respect to CASD itself early achievements included implementation of Needs Assessment in a selected number of countries and achievements of the sub-committee on Training. The Task Forces that later replaced the sub-committees also did some very practical and useful work on surveys and studies of statistical development in Africa and on development of statistical databases. A mechanism for continuous exchange of information among African governments, national agencies, sub-regional and regional organization and all bilateral and multilateral agencies was established.

101. The restructuring of the mode of operation, especially through the establishment of Task Forces, contributed to some of the achievements. Other facilitating factors included close collaboration between the agencies, provision of financial support for the conduct of surveys on statistical development and training of national experts and improvement of attendance at the Committee's annual meetings as well as implementation of the current evaluation of the AAPA.

102. CASD failed to have the desired impact for the following reasons: the Committee was unable to popularise and to effectively monitor the implementation of the AAPA; there was a low response rate to questionnaires sent to the NSO's by CASD Task Forces; the participation of ECA member states in the work of CASD was also very poor or at best a token; the CASD Secretariat lacked resources both in terms of staff and money to carry out an effective coordination that was a key task for CASD functioning; there simply was no funding for the regional component of statistical development in Africa; there was no funding for CASD programmes for NSO's either; CASD also failed to make follow-up actions on most of its recommendations, for example in ensuring the implementation of the various guidelines and recommendations adopted at its meetings; and while the mechanism for information exchange was established, only routine information was exchanged but even then this was not effectively done.

103. Overall, CASD was a good idea that suffered from its implementation. Resource inadequacies and their continued decline, the varying composition of the CASD

membership, and non-inclusion of data users and its perceived policy role have contributed to the difficulties of CASD and its secretariat. CASD did a reasonable job of evaluation of its activities.

Checklist of Facilitating Factors to Enhance Statistical Development

104. A checklist of critical facilitating factors for statistical development has been identified as follows:

- Government commitment which includes:
 - adequate budgetary support and placing statistics in “*priority areas*” of expenditure;
 - extensive use of statistics in evidence-based macro-economic management and policy-making as well as programme monitoring and reporting;
 - building statistical components in important national programmes;
 - raising the profile of statistics and de-linking statistical production from the Civil Service by creating an “*autonomous statistical agency*” to coordinate the development of the national statistical system;
 - revising the Act governing the national statistical system to ensure utmost effectiveness of the system by: reposing policy making and monitoring of the implementation of the agency’s work programme in an independent “*policy-making body*” composed of high-level professionals, appointing a leadership of the statistical agency with “*good knowledge of statistics and proven managerial ability*”;
- Enhanced capacity of the statistical agency and system to assess the ever-changing demands for data, paying special attention to the demands of the policy makers and planners;
- Technical and operational capacity of the statistical agency and the system to respond quickly to sudden demands for data and to deliver required statistical products of acceptable quality; and
- A “*critical mass*” of trained, skilled and motivated staff to manage the national statistical system.
- Technical assistance to build capacity for statistical development.
- Interest expressed by the international community of donors, in particular the IMF and the World Bank, in enhancing African Statistical Capacity.

105. It is important to mention that an “*optimum mix*” of these factors is necessary for things to happen.

Future Challenges and Prospects

Challenges

106. The future challenges that will face NSS’s in Africa in the next decade include:

- Creating greater awareness among data users and especially planners, policy-makers and decision makers about the strategic importance of statistics in their work and especially in evidence-based macro-economic management and policy making as well as measurement of poverty,
- Data producers should play an advocacy role to ensure that statistical production and use are given high priority by national governments, promote a culture of advocacy in terms of, e.g. roles and importance of statistics, increase policy

content of statistical products, and release statistical products in a timely manner.

- Building ample capacity to make user needs assessment for data of improved quality and keep abreast of the changes in society and the economy to satisfy the data needs of policy makers, the private sector and civil society. The main challenges currently include: informing policy design and monitoring national programmes on poverty alleviation, good governance, decentralisation, private sector development, HIV/AIDS, education, agriculture and environment.
- Ability to harness technology and to improve the way data are collected and disseminated to users.
- Restructuring and strengthening administrative record keeping from which administrative statistics could be generated.
- Building competent user groups (Policy people, Researchers, media) to understand what the data is saying through correct interpretation.
- Re-visiting African Household Survey Capability Programme and strengthening it in National Statistical Offices in Africa.
- Building competence in Survey Management in all National Statistical Offices.
- Reactivating statistical training programmes (e.g. STPA) at both professional and sub-professional levels.
- Promoting coordination and synergy among institutions involved in statistical work.
- Providing National Statistical Offices with adequate and permanent premises ensuring a better working environment as well as IT-infrastructure.

Prospects

107. Countries which are forgiven their debts under Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative are required to invest the money saved into the social sector programmes – programmes on health, education, roads, etc. All these programmes will need to be monitored and countries will have no alternative but to increase their expenditure on and investment into the development of the NSS's.

108. Under Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), capacity will be developed in the HIPC countries qualifying for enhanced debt relief, as part of their Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and in other countries producing Comprehensive Development Frameworks and/or UN Development Assistance Frameworks. In particular, PARIS21 will become a partner in developing evidence-based culture for setting and monitoring policy and in developing well-managed NSS's.

109. Furthermore, there are increasing statistical activities in sub-regional organisations to assist member countries build capacity for producing comparable statistical data.

110. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is playing an increasingly important role in the new professional environment. Technology has become cheaper and easier to access. NSSs should give special attention to harnessing ICT's and using them to improve efficiency of statistical activities and quality of statistical products offered to users. NSSs should be one of the major stakeholders in the elaboration of their country's National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans, as recommended by the African Information Society Initiative (AISI).

