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Statistical Development in Africa
A Strategic Framework
(Preliminary version)

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Foreword

1. There is broad consensus among African countries and development partners about the need for better statistics: (a) as a base for evidence-based policy and planning, and (b) to better support policy implementation, monitor progress and evaluate outcomes and impacts of development initiatives. However, national statistical systems (NSS) are generally weak and unable, in their present form, to meet the ever-increasing demand for good statistical data and information, as was observed during the most recent evaluation of the implementation of the Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s.
2. A shortage of statistical skills and a high turnover of staff in national statistical offices (NSO) and training institutions have adversely affected statistics capability in Africa. The problems faced by NSOs were the subject of the Conference of African Statisticians that in 1978 adopted a comprehensive programme - The Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) - to ensure a permanent supply of qualified statistical personnel. The regional component of the STPA was located at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and was financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) up to 1993. Other bilateral and multilateral agencies assisted in the implementation of the programme, mainly at the national level.
3. Although the STPA became an excellent example of regional and donor co-operation, a host of problems and constraints continued to undermine the production and management of national statistics in Africa. The Addis Ababa Plan of Action (AAPA) for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s (the Plan) was adopted in May 1990 by the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for economic and social development, to deal with these problems and constraints.
4. The Plan envisioned interventions at national, sub-regional, regional, and global levels by bilateral, multilateral, and other organizations to reverse the decline in statistical production and lay a firm basis for sustained development of national statistics. As the first step in the implementation of the AAPA, the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development (CASD) was established in 1992

as an inter-agency council to co-ordinate and to monitor the implementation of the Plan.

5. At its first session held from 28th June to 2nd July 2001 the Committee on Development Information (CODI), which subsumed the then biennial Conference of Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Specialists, recommended that an assessment of the implementation of the AAPA be undertaken. At its second session held in October 2001, CODI noted that the period for the implementation of AAPA and the mandate of CASD has ended. The Committee then reviewed the findings of the evaluation team and noted inter alia, the low level of plan implementation that led to further deterioration of many national statistical systems in the region. It also resolved that instead of a new plan, a new framework for statistical development in Africa should be put in place (See Annex A). The Committee further resolved that a broad-based Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) be constituted to advise ECA on emerging issues related to statistical development and on implementation of any strategy or framework recommended by CODI on developing statistics in Africa. ABSA was officially launched on 16th May 2003 following the third session of CODI held from 12-15th May 2003.

6. This document has been prepared in consonance with the CODI resolution of 2001 calling for the development of a Strategic Framework to replace the AAPA. This Framework aims to support and accelerate statistical development in Africa in a sustainable manner and in response to the ever-increasing demand for statistical data. It highlights the main issues, processes and partnerships required for strengthening statistical systems in Africa. The **main assumption** underlying this Framework is that stakeholders in Africa's statistical development are willing and prepared to enter into a new era of partnership with the establishment of a regime of quality data and evidenced-based policy making as their common goal.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAPA	Addis Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s
ABSA	Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa
ALDB	African Live Database
AFCAS	African Commission on Agricultural Statistics
ADB	African Development Bank
AFRISTAT	Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa
AFRITAC	African Technical Assistance Centre (IMF)
AHSCP	African Household Survey Capability Programme
CASD	Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Develop
CEMAC	Communaute Economique et Monetaire de l’Afrique Centrale
CLDB	Country Live Database
CODI	Committee on Development Information
COMESA	Community of Eastern and Southern Africa
CST	Country Support Team (UNFPA)
CWIQ	Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire
DFID	Department for International Development
DISD	Development Information Services Division
EAC	East African Community
EASTC	Eastern African Statistical Training Centre
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSSDD	Food Security and Sustainable Development Division
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICP	International Comparison Programme
ICT	Information and Telecommunication Technology
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISAE	Institute of Statistics and Applied economics
LDB	Live Database
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical System
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century
PROSMIC	Minimum Common Statistical Programme
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SNA	System of National Accounting
SRO	Sub-regional Office (ECA)
UEMOA	Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest Africaine
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

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I. BACKGROUND

1. Information age nations, organizations, businesses and indeed individual citizens deem statistical data and information a vital resource that enhances performance in governance, administration, business and in individual pursuits. This resource must now be harnessed for national development in Africa. Indeed the importance of statistical data and information has been stressed in most international fora as a basis for tracking progress towards the attainment of national and international development goals and targets. At the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development this fact was once again stressed.
2. There has been unprecedented increase in demand for statistical data and information to inform national development processes since the 1990s. Monitoring systems for new development agenda including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) have not only created new demands but also provided frameworks for synthesizing statistical demand for development of African countries. Thus the increasing demand for statistical data and information has presented both challenges to already weak and vulnerable National Statistical Systems (NSSs) and new opportunities, particularly with respect to raising the public profile of statistics and harnessing both national and international resources for statistical development.
3. This Framework is aimed at creating an enhanced environment for effective partnership among statistical producers and users. It provides strategies with the objective of meeting these challenges and fully exploiting the new opportunities for statistical development in Africa.
4. Several important efforts were made in the past at international, regional, sub-regional and national levels to develop national statistical systems in Africa. In spite of these efforts, the majority of African countries still do not have statistical systems that are capable of providing, in a sustainable manner, good statistical data and information required for evidence-based planning and policies; democratic governance and accountability; and business, political and personal decisions. The national statistical systems continue to be characterized by many problems and constraints.

