

Annex E

Yaoundé Declaration on Statistical Development In Africa



Directors of the national statistical offices from 51 African countries, having taken part in the meeting of the Regional Governing Board of the International Comparison Programme for Africa (ICP-Africa) on 26 April, 2004, in Yaoundé, and having deliberated on the urgent and increasingly critical demand for reliable, timely and relevant data necessary for formulating, managing, monitoring and evaluating development policies and programs at the meeting of the Directors of the national statistical offices, April 26–30, 2004,

Considering the importance of information as a basis for informing poverty reduction policy, monitoring progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals, and supporting region-wide initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),

Considering that the indicators proposed within the framework of ICP-Africa will be of a great contribution to supporting the development and monitoring of the Poverty Reduction Strategies as well as supporting the optimal allocation of national resources, the follow-up of the implementation of national policies and programs for the attainment of the MDGs,

Emphasizing that most statistical programs lack effective mechanisms to ensure their sustainability and ownership by the countries,

Acknowledging the importance of having sound and effective partnerships, identifying synergies, coordinating efforts and pooling resources to advance a common goal,

Highlighting that the most critical challenges facing statistical systems in Africa remain the need to create greater awareness among policymakers about the importance of statistics and emphasizing the critical importance of securing financial and political commitment from government leaders,

Acknowledging that actions to strengthen national statistical agencies are likely to occur in the short to medium term only with external input that complements government's effort,

Recognizing and supporting the resolution of the Second International Roundtable, held in Marrakech, on managing for development results that call upon international and national policymakers to step up their support for statistical capacity building,

Acknowledging the great strides that have been made in the last two years under the initiative of ICP-Africa and recognizing the importance of the program both as a source of reliable and policy relevant data, and as a comprehensive and coherent regional capacity building framework,

Note with satisfaction the recommendations of the second meeting of the Governing Board of ICP-Africa and emphasize the need to prepare strategy papers on advocacy and building partnerships,

Adopt ICP-Africa as a flagship capacity building initiative in the area of economic statistics, with particular emphasis on price statistics and national accounts,

Recommend to:

A. African governments

1. To put ICP-Africa, a program covering the entire Africa continent, at the core of statistical capacity building programs for member countries
2. To support statistical activities by making statistics a priority and allocating adequate resources
3. To pursue the efforts of statistical harmonization and integration of activities by their national statistical offices, as well as regional and sub-regional organizations
4. To ensure capacity building in the development of statistical master plans; in the coordination of national statistical systems; in human resource development (training, attraction and retention); and in analysis, report writing and dissemination.

B. Bilateral agencies and international institutions

5. To continue working in the area of statistical capacity building by allocating more financial and material resources to statistical activities

6. To improve their partnership collaboration to facilitate synergy so as to ensure effective and coordinated support to the countries

7. To engage in advocacy work so as to give statistics a high profile and to secure financial and political commitment from African governments.

C. African Development Bank as the coordinating agency for ICP-Africa

8. To enhance priority given to statistics and provide optimal resources, both financial and technical, for supporting statistical activities in African countries, given the importance of statistics in formulating, monitoring and evaluating poverty reduction strategies, in monitoring the MDGs and in managing for development results.

Adopted this 30th day of April, 2004, at Yaoundé, Cameroon.