III CONCLUSIONS AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

111. The Addis Ababa Plan of Action and its associated Strategy were intended to provide a basis for reversing the decline in statistical production in Africa in the 1970s and 1980s. However, it might not have been sufficiently widely publicised, popularised and owned by stakeholders including professional statisticians, policy makers and planners, and development partners within countries. There were weaknesses due to non-implementation of the strategies, which in some cases impaired AAPA effectiveness.

112. Although many countries have parts of the AAPA in place, this has not created a base for statistical development. The reason is that where AAPA was implemented, this was done in piecemeal fashion and not as a “total package”, and the “right mix” of the facilitating factors was missing.

113. Some countries made advances in statistical development in the last decade. Only some of these advances could be attributed to the AAPA.

114. In many countries policy and decision-makers have not recognized the strategic importance of statistics. Statistics in these countries ranks low among Government priorities. This has impacted on the quantity, quality and the timeliness with which statistical data can be delivered to users. Also there has been little involvement of NSO's in national policy formulation in many countries.

115. In many countries statistical systems remain weak and vulnerable. The budgets are insufficient, staff morale is low in part due to poor remuneration and facilitation, plus poor leadership of the NSS. There are staff shortages and by and large, user requirements are not being adequately met.

116. Generally, no formal and systematic mechanisms have been established for assessing, on a continuing basis, the requirements of data users. Many countries have not carried out a formal Needs Assessment and Strategy Development (NASD) as recommended by the AAPA. Countries that have carried out the NASD have had their statistical systems strengthened.

117. While many countries have established Data User/Producer Committees, these have been largely ineffective, and in some cases, moribund.

118. NSS's have not adequately responded to the new challenges which include decentralisation, good governance, gender statistics, household/community level data, data on development indicators (poverty, HIV/AIDS, etc), market liberalization, etc.

119. Where autonomous NSO's have been established and the right leadership put in place, the importance of statistics has been enhanced and the capacity to deliver improved statistical products has been strengthened.

120. The curricula of many training centres have not been customised to take into account unique African conditions and challenges. In addition, they have tended to be theoretical and not sufficiently geared to practical applications.

121. Many countries have designed statistics master plans and developed short, medium and long-term work programmes. However, many of the master plans have not been designed to focus on new and challenging development issues.

122. While a lot of training of statistical personnel has been done at different levels, there has been a lot of attrition in part because of poor terms and conditions of service for staff and poor facilitation. In most countries, there is no “critical mass” yet of skilled and motivated statistical personnel.

123. In collaboration with other international organisations, ECA has assisted in development of capacity in various areas in many African countries. Also ECA took a number of actions as recommended in the AAPA. However, ECA's ability to assist member countries has been very much weakened by the withdrawal of programme funding support especially by UNDP and UNFPA. It was also weakened by failure to put in place a full team of regional advisers as recommended by the AAPA.

124. Facilitation, co-ordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Plan by ECA was not sufficient.

125. ECA's failure to adapt its statistical policy to new demands and a different environment that has led to substantive Divisions at the Secretariat collecting their own data in uncoordinated and non-cost-effective manner and its failure to develop a "state-of-the-art dynamic" multi-sectoral database have made it difficult for it to play a "best practices" role model for Africa and to be the "...authoritative source of statistical data on African countries" as envisaged by the AAPA.

126. In many countries, NSO's failed to harness ICT's for statistical development. This is particularly in respect to:

- the ICT environment (hardware and software) that is not up-to-date and/or adapted to the needs of the NSS's;
- the development of statistical databases;
- the use of communication tools (e-mail, web-sites, etc.) in statistical operations, and to exchange and disseminate data and information.

127. Sub-regional organisations with assistance of donors are playing a key role in harmonization of national statistics within the sub-regions and in building capacity for statistical production through training. They are also developing regional databases.

128. Technical and other forms of donor assistance have played a significant role in the development of statistics in perhaps all African countries in the last decade. However, not all donor assistance has been co-ordinated and this has reduced its potential for having lasting impact on the NSS's. There has also been a tendency in many countries for donor-funded initiatives to drive the NSS's.

129. Donor support and commitment to the implementation of the AAPA was inadequate. Even where support was forthcoming at the beginning as was the case with UNDP, this support ended half way through the Plan period.

130. The current state of statistics in many African countries leaves much to be desired and many actions recommended in the Plan and the Strategy document are still relevant to the development of NSS's in Africa.

131. AAPA principles and recommendations remain largely relevant even today. However, they need to be carefully reviewed against current and future challenges and the current level of statistical development.

Key Recommendations

132. To elevate the profile of statistics in African countries, an effort should be made to link statistics with other major development concerns, such as poverty, health, education, employment, etc. Government planners, opinion leaders and other stakeholders must be persuaded that statistics is an invaluable tool in planning and defining priorities for socio-economic development. However, there is a need to develop broad-based reflections on the understanding of the above concerns with a view to developing information systems relevant to the ever-changing African conditions and realities and building an African information culture. All stakeholders should actively seek to promote synergies to this end.

133. The following are the key recommendations addressed to Governments, NSOs, Sub-regional organisations and economic groupings, Regional organisations (ADB, ECA and OAU) and international and bilateral organisations.

