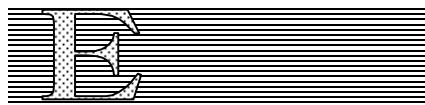




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**First Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa
(StatCom-Africa I)**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
20– 24 January 2008

**Report of the Third Meeting of
The Forum on African Statistical Development
(FASDEV III)**

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
ACS	African Centre for Statistics
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFRISTAT	Observatoire Economique et Statistique d’Afrique Subsaharienne (Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa)
ASCC	African Statistical Coordination Committee
ASSD	Africa Symposium on Statistical Development
AUC	African Union Commission
BAD	Banque africaine de développement
CCSA	Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
CEA	Commission économique pour l’Afrique
CEDEAO	Communauté économique des États de l’Afrique de l’Ouest
CESD	Centre Européen de formation des Statisticiens Economistes des Pays en voie de développement
CODI	Committee On Development Information
CPI	Consumer price index
ENSEA	Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d’Economie Appliquée
FASDEV	Forum on Statistical Development in Africa
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IAEG	Inter-Agency and Expert Group
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICP- Africa	International Comparison Programme for Africa
IFORD	Institut Régional de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques
ILO	International Labour Organization
INS	Institut national de la statistique
INSEE	Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques
INWENT	Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung
ISI	International Statistical Institute
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NSA	National Statistical Association
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical System
OECD	Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
REC	Regional Economic Communities
RPHC	Round of Population and Housing Census
RRSF	Reference Regional Strategic Framework
SADC	Southern Africa Development Communities

SNA	System of National Accounts
SNC	Système de comptabilité nationale
STATCOM	Statistical Commission
STPA	Statistical Training Programme for Africa
SYSCOA	Accounting System of West African States
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine
UN	United Nations
UNCC	United Nations Conference Center
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission fro Africa
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

Third Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV III) Addis Ababa, 24 January 2008

A. Attendance

1. The Third meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV III) was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 24 January 2008

National Statistical Offices:

2. The session was attended by delegates from the following 43 members States of the UNECA: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, D.R. Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
3. The country delegations mainly comprised Heads of National Statistics Offices (NSOs), National Statistical Councils, and Poverty Reduction Strategy Units.

Partners and Stakeholders:

4. Partners also attended the meeting from the following non-African states, as well as international, regional, sub-regional and national organizations and institutions.
5. Non-African States: Canada (Canadian International Development Agency), Germany (InWent), France (National Statistics Offices (INSEE) and Ministry of Foreign Affaires), Mexico (National Statistical Office), Russia and United Kingdom (Department for International Development (DFID)).
6. International, Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations and Institutes: Partnership In Statistics for development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), World Bank, EUROSTAT, African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union (AU), Islamic Development Bank, Google.org, Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne (AFRISTAT), and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

7. Training Institutes: National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies, Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques, Makerere University, ISAE, Ecole nationale nationale de statistique et d'économie appliquée, Regional Institute for Population Studies (IFORD), and John Hopkins University.
8. Statistical Associations: Association des Statisticiens du Cameroun (Cameroon), Ethiopian Statistical Association (Ethiopia), Association des Statisticiens du Gabon (Gabon), Ghana Statistical Association (Ghana), Statistical Association (Malawi), Association Sénégalaise pour la Statistique (Senegal), South African Statistical Association (South Africa) Tanzania Statistical Association (Tanzania), Association des Statisticien et Démographes (Togo), and Uganda Statistical Society (Uganda).
9. United Nations offices: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), International Labor Organization (ILO), ILO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa UN Statistical Commission, World Food Programme (WFP) Liaison Office to the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa.
10. Others: Award winners, International Statistics Consultants, and others prominent personalities.

B. Opening session

11. The representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB), who was the Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. He informed the participants that FASDEV is a partners' forum and further said that opening statements will be made by the representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), AfDB, World Bank, and by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21).