Governments

- have in place legislation establishing an independent and effective national statistical agency with a mandate to supervise and coordinate the national statistical system;
- establish a high-level national multi-sectoral statistical council;
- establish an attractive salary and incentive system for national statistics office staff, and provide for adequate and continuous training;
- establish a policy aimed at increasing the ratio of females in the permanent staff (e.g. via a deliberate quota system);
- allocate adequate financial and material resources in recurrent budgets to fully fund national statistical programs, and any additional funds needed to establish and maintain poverty monitoring and evaluation systems to support UN Development Assistance Frameworks, Comprehensive Development Frameworks, Poverty Reduction Strategies and/or Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiatives;
- establish user-producer committees to advise on statistics production. Members should have both a professional and personal interest (as opposed to being ex-officio appointees) in statistics.

NSOs

- focus on meeting the needs of users, including policy-makers and civil society, for information on development outcomes; undertake user data needs assessments;
- take a proactive role in raising awareness and promoting acceptance of the strategic importance of statistics in planning, policy-making, targeting interventions, and monitoring outcomes, developing capacity within their own organisation, or partnering with others to undertake advocacy, publicity, outreach and dissemination; educate users about the time required to produce reliable data;
- seek "champions" within Government to help promote understanding and use of statistics by the media and civil society;
- institutional arrangements and staffing should be appropriate to the country context, with the goal of meeting data needs and ensuring quality and timeliness;
- in close collaboration with major stakeholders, develop a national statistical master plan to meet the data and information requirements for planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation. Such plans should include a detailed assessment of the resources required for their implementation.
- coordinate with other data producers and users to agree on common concepts and definitions. Use consistent methodologies to increase internal and external reliability of the data produced and user confidence;
- disseminate survey and other statistical products widely to all relevant policy-makers, to the media, academics and researchers;
- build and maintain analytical skills, in addition to traditional statistical and survey management capabilities;
- link training to real-world statistics and data analysis;
- adopt new technology as appropriate to improve data collection, aggregation, analysis, storage and dissemination to users.

Sub-Regional organisations and economic groupings

- provide primary support to member countries to build capacity for producing statistical data, including organisation of training and workshops;
- promote harmonisation of methodologies, concepts and definitions for cross-country consistency and comparability;
- develop their own databases;
- coordinate with regional and international organisations.

Regional Organisations

ADB

- play a greater role in the development of statistics in Africa;
- establish a statistics policy for the Bank and strengthen its Statistics Division;
- consider providing opportunities for statistical training for member country officials through the Joint Africa Institute;
- coordinate and collaborate with ECA, AFRISTAT and other sub-regional organisations, especially in data collection from countries.

ECA

- provide a role model for the region's national statistics offices, playing a leading role in developing regional standards, promoting harmonisation of methodologies, concepts and definitions for cross-country consistency and comparability;
- promote training to support the above. Such training should raise awareness of the changing environment with new technology, statistical methods and priorities and should include training in statistical office management and non-technical areas;
- promote revival of the National Household Capability Programme and the STPA training project;
- promote a culture of advocacy, including promoting the products of statistical services;
- provide countries with information on how to access technical assistance grants or funds;
- disseminate "good practice" examples, technical manuals (such as the manual for the simplified system of national accounts), and guidelines (such as the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics)¹; publicise success stories;
- promote networking among sub-regions in Africa (for example ECOWAS and SADC);
- collaborate with all actors including sub-regional organisations and economic groupings;
- intensify the efforts to develop a regional database and assist/collaborate with sub-regional organisations and countries to develop their own databases;
- actively promote connectivity for statistical development in Africa.

OAU

- play an advocacy role to ensure that governments allocate adequate budgets for the National Statistical Services and for building capacity for producing regular and timely statistical data;

¹E/CN.3/1994/18, United Nations, New York (1994).

International and Bilateral Organisations

- play an advocacy role to convince governments of the importance of statistics and the need to allocate adequate budgets for national poverty monitoring and evaluation systems;
- focus on building up country systems and strengthening country capacity; provide technical assistance, training and funding to support institution-building activities, based on the country's overall development plan and the need to monitor outcomes;
- coordinate and network with other donors to, among other things, avoid duplication of funding and data collection efforts;
- simplify and harmonise donor requirements to reduce the administrative burden on NSO's;
- prepare and communicate funding plans to allow countries to predict future programme financing with some degree of certainty.

Detailed recommendations are given in Annex 1.

THE FUTURE

134. A new Plan of Action should be drawn up to provide a framework for statistical development in Africa, covering the period 2001-2010.

135. The design of the new Plan should take into account lessons learnt from the evaluation as well as new initiatives such as PARIS21.

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Annexes

ANNEX 1: DETAILED LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Government Commitment

1. A strategy should be developed for the mobilisation of African governments to become sensitive to the development of statistics within an African statistical culture geared towards meeting challenges and changing social and economic structure.
2. Government administrative and budgetary commitment to statistical development should include: revising the Act governing the NSS to create an “autonomous statistical agency” which is fully independent from any influences of all branches of government, placing statistics in priority areas “of expenditure, providing adequate budgetary support and ensuring that the NSO is managed by Professionals with “good knowledge of statistics and proven managerial ability”
3. Government commitment as a user should include: extensive use of statistics in evidence-based macro-economic management and policy-making as well as building statistical components in important national programmes.
4. Governments are urged to make appropriate buildings and other facilities available to make the work of NSO’s more effective.

Institutional Framework

5. NSS’s should develop Statistical Master Plans. The Plans should be structured in a flexible way, to ensure that both the statistical agency and system have the technical and operational capacity to assess potential demand, respond quickly to sudden demands for data, and deliver statistical products of acceptable quality.
6. ECA and other regional and sub-regional organisations should conduct a survey on and evaluate the legal and organisational structure of African NSS’s, and prepare guidelines on the preparation of statistical legislation(s) and on organisational structure(s) in Africa.
7. ECA and other regional and sub-regional organisations should promote Total Quality Management (TQM) principles in the management of NSO’s.

Coordination of the National Statistical System

8. Countries are urged to foster co-ordination, networking and information sharing to achieve synergy, cost-effectiveness, and avoid working at cross-purpose.
9. Countries are urged to establish and/or enhance co-ordination among data producers, between data producers and users, and between data producers and research and training organisations. Partnership of Producers and Suppliers (Respondents) is also of necessity.
10. User/producer and producer/producer committees should be strengthened in countries where they exist or should be established in countries where they do not exist. Their set up should take account of the African information networks and the institutional, economic and social structure of the countries.

11. Countries are urged to put in place Statistics Co-ordinating Committees including the establishment of inter-ministerial statistical coordination committees and the creation of thematic groups entrusted with the mission of coordinating activities in their area.
12. NSO's are urged to provide technical support to either institutions/agencies producing data in the countries.

Rooting statistics in African realities

13. Statistical activities in African countries should be geared towards meeting crucial challenges facing African economies and societies and should be rooted in the realities of the African situation.
14. Emerging and prevailing challenges constraining societies and economies should be periodically identified and monitored in terms of their general and specific nature, scope and impact. A permanent and well-structured mechanism for identifying new challenges and opportunities for addressing them should be established.
15. While acknowledging lessons learnt from externally designed paradigms of poverty and other scourges raging in Africa, the NSS's should initiate and develop broad-based reflections on the understanding of these phenomena and develop relevant information systems.
16. It is recommended that the phenomenon of "*information*" as it relates to the African situation be revisited in a multidisciplinary manner with a view to building a system to capture, process and diffuse the information in an appropriate manner.
17. NSS's are urged to design and continually update comprehensive and multi-sectoral information frameworks as tools for the monitoring of critical challenges.
18. An in-depth revision or adaptation of the national accounting system to the African socio-economic context should be done.
19. Countries are encouraged to establish research units in their statistical organisations and to carry out multidisciplinary research with a view to arriving at methods for data collection and handling that are most appropriate to African conditions.
20. Countries are urged to use existing guidelines for carrying out data needs assessments and strategy development.

Statistical Priorities

21. There is an urgent need for the development of guidelines for the preparation of statistical master plans in an African setting, within which national statistical activities should be organised.
22. The missions of the NSO should focus on the national statistics demand, giving priority to the needs of planners, policy and decision-makers, private sector and the civil society. In particular, the production of Agricultural Statistics needs substantial improvement.

Data Quality and Dissemination

23. Countries are urged to invest in programmes that will lead to improvement of data in terms of coverage, accuracy, consistency, disaggregation and metadata.

24. Countries are urged to adhere to the AAPA recommendation on quality improvement and other similar initiatives such as the GDDS requirements.
25. NSS's are urged to improve information dissemination and sharing with the help of modern technologies such as Internet.
26. ECA and other regional and sub-regional organisations are encouraged to build an African Information System and develop connectivity to promote the use of African data. In this respect they should serve as regional databases for Africa and champion the development of comprehensive and accurate national databases.

Material and financial resources of the National Statistical Systems

27. The private sector should be encouraged to contribute to the financing of the NSS to meet their specific needs.
28. Countries are urged to allocate a higher percentage of their GDP to statistical development.

Human Resources Development

29. The NSS should strive to attain a "*critical mass*" of trained, skilled and motivated staff to manage the NSS.
30. There is need for a successor training project to the STPA given that many countries in the region do not have much capacity to build a sustainable statistical training programme.
31. ECA, ADB, sub-regional and international organisations and donors should assist in mobilising required resources for fellowship for trainers' training and for trainees, for improving facilities, for staff exchange and for short-term lecturers in the strengthened regional statistical training centres through the successor training project to the STPA.
32. Training centres are urged to revise their curricula to make them practical-oriented. There is need to give emphasis to appreciation of qualitative methods of data collection and analysis and to training in phenomena and policy related analysis of data and dissemination.
33. Heads of statistical training institutions should be facilitated to meet periodically to review their respective curricula, and share experience, etc. In particular INSEE and DFID are called upon to facilitate these meetings.
34. Women should be encouraged to do statistics courses at different levels.
35. Short-term thematic courses and in-service training programmes should be conducted for professionals and other staff of NSSs.
36. NSOs are urged to develop and implement, on a consistent basis, a programme for continuous training of staff.
37. Recruitments into statistical services should, to the extent possible, be based on merit. However, there is need for preferential treatment of females in the recruitment drive.
38. NSOs may also consider hiring specialists in the areas of sociology, psychology, geography, journalism, etc on a temporary or permanent basis, should the need arise and resources permit.
39. Teachers of higher education streams related to economic, social, information and computer disciplines should be invited to participate in NSSs' activities, including surveys, analysis, short-term trainings, seminars, thematic reflections, etc.

40. National Governments are urged to develop separate schemes of service for personnel working in the NSSs, to ensure that they are motivated and retained in the service.

Technical Assistance

41. Technical assistance should be co-ordinated at national level for it to have lasting impact on the NSS.
42. Technical assistance should be conceived as necessary to initiate the emergence of national expertise. In some cases, national expertise and south-to-south co-operation should be preferred to any other technical assistance. However, Africa should take the advantage in cross-breeding through a suitable combination of competent external expertise from anywhere useful for skills update and transfer.