Statement of the Director of the African Centre for Statistics (ACS)

12. Mr. Ben Kiregyera, Director of the African Centre for Statistics, read the speech of the Executive Secretary of UNECA, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh. After welcoming the representatives of the development partners and other participants to the headquarters of the UNECA for the third meeting of FASDEV, he thanked them for their support. He informed the meeting that UNECA would celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2008. He indicated the glorious and inglorious years of statistical development in Africa. When the Statistics Division of UNECA was effectively assisting member countries in the 70s and 80s, a lot of improvements were recorded in the continent. On the other

- hand, the 90s witnessed a decline in statistical development both in the member states and at UNECA. As a result stakeholders expressed their concerns in different forums that finally resulted in the revamping of the statistics function at UNECA in 2006.
13. He thanked the sponsors of FASDEV for their role in the creation of the African Centre for Statistics (ACS). UNECA will play its role in the economic and social development of the continent, especially in poverty reduction and in achieving the internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs. He pointed out that the FASDEV initiative was sponsored by ECA, the AfDB, World Bank and PARIS21 and outline its objectives. He reminded the participants that the first meeting of FASDEV was devoted to drafting the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for statistical capacity building in Africa (RRSF) while the second meeting discussed the draft RRSF. The Directors of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) adopted it in 2006 and it was further endorsed by the 48th Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in 2007.
 14. He informed the meeting that adequate support is required to implement the RRSF and the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The need for sharing experiences, to scale up investment, to look for various financial resources, and collaboration and partnership are stressed as essential for statistical development. He reminded the partners to work together on the recommendations of the RRSF. He further informed the meeting about the creation of the African Statistics Coordinating Committee following the Tunis meeting of September 2006. Finally, he assured the partners that UNECA would work in collaboration with them to support statistical development in Africa.

Statement by the Director of Statistics of AfDB

15. The representative of the AfDB welcomed the participants and expressed appreciation to UNECA for organizing the meeting. He said that the cooperation of the partners to support country owned initiatives is crucial. He also said that harmonization of activities among the partners is needed. He reminded the partners that although a lot has been done, many challenges still remain. A lot of commitment is needed to take concrete action in order to create credible National Statistical Systems (NSSs) in Africa. At the AfDB, the development of a capacity building programme is in progress in order to scale-up support for statistical activities. He said that, in order to identify data deficiencies, a country strategy is required. There is also a need to facilitate country reporting mechanisms and a commitment towards the implementation of the RRSF.

Statement by the Manager of Development Data Group (World Bank)

16. The representative of the World Bank (WB) expressed his gratitude to participate in the meeting and congratulated StatCom-Africa. He said that the WB would continue to support statistical capacity building in Africa. He informed the meeting that the WB is represented in the meeting from different departments. He also said that the WB has been a member of FASDEV since its inception and supports the RRSF. He recalled the commitment made by the Executive Secretary of UNECA to support statistical development in Africa during the FASDEV II meeting.
17. He pointed out that the WB would continue to support the NSDS, the Accelerated Data Programme (ADP), and the ICP-Africa, which has already shown excellent results. He said that African governments need to take a lead in supporting statistical development in their countries. Finally, he wished the meeting a successful deliberation.

Statement by PARIS21 Manager

18. The representative of PARIS21 on his part thanked the UNECA for organizing the meeting and for bringing the partners together. He said that PARIS21 is involved in supporting statistical development and in providing technical assistance based on the needs of countries. He stressed the need to have dialogue with political leaders, among whom statistics are rarely discussed. In order to measure progress in countries, national data are required. There is therefore a need for the partners to coordinate the assistance that they provide to countries. Finally he expressed his best wishes for the ACS and StatCom-Africa.

C. Implementation of the RRSF

19. A presentation was made by UNECA on the implementation of the RRSF. The presentation was organized as follows: introduction, mandate of the coordinating committee of the RRSF, and the actions that have so far been taken by the coordinating committee.
20. It was indicated that the primary responsibility of implementing the RRSF lies in the countries. The sub-regional and regional organizations also have a role to play in monitoring the implementation process. At the regional level, the coordination body is composed of UNECA, AfDB, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF).