Creating and enhancing an African statistical culture

43. The NSS's should organise periodic training of main data users to appreciate the importance of data, to be empowered to effectively utilize data in their work.
44. In partnership/collaboration with relevant educational institutions, the NSS should engage in an in-depth analysis of school curricula at primary and secondary levels and design statistical items to be included in all subjects of the curricula.
45. Specialized statistics courses should be extended to certain university streams, with a view to promoting and enhancing statistical literacy in the country.
46. Partnerships between the NSS and all categories of professionals (the press, research institutes, etc.) should be developed, formalised, strengthened and made operationally effective.
47. Partnerships with the press should include statistical training of journalists and regular broadcasts on the radio and on television on economic and social events, figures, highlights, etc.
48. An African campaign on the development of an African statistical culture should be launched from the highest level. The Executive Secretary of the ECA should convene discussion meetings with the Conference of Ministers of the ECA, the OAU, as well as sub-regional economic groupings on how best this can be done.

Role of Regional/Sub-regional Organisations

49. ECA, ADB and other regional and sub-regional organisations are urged to promote and foster an African statistical information culture, the purpose being to seek alternative solutions to African statistics problems.
50. ECA and ADB should play a "*best practices*" role model for co-ordinated data production, networking and sharing of information.
51. ECA should develop a module for training of users of statistics with a view to re-orienting them towards the suitable roles that they could play in the development of the NSSs.
52. It is recommended that the Statistics Divisions/Units of ECA, ADB and other regional organisations be strengthened to play an even greater role in

the development of statistics in Africa. ECA and ADB should become the source of “*authentic statistics on Africa*”.

53. Rethinking statistics at ECA which has been going on for some time now should be given renewed impetus. In the same way, ADB is urged to rethink statistics within the organisation. Following the rethinking and taking into account the findings of this evaluation, ECA’s statistical activities should be restructured and strengthened to make the Commission play its expected role in statistical development in Africa.
54. There is need for a statistical policy to be established at ECA, ADB and sub-regional organisations which do not have such a policy in place.
55. It is recommended that that there should be greater coordination and collaboration between ADB, ECA, ECA’s Sub-regional Development Centres (SRDCs) and sub-regional organisations especially in data collection from countries.
56. There should also be greater coordination and collaboration among regional and sub-regional organisations in designing and organizing training programmes, and harmonizing concepts, definitions and classifications as well as data compilation methods in the region. In particular, they should be closely involved in implementing new International frame works related with the improvement of quality of statistics i.e. 1993 SNA, GDDS, UN good practices.
57. There should be effective networking and connectivity with NSO’s as a sine qua non for an effective statistical service at the Secretariats of regional and sub-regional organisations. The NSO’s should be encouraged to develop dynamic databases and web sites for easy connectivity. Indeed, annual meetings of Directors of NSOs regionally should be encouraged and institutionalised.
58. Efforts to build a regional statistical database at ECA should be intensified. This should be a state-of-the-art dynamic database to serve as a “*best practice*” role model for African countries. This should go hand in hand with development of databases within member countries.
59. It is recommended that efforts going on in sub-regional organisations to develop training programmes should be intensified.
60. It is recommended that a regional food security information system be built in EAC and ECOWAS modelled along the SADC Food Security Information System.
61. It is recommended that the sub-regional organisations should aim at self-sufficiency in statistical production, in terms of staffing, and financing of statistical activities.

Role of International Organisations

62. International organisations should work very closely with the African regional and sub-regional organisations to develop statistics in the countries.
63. The interventions of international organisations should be co-ordinated at national and regional levels within an appropriate framework of partnership. This co-ordination will be more efficient if countries implement statistical master plans.
64. Donor support has to be driven by demands at the country level.

Role of CASD

65. CASD remains an important instrument in the development of African statistics. It is recommended that the Committee should be re-invigorated and that its membership should be opened up to include representatives of policy and decision makers in African countries. Its advisory function should be emphasized with clear-cut structural and operational relationship with specific structures within ECA.

A New Plan of Action for the Decade 2001-2010

66. It is recommended that a Plan of Action for the Decade 2001-2010 and its Implementation Strategy be prepared and adopted by the Conference of African Ministers responsible for planning and development. An associated strategy of implementation will clearly have to be also prepared taking AAPA achievements, failures, and current and possible future constraints into consideration and ensuring its operability and dynamism for orderly monitoring of its implementation. The Plan should take account of new development challenges in the countries and the global/regional initiatives developed or being developed e.g. PARIS21, FAO/World Bank Initiative in Agricultural Statistics in Africa, etc.
67. It is recommended that the new Plan should be widely publicised and popularised among stakeholders in countries so that they can take ownership of the Plan and facilitate its implementation at country level. ECA should promote the Plan among donors (bilateral and multilateral) and international organizations as the best way forward for the development of statistics in Africa.
68. The publicity of the Plan should be done in a sequential manner, beginning with workshops at sub-regional and national levels.
69. Countries are encouraged to continue celebrating Africa Statistics Day. However, where countries feel a need to carry out a number of awareness activities, they are encouraged to devote a week to these celebrations.
70. It is recommended that during the African Statistics Week, among other things, the implementation of the Plan should be assessed and ECA is urged to facilitate and collate country assessments of the implementation of the Plan. This will help in monitoring the progress of Plan implementation.
71. It is recommended that at country level one officer should be designated the co-ordinator of the Plan of Action. The co-ordinator should be facilitated to do his/her work properly. The Coordinator should also be able to undertake lobbying in favour of Statistics.
72. Practical aspects related to the main thrusts and strategies recommended by the Plan of Action should be included in academic programmes and in programmes for induction and refresher courses of all staff in the service.
73. The Plan should contain a strategic framework and a matrix of actions. The framework should define the global and specific objectives, the expected achievements and the activities to be done, the indicators and the resources, the opportunities and the risks. The matrix should define the main activities to be undertaken, the timetable of implementation and the main units involved.

Monitoring of the implementation of the new Plan

74. It is recommended that a permanent desk be established at DISD (ECA) for monitoring the implementation of the new Plan. CASD should mobilize funds in order to strengthen and facilitate the role of ECA in monitoring the implementation of the new Plan.
75. ECA is encouraged to convene working group meetings and workshops on issues related to the implementation of the new Plan. Participants in those workshops should include subject matter specialists, representatives of NSO's, main data users (including policy and decision makers), donors, international, regional and sub-regional organizations.
76. The role of DISD (ECA) should include coordination of the actions being undertaken by the other regional and sub-regional Institutions in statistical capacity building.
77. The strategic framework and the matrix of actions and specific measurement tools should be used for the monitoring of the AAPA. Relevant Indicators should be elaborated by DISD (ECA) and made available to every country so that these will facilitate the standardization of the implementation and the monitoring. The implementation and the monitoring should be undertaken in each country with the development partners support. CASD or any such structure should define the periodicity for the supervision of the activities.

ANNEX 2: THE ADDIS ABABA PLAN OF ACTION (AAPA)

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

*Adopted by the Twenty-fifth session of the Commission / sixteenth meeting of African
Ministers responsible for economic planning and development,
May 1990
United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa*

Preamble

The ECA Conference of Ministers,
Reviewing the development of statistics in Africa over the last thirty (30) years,
Reviewing the current statistical capacities in African countries,
Reviewing major factors determining success or failure of the performance of national statistical services,
Stressing the strategic role of quantitative analysis for improving decision-making for sustainable development,
Mindful that data demands to formulate, monitor and evaluate policy reforms and development plans are increasing,
Noting with great concern the continuing low profile accorded to national statistical services and deteriorating conditions of service,
Concerned about a lack of consideration of national plans and priorities as well as some duplication in internationally sponsored statistical development programmes,
Recognizing the collective commitment of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers to accelerate self-reliant, social and economic development for the well being of African peoples,
Adopts the following Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s.

Principles and objectives

Principles

1. Statistics is a vital tool in national development planning.
2. African statistical services need to become fully self-reliant.
3. Statistical programmes should respond to African Governments' commitment to self-reliant development.
4. International co-operation and support in the field of statistics should respond to priorities and programmes of National Statistical Services (NSS).
5. Adequate and reliable statistics are a pre-requisite for designing, monitoring and evaluating projects.
6. Increased communication at all times between users and producers of statistics is an important resource in itself, which, once started, would generate additional resources through the attractiveness of its product.
7. Any improvement of the statistical system constitutes an integral part of economic and social development.

8. ECA should be recognized as the key regional institution responsible for the development and promotion of statistics in Africa.

Objectives

1. To achieve national self-sufficiency in statistical production, including the creation of a comprehensive national statistical database by the end of the century.
2. To improve the reliability and relevance of data produced in African countries.
3. To undertake production of data required for formulating, monitoring and evaluating programmes designed to restructure and transform African economies.
4. To improve the timeliness in the production and dissemination of statistical information.
5. To increase awareness of the importance of statistical information among users.
6. To strengthen and sustain statistical training programmes at various levels and institutions.
7. To promote contact and dialogue amongst African Statisticians.
8. To encourage improvement in the organisational set-up of the NSS and assure their autonomy.
9. To improve coordination of all statistical development programmes at both national and inter-national levels.

Recommendations

A. To Government- States Member of ECA.

Statistical Development

1. A higher priority should be accorded to statistical activities and statistics should be seen as central to the formulation of plans and strategies.
2. Adequate funding should be provided for statistical activities.
3. Assistance should be provided in the establishment of a Statistical Development Fund with contributions from the public as well as the private sector.
4. Governments should ensure that the legislation governing the statistical services in their countries assures their utmost effectiveness.
5. ECOWAS's 18th of November should be adopted as African Statistics Day in order to increase public awareness for the important role which statistics play in all aspects of social and economic life.
6. African governments are urged to continue to give support to the African Statistical Association (AFSA).

Organisation of Statistical Services

7. The organisational structure of the NSS should be examined carefully and, where necessary, restructured in order to meet the various data needs.
8. In order to attract and retain suitable manpower Governments are urged to develop attractive schemes of service for statisticians.

Work programme

9. The NSS should prepare longer term statistical development programmes (e.g. 5 or 10 years) in the context of National Development Plans. Such programmes should serve as a guide and framework for annual or biennial national statistical work programmes.
10. A budget document showing details of inputs and final outputs to be delivered by the NSS should be prepared for each financial year.

Statistical Committees

11. Countries are requested to set up National Statistical Councils composed of senior civil servants, representatives of universities, NGOs and the private sector. Such a Council should act as an advisory board on policy matters relating to statistical matters.
12. User/producer and producer/producer committees should be reactivated in countries where they exist or should be initiated in countries where they do not exist. These committees enable exchange of views regarding development of statistics, uses of available statistics and the setting up of priorities for the country's statistical activities.

Establishment of Statistical Priorities

13. In accordance with the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, NSS should consider the following as priority areas in future statistical programmes: food and agriculture, industry, human resources, transport and communications, trade and finance, environment, energy, women and development, population and development and the informal sector.

Statistical Training

14. NSS and statistical training institutions at the national level should organize specialized short-term training courses in statistics.
15. NSS are urged to prepare and implement staff development programmes, which would help them to fully utilize available training facilities.
16. The linkage of NSS with statistical and other training institutions should be encouraged, where absent, and strengthened, where it exists.
17. All governments should give support to centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA).