21. The African Statistical Coordinating Committee (ASCC) held two meetings, in 2006 and 2007, in Tunis, Tunisia. It was decided during the meetings that the Secretariat of the coordinating committee to be located at UNECA, and that UNECA and AfDB should be the main coordinators at the regional level. The selection of the RRSF coordinators has to be done at different levels including at national and sub-regional levels. During the presentation, several points were raised: the need for indicators to monitor the level of statistical development in the countries; the need for advocacy work; the format of the RRSF implementation report; the need for missions to be undertaken to countries in order to create linkages with the focal points; and the need for a website development that will be useful in the dissemination of various activities. UNECA has asked participants to identify coordinators at sub-regional and country levels. A letter was sent out to country statistical offices, asking them to select coordinators; twenty-one African countries have so far replied to the request. The final version of the RRSF was printed (2000 copies in English and 2000 copies in French) and has been widely disseminated. The RRSF website is currently under construction and will be accessible online very soon. Participants were asked to provide comments on the contents of the website.
22. It was indicated that reports on the celebration of the African Statistics Day are expected from member countries. She also said that the African Statistics Day was celebrated as a working holiday in Liberia
23. Preliminary work has been done on the African Statistical Development Index (ASDI) and the work will continue. The ASDI will be developed by considering some of the recommendations of the RRSF, as there are 80 recommendations in it.

Key Issues raised

24. The meeting indicated that the presentation was mainly on process not on progress. He wanted to know what has been achieved since 2005.
25. The meeting stressed the importance of wider dissemination of the RRSF. He recalled that one of the weaknesses of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action (AAPA) was that it was not widely disseminated. He indicated the need of making presentations about the RRSF at country, sub-regional and statistical training centre levels. He further said that debate is necessary in order to popularize it among the various stakeholders. He also said that efforts should continue to hold meetings and to systematically distribute the document as widely as possible in the coming two years.

26. The meeting noted that the Secretariat of the RRSF should be proactive. It was also stressed the need for wider dissemination of the document, advocacy, to visit countries and to initiate a dialogue with representatives of government on the RRSF.
27. The delegates thanked the RRSF initiators and indicated the need to create awareness on the RRSF by all concerned by organizing meetings and the like. He also pointed out the need to financially support statistics by the national governments.
28. The meeting noted that the RRSF development process where about 50% of the African countries were visited and discussions held with stakeholders. He further said that the document should reach all stakeholders and involve them by organizing national workshops.

Recommendations

29. The meeting noted the requirement for the coordinator of the NSDS and the RRSF to be the same person.
30. The meetings recommended that the NSDS and RRSF implementation include resource mobilization. The number of countries that designed and began implementing the NSDS has increased. He indicated the need to learn from PARIS21 on resource mobilization and for countries to learn from each other's experiences. The need to work on a particular sector in a particular year was also indicated.
31. The meetings recommended the importance of political dialogue. RRSF is developed to support NSDS implementation. She mentioned the recent structural changes at UNECA and AfDB. The Secretariat will try to follow-up the recommendations that need immediate attention and those that will be done in the coming two years.
32. The meetings indicated that the coordinator of the NSDS and RRSF at country level better be the same person. The terms of reference of the coordinators need to be prepared and their names need to be communicated to the Secretariat by the directors of NSOs.
33. The meetings indicated that the coordinating committee on the RRSF has identified 13 working groups. Some of the working groups include NSDS elaboration and resource mobilization; mainstreaming NSDS in the development programmes; design and strategy of national accounts; price statistics; ICP-Africa, population and housing censuses; support to fragile states; and the African Statistics Charter.

D. New Initiatives by Development Partners

African Development Bank

34. The AfDB made presentations on RRSF, It was indicated that the RRSF has 12 strategies and 80 recommendations. The need for advocacy in the NSDS implementation, which plays a role in economic and social development, was indicated. The AfDB provides technical assistance, organizes training workshops, elaborates projects and provides direct budget support. The Bank is preparing a document on its future activities, including a plan to strengthen its capacity building programme.