Seminars

18. National seminars covering specific or broad areas with participation of civil service as well as research and training institutions should be organized on a regular basis and should be included in the programme of work.

Data Quality and Dissemination

19. In order to improve the quality of information, collected, NSS are requested to consider setting up in their offices an organisational unit on methods and standards.
20. NSS are urged to ensure that data are published with minimum delay.
21. As research is a vital element in statistical development, NSS are encouraged to include research as an integral part of their statistical activities.

B. To International Organisations

22. UNDP and other multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies are urged to enhance the scope and implementation of the ongoing Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA) and other programmes.
23. More effective use should be made of the ECA Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, the United Nations ACC Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities and the Statistical Commission as institutional arrangements to improve coordination among international agencies.
24. ECA should take the initiative to convene a working group meeting to further review and elaborate on the principles, objectives and recommendations of this Plan of Action and formulate detailed strategies for its implementation.

ANNEX 3: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. The bad state of statistics in Africa in the 1970s and 1980s was a source of concern to African governments and their partners. Some of the factors identified as constraints to the development of statistics were:
 - poor management of statistical offices,
 - inadequate funding,
 - lack of timeliness in delivering outputs,
 - unsatisfactory quality of data produced, and
 - inability to respond quickly to new data needs.
2. Concerned about the decline in the quality and quantity of African statistics, the 5th Session of Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers which convened in March 1989 requested United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to undertake a detailed assessment of national capabilities and deficiencies. The ECA findings were discussed at the 6th Session of the Joint Conference in January 1990 and they resulted in the formulation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s which was adopted in May 1990 by the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning. One of the recommendations of the Plan of Action was that ECA should convene a working group to further review and elaborate the principles, objectives and recommendations of the Plan and to formulate detailed strategies for its implementation.
3. In 1992, ECA convened the working group to draft a comprehensive framework and regional strategy for arresting and reversing the declining statistical production in Africa. The strategy was officially adopted in April 1992 by ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic development and planning. The strategy called for a series of actions to be taken at national, sub-regional, regional and international levels and by bilateral, multilateral and other organisations.
4. To facilitate the implementation of the Plan, an inter-agency group, the **Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD)**, comprising a representative group of directors of African statistical offices, regional training centres, and African and non-African bilateral and multilateral agencies was established. The 9th meeting of CASD held in Addis Ababa in June 1999 established a Task Force to carry out a full independent evaluation of the achievements, failures, constraints and facilitating factors in meeting the Plan objectives and the role of CASD in facilitating its implementation.
5. The evaluation was also to carry out an assessment of the current challenges and issues facing the African statistical system, the relevance of the Plan for the next decade, and carry out country studies in ten (10) selected countries including: Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Mauritania, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda. In addition, statistical training centres and the regional and sub-regional organisations including: ECA, AFRISTAT (in Mali), the African Development Bank (in Côte d'Ivoire), ENSEA (a higher level statistical training centre in Côte d'Ivoire), ISSEA (a higher level statistical training centre in Cameroon), the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics at the Makerere University (in Uganda), the SADC Secretariat, the ECOWAS Secretariat and the EAC Secretariat were to be visited.

ANNEX 4: REGIONAL CO-OPERATION STATISTICAL PROGRAMMES

1. During the period 1970-93, ECA launched five regional technical assistance programmes with the support of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies. These programmes had great impact on the development process of African statistics. The programmes were:
 - The African Census Programme
 - The African Household Survey Capability Programme
 - The National Accounts Capability Programme
 - The Statistical Training Programme for Africa
 - The Statistical Development Programme for Africa.

The African Census Programme (ACP)

2. This programme was launched to assist African countries intending to participate in the 1970, 1980 and 1990 rounds of the Population Census in accordance with the principles and recommendations of the United Nations. This programme which was jointly implemented by the organs of the United Nations Secretariat, namely the Technical Cooperation Office, the Statistical Office, the Population Division and ECA.
3. This was a very successful programme. It led to huge volumes of population data. It also led to considerable capacity built in various areas of the data production process in statistical offices. In all, 21 African countries took an active part in the 1970 round, 47 in the 1980 round and 46 in the 1990 round. The regional component of the African Census Programme was replaced during the 1970s by Regional Advisory Services. By the end of 1980s, it employed 8 regional advisors who were providing technical assistance to African countries in population censuses, population surveys and household surveys.

The African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP)

4. The programme started in 1978 with regular ECA staff who were joined a few months later by an ILO Adviser on household surveys. In 1979, the project staff were recruited with financial support from UNDP. This programme was expected to last for 5 years with technical assistance from ECA, UNSO, ILO, FAO and UNICEF.
5. This programme played a leading role in building national capacities in participating African countries to collect, through a multi-purpose integrated programme of household surveys, integrated and inter-disciplinary data on a continuing basis and on a wide spectrum of subjects including: household budgets, health and nutrition, demographics, housing, labour force, literacy, agriculture, food consumption, migration, living standards, informal sector, etc. These data were required for development planning, policy formulation and programme implementation.
6. Although there were problems of funding, nonetheless a number of African countries were able to implement the programme. These included Kenya (1980), Ethiopia (1981), Malawi (1981), Cameroon (1982), Mali (1982), Benin (1983), Botswana (1983), Lesotho (1983), Zambia (1983), Zimbabwe (1983), Ghana (1987), Sierra Leone (1987), Mauritania (1988), Sudan (1989), Swaziland (1988), Nigeria (1988), Tanzania (1990), Angola (1992), Mozambique (1991), Niger (1990), Rwanda (1990), Guinea (1992), Burkina Faso (1991) and Seychelles (1991).
7. Following the success of the programme in Africa, it was extended to other regions and established at global level as the United Nations National Household Survey Capability programme (NHSCP) with AHSCP as a regional component. The AHSCP ended in March 1993 when UNDP funding for the programme ceased.

The National Accounts Capability Programme (NACP)

8. This programme was launched in 1978 with funding from UNDP to strengthen African capacities in basic economic statistics and national accounts within the framework of SNA 1968.
9. The programme set out to provide technical assistance to 6 African countries each year through a series of missions. It was reported that this programme did not achieve its objectives because:
 - resources allocated by African Governments to the development of basic economic statistics were inadequate,
 - low priority given to the establishment of a frame of reference for the compilation of national accounts and economic indicators,
 - donor influence on the programme orientation.
10. However, the said withdrawal of UNDP support notwithstanding, ECA has been able to organize seven workshops and to carry out a number of technical assistance missions to countries since July 1993.

The Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)

11. The programme became operational towards the end of 1979 with funding from UNDP. The main objective of the programme was to make the region self-sufficient in statistical training. Sixteen statistical training institutions in Africa participated in the programme. In addition, offshore centres, namely the CESD-Munich (the Munich Institute of Advanced Training for Statisticians from Developing Countries) and the International Statistical Programmes Centre (ISPC) were integrated into the programme as associate institutes that would offer advanced and specialized training.
12. The programme carried out the many activities including the following:
 - training of trainers for which scholarships were made available,
 - organizing meetings of heads of the training institutions participating in the programme,
 - developed standard training programmes for both high and middle-level statistical training,
 - offered training support missions of short-duration, and
 - offered advisory services.
13. This programme played a big role in statistical training in Africa during the period 1978-1993. The programme ended when the UNDP funding ended.

The Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA)

14. This programme was launched in 1987 when the regional components and the NACP were merged. The programme offered advisory services with the support of a team of five experts: two of these were engaged in household surveys, two in statistical training and one in national accounts.
15. This programme also lacked necessary resources to produce impact.

ANNEX 5: NOTE ON METHOD OF WORK

During the missions to countries, the consultants held discussions with officials from selected data user and producer institutions including: government Ministries and institutions, the public and private sector, research and training institutions, NGOs, donors and international organisations, and the press.

The discussions with data users aimed to establish the following, among other things:

- What are the nature, functions and activities of the user? If data are used, how are they used?
- What data items are required? what data are available and their sources?
- How adequate are currently available data in terms of relevance, accuracy, completeness, consistency, timeliness, disaggregatability by sex and ease of access?
- How do the users co-ordinate with data producers?
- What are new challenges on which data are required?

On the other hand, discussions with data producers aimed to establish the following, among other things:

- knowledge of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action,
- how they view priority given to statistics by Government,
- what role they play in the design of major government initiatives,
- whether a data needs assessment was carried out in the last 10 years,
- whether the producers have a statistical work programme (annual and long-term),
- what data are produced, how data are produced (institutional framework, methods and procedures, including constraints and problems, etc.),
- if there is donor assistance, co-ordination arrangements among data producers, with users and co-ordination of donor assistance,
- how they process, analyse and archive data, existence of a database, dissemination programmes,
- what are the new challenges, and what role ECA and sub-regional organisations have played and should be playing in statistical development in the country.

The Consultants used main AAPA and CASD documents provided by the ECA. During the country visits, the Consultants also consulted documents obtained from the institutions visited. The missions also held discussions with bilateral and multilateral donors and analysed documents given by them.

Originally a number of questionnaires had been designed by the Consultants for use in collecting information from institutions visited. In the event, these were used mainly as a guide for collecting the required information.

The responsibility of writing the individual reports was shared among the Consultants as follows:

Consultants	Country/Organisation
Mr. O.O. Ajayi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egypt • Botswana
Mr. Ayenew Ejigou	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mozambique • Nigeria
Mr. Martin Balépa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauritania • Côte d'Ivoire • ISSEA
Mr. Ben Kiregyera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uganda • Regional and sub-regional organisations: ECA, EAC, SADC, ECOWAS
Mr. Michel Mouyelo-Katoula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rwanda • ADB, AFRISTAT, ISEA and ENSEA.
Mr. Luc Mbong Mbong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mali • Cameroon.

The zero draft of the regional report was done by messers Ben Kiregyera and Michel Mouyelo-Katoula while Consultants Ayenew Ejigou, Martin Balepa and Luc Mbong-Mbong, contributed inputs through their comments on the zero draft. It was then left for the leader of the team, Consultant O. O. Ajayi to consolidate the comments, finalize the report and submit the final draft to the CASD Task Force.

ANNEX 6: COMPOSITION OF THE TASK FORCE

Members of Task Force appointed by CASD

Mr. Alhaji Umaru, Federal Office of Statistics, Nigeria

Dr. Abdulahi Hassen, Central Statistical Authority, Ethiopia

Mr. John Kahimbaara, STATS, South Africa

Mr. Bâ Khalidou, ONS, Mauritania

Mr. Siriki Zanga Coulibaly, INS, Côte d'Ivoire

Mr. Martin Balépa, AFRISTAT

Mr. Charles Leyeka Lufumpa, African Development Bank/Chair

Mr. Jason Onsembe, UNFPA

Mr. Dickson Mzumara, ECA

Mr. Jean-François Divay, INSEE

Mr. Lars Lundgren, Statistics, Sweden

Mr. Richard Harris, Department for International Development, UK

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