The World Bank

35. The World Bank (WB) works with development partners in the areas of Accelerated Data Programme (ADP), General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), bulletin board system for statistical capacity building and E-learning course on investing in statistical capacity building. The ACP programme is financed by the WB and is implemented by PARIS21. It currently works on three tasks, namely micro-data collection and dissemination (national data archives were created and a website was also developed), improvement of national survey programmes and on supporting countries in data collection (helped Niger in its household survey activities in 2007 where the project was financed by the government).
36. GDDS is the programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which most countries have subscribed to it. Phase II is funded by United Kingdom and is implemented by the IMF and the WB. It covers four broad topics (modules): health, labour and population; justice and security; agriculture; and GIS and management of statistical systems. At the country level it is managed by a country coordinator and at the WB level by the project manager and the module coordinator. So far seven workshops have been organized. It was indicated that there is a need for country motivation, country counterparts with good skills, for documents to be received by countries on time, and the need for reports from countries. The objectives of the GDDS phase II are realized by undertaking missions to countries and by organizing workshops. The closing workshop is expected to be organized in 2009.
37. The Bulletin Board System for Statistical Capacity Building is a country statistical database system under development, which will contain information about the country's national statistical system. It will incorporate inputs from countries received by email or through online updates. It will be a user assessment tool. The WB collaborates with partners on the review and content design of the bulletin board.

38. An e-Learning Course on investing in statistical capacity building is under development with the assistance of partners. The course's targeted audiences are directors of NSOs and the WB staff. The course is structured in modules, with some background information on the MDGs and PRSPs attached to the modules. The modules are self-learning courses with tests and exercises, where each module is expected to take an hour or two. So far consultants have been recruited, and five modules have been prepared in English. These modules are under translation into French and Spanish languages. The remaining five modules are under preparation. The participants were asked for comments on the contents of the modules.

PARIS21

39. PARIS21 promotes support for statistical development. In order to identify the amount of support received by countries, the need to harmonize and collaborate partners' activities was indicated. The activities that were undertaken under the MAPS and on the Paris declaration on aid effectiveness were indicated.
40. The Partner Reporting System in Statistical Development (PRESS) is a reporting system on the support given to countries. The task team on PRESS met five times and found out that there are multiplicities of reporting systems that require improvement. It is planned to harmonize country-reporting systems, to draw lessons from AFRISTAT on the issue, to support countries in the reporting exercise, and to report on partners' support to StatCom-Africa.

The French Cooperation

41. The representative of the French Cooperation indicated the need for countries to report on their difficulties to the FASDEV meeting. He said that although there is a funding constraint, countries are showing interest in statistical development.
42. The priority areas for the French Cooperation are to support NSOs through the NSDS process and to support the statistical training centres.
43. On the national development strategy there is a need for statistics to be given full attention. In the spirit of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, more than 10 countries will be surveyed to evaluate aid effectiveness. Countries should appreciate the need for advocacy among political leaders. The Bamako Declaration that emanated from the AFRISTAT meeting encourages partners to work in line with the Paris declaration. PARIS21 in collaboration with AFRISTAT will follow up the support given by the partners. PARIS21 supports the training centres. It will set up a

working group on training that will coordinate the training process. Statistical development is channeled through AFRISTAT.

44. French Cooperation also works in the poverty reduction and informal sector areas. Besides, it works on governance indicators. Indicators on governance are produced by other organizations. There is also a need for the countries to produce them and for a standard methodology to be developed at the international level.
45. ACS needs to provide support at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. Partners need also to support countries. The need for the African Statistics Charter to develop statistics in the continent was also mentioned.

InWent

46. Inwent is a German cooperation foundation with about 800 staff, which are mainly based in Germany. It is supported by the German Government. It results from the merger of the Carl Duisberg Society (CDG) and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), and incorporates the old statistical training centre (originally in Munich but now in Bonn).
47. InWent offers six training courses a year, in the following topics: Measuring progress - Statistics for MDG indicators; On measuring HIV/AIDS and its socio-economic impacts; On measuring democracy, governance and human rights; National accounts; Statistical indicators for environmental policy in Africa; and Public relations and statistics. Over 50 percent of its training activities are now done out in the regions. In 2006 it started offering an E-learning programme; most of the study can be done by the trainees in their own offices, but some time must also be spent in the classroom. In the area of governance, InWent conducted a survey on how to assess governance. There was a need to involve all stakeholders during the survey. Different results may be obtained on governance assessment as a result of different approaches and methodologies used. InWent offers a training programme on governance assessment. A short video was presented on governance assessment.

DFID

48. DFID works both at national and regional levels. It provides financial support for the NSDS implementation. At the regional level, it is involved in the GDDS programme for English speaking countries. It also supported the ICP-Africa programme and the RRSF.

49. The partners were urged to harmonize activities in order to reduce the burden on the countries. DFID had helped Uganda, Ghana, and Rwanda in their statistical master plan preparation.

EUROSTAT

50. EUROSTAT has its own activities and also works in collaboration with other partners. It also works with sub-regional organizations. Thematic areas where EUROSTAT is involved include an E-learning programme that is under preparation, in collaboration with the WB. The guidelines for the E-learning are under preparation.
51. Software tools for trade (EUROTRACE) and national accounts have been developed. It will continue to support this activity for a short-term. EUROSTAT has organized training of trainers' courses on the indicated software packages.
52. EUROSTAT holds an advisory group meeting once a year. Other required communications are done by email. It has prepared a list of experts for technical assistance purposes. It also holds a database on knowledge management.
53. There is a strategy document that deals with partner coordination improvement, and on twinning arrangement with the EU countries. It is being circulated among member states for further improvement.

International Labour Organization (ILO)

54. The new initiatives of the ILO include improvement of employment statistics. There is a problem in adopting international standards. The representative explained the conceptual framework on the economically active population, the production of goods and services within the SNA boundary, and total labour inputs in the production process.
55. The ILO works at the regional, sub-regional and country levels. At the regional level ILO will continue its advocacy work. At the sub-regional level, it has been supporting the East African Community member states in data dissemination, trained country focal points and works with the Monetary Union of West African countries. At the country level, ILO has been working in data collection and analysis, training, and on capacity building in labour force surveys design and implementation. He invited FASDEV to support the capacity building programmes. Furthermore, he encouraged African countries to participate in the forthcoming International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), to be held in November 2008.

E. Financing Statistical Activities in Africa

56. The World Bank presented the reports of the Paris meeting on scaling up investment in national statistical systems, with the background of the global meeting on managing for development results and the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS), in which statistical capacity is pointed out as the measurement of the development. At present, countries and donors has not yet given priority to increase statistical capacity and the overall levels of financing for statistical capacity building remain low, often sectoral, technical expertise is relatively scarce, and the statistical offices are unable to coordinate, harmonize donor programs and special interests.
57. Accordingly, the World Bank, in collaboration with the United Kingdom, Netherlands have been working to find mechanism for managing increased funding, and statistical capacity building is recognized as part of IDA 15 negotiations, and PARIS 21 has developed a manual on using Swap mechanism for statistics and the world Bank is maintain a database on statistical capacity of countries.
58. The Islamic development Bank presented their projects to collaborate with ECA in support of statistical activities for the twenty seven Islamic countries in Africa, including data collection, training workshops and the provision of scholarships.

Key Issues raised

59. The meeting expressed its concerns on the limited number of countries using the trust fund, while these few countries have received significant lending, the bulk of countries are not using the trust fund adequately; also concerns over the eligibility of countries to the trust fund, and some entities like the national statistical associations to the trust fund, as well as the lengthy process to requesting for authorization to use each budget line.

Recommendations

60. Urge countries and user of trust fund to comply with the rules and regulations, and to increase their absorptive capacity. The national statistical associations are advised to submit their request through the national statistical offices.

F. Closing session: Main conclusions and recommendations

61. The meeting discussed and amended the draft communiqué of FASDEV III presented by the rapporteur of FASDEV III. The meeting adopted the following resolutions as set out below.
62. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the UNECA, the Director of ACS of the UNECA closed the third meeting of the FASDEV.

**Third Forum on African Statistical Development
(FASDEV III)
Addis Ababa, 24 January 2008
Communiqué**

Representatives of African countries, bilateral and international institutions, United Nations Secretariat and agencies, African statistical training centres, regional and sub-regional organizations, and national statistical associations attended the third meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV-III) on 24 January 2008 at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This meeting was preceded by the first session of the African Statistical Commission (StatCom-Africa) held from 21 to 23 January 2008.

Recalling the endorsement of the report of FASDEV-II, held during 6-8 February 2006, by all stakeholders of statistical development in Africa;

Recalling the main objectives of FASDEV: (i) to have an overview of statistical activities, including assistance, and training in Africa; (ii) to set up a permanent system for the monitoring of statistical development in Africa; and (iii) to strengthen modalities for cooperation with a view to leveraging on each partner's comparative advantage;

The meeting:

- a) Appreciated the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the Partnership In Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) Secretariat, the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB), to organize this third meeting of FASDEV;
- b) Noted the establishment of the African Statistical Commission (StatCom-Africa) and the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC).
- c) Noted with appreciation the creation of the African Centre for Statistics at ECA with its inter-governmental mechanism Statcom-Africa, which is the apex entity with the mandate for coordination of statistical activities in Africa and the harmonization and implementation of international statistical standards in Africa, as well as the linkages of African countries to the global statistical system.
- d) Noted with appreciation the upgrading of the statistics function at AfDB to Department status, and the creation of a new statistical unit at the African Union Commission (AUC).

- e) Expressed concern at the slow implementation of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for statistical capacity building in Africa (RRSF), two years after its endorsement, and the absence of an adequate reporting mechanism on the implementation of RRSF.
- f) Discussed issues relating to statistical development in Africa:
 - The implementation of the RRSF;
 - New donors` initiatives;
 - Financing of statistical development in Africa;

The participants:

1. Request sub-regional organizations to nominate RRSF coordinators, and national statistical offices to nominate RRSF national coordinators, who should preferably be the coordinators of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), so as to ensure consistency between NSDS and RRSF.
2. Urge ECA to develop the terms of reference and responsibilities of RRSF national and sub-regional coordinators.
3. Request the support of countries and their RRSF coordinators in carefully completing their reporting forms on donor funding, to assist in better monitoring and management.
4. Request ECA, in collaboration with the World Bank and PARIS 21, to develop a harmonized reporting mechanism, based on the African Statistical Development Index (ASDI) and the review of existing reporting mechanisms, in order to measure progress annually and bi-annually on statistical development in Africa, in particular the monitoring and implementation of RRSF, and to circulate this report prior to the next FASDEV meeting.
5. Commend ECA, AfDB, AUC, and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), on the establishment of the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC), and the establishment of the working groups on thematic areas.
6. Welcome the progress being made by African countries on RRSF implementation in the area of NSDS design, but request ECA and the ASCC to take vigorous steps in the next two years to implement the other strategies of RRSF, in

particular in relation to national accounts, price statistics, population censuses and household surveys, and support to post-conflict countries.

7. Request ECA, in collaboration with the ASCC, to scale up its implementation of RRSF over the next two years and request the bureau of StatCom-Africa and the Friends of ECA to support the activities of the workings groups, in particular: the design and mobilization of resources for NSDS, mainstreaming NSDS into the development agenda (e.g. through PRSP), the development of a regional national accounts programme, and support to fragile states.
8. Request ECA, in consultation with ASCC, to increase RRSF dissemination and advocacy in Africa, including organization of meetings on RRSF at sub-regional and national level with the participation of all stakeholders, to ensure that RRSF and NSDS are models of good governance and are mainstreamed in national development, so that Governments are encouraged to take an increasing responsibility for financing statistical activities.
9. Request ECA, the bureau of StatCom, and the Friends of ECA to develop, in cooperation with national RRSF coordinators, a mechanism for mobilizing resources for the implementation of the RRSF;
10. Urge partners to scale up their support to African countries for statistical development, and to support ECA and the ASCC in the implementation of RRSF, to ensure better coordination and alignment of initiatives;
11. Welcome the efforts made by the AUC to develop an African Statistics Charter as a regulatory framework for statistical development on the continent.
12. Commend the Friends of ECA and Statistics South Africa for their continuing support to the promotion of South-South cooperation, the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (2010 RPHC) and the organization of the African Symposia on Statistical Development (ASSD).
13. Request the ECA to convene, in close collaboration with the AfDB, the PARIS21 Secretariat and the World Bank, the next FASDEV meeting, preferably in early 2010;
14. Call on all stakeholders, both at country level and among the development partners, to implement the above recommendations, by supporting the mechanisms set up by FASDEV.

The sponsors of the draft recommendations commit themselves to amending them according to the participants' comments and distributing the official amended version by mid-February 2008, in time for the next meeting of the United Nations Statistical Commission.