5. A major source of the lack of progress has been the uncoordinated and unsustainable manner in which past efforts at statistical development had been undertaken. In light of these problems, African countries decided through CODI, to put in place a new comprehensive and strategic framework that could be used, as a reference guide by all the stakeholders engaged in statistical development in Africa. It is expected that this new framework, once adopted by all the stakeholders, will help create much needed synergies, avoid duplication of effort and lead to sustainable capacity for statistical development.

6. This Framework is comprehensive in the sense that: a) it attempts to embrace all on-going initiatives and relevant statistical frameworks at the regional, and international levels, and b) it aims to cover the entire African Statistical System, which currently comprises (see Annex B and C):
 - (i) At the international level, various multilateral and bilateral organizations that provide funding for statistical projects, and technical assistance for developing methodologies, usually to meet short-term data needs, as well as the UNSD, that provide overall guidance for the compilation of internationally comparable national accounts data;
 - (ii) At the regional level, ECA and ADB Divisions in charge of Statistics, the Sub-Committee on Statistics of the Committee on Development Information (CODI), the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) and the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS);
 - (iii) At the sub-regional level, the Observatoire Economique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne (AFRISTAT), the UNFPA Country Support Teams (CSTs), the statistics units of the Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique Centrale (CEMAC), the Community of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Union Economique et Monétaire de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (UEMOA), and the statistical component of the IMF African Technical Assistance Centres (AFRITACs); and
 - (iv) At the national level, the National Statistical System (NSS), comprising: producers of statistics, including the National Statistics Office as the coordinating body; line ministries and public agencies; data users, including key users such as policy and decision makers; data suppliers, including

business establishments and households; and research and training institutions, including Universities.

II. Main Issues

7. This Framework aims at addressing issues confronting statistical development in Africa, notably:

- Inadequate political commitment to statistical development especially at the national level;
- Limited coordination, collaboration, networking and information sharing among stakeholders;
- Inadequate resources (financial, human and technical) for statistical production;
- Inadequate infrastructure (physical and statistical) for statistical production;
- Limited institutional capacity;
- Poor quality data;
- Inadequate data management (archiving, analysis, and dissemination) systems;
- Lack of long-term planning for statistical development; and,
- Inappropriate profiles of National Statistical Offices in government hierarchy.

III. Vision

8. Our vision as core producers of statistics in Africa is the installation of a statistical infrastructure, through enhanced partnership among stakeholders at all levels, capable of providing and promoting the effective management and utilization of quality data and information for evidence-based policy and decision-making, monitoring development programmes and democratic accountability.

IV. Overall objective

9. The overall objective of this strategic framework is to engage all stakeholders in a statistical development process that would ensure that African countries are equipped, with statistical systems that can support their economic, political and social development efforts, in a sustainable manner. The statistical systems to be developed should meet the data needs of main data users including: government, private sector, civil society, international community and the general public.

V. Specific Objectives

10. Specific objectives include:

- Promoting advocacy for statistics;
- Responding to data needs of main data users including: government, private sector, civil society, academia, researchers, international development partners, and the general public;
- Responding to data needs emerging from new development frameworks and initiatives such as the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), the Poverty Strategy Reduction Papers (PRSPs) and the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs);
- Strengthening institutional statistical capacity with special emphasis on statistical governance;
- Improving coordination of statistical programmes at all levels;
- Promoting compliance with current conceptual frameworks such as the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA 93), the fifth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual, the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual, the Government Finance Statistics Manual and the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS);
- Developing regional, sub-regional and national statistical systems and socio-economic databases;
- Enhancing human resources development in statistics and related areas;
- Forging strong partnerships for statistical development at all levels;
- Promoting networking and sharing of information and best practices among stakeholders; and,
- Promoting the production, management, and utilization of gender-disaggregated data, especially in national accounts.

VI. Strategies

11. The following strategies will be used to realize the above framework objectives:

- Statistical advocacy, including creation of general awareness about the importance of statistics to society, and raising the profile of statistics;

- Keeping abreast of the latest statistical developments and emerging data needs;
- Building consensus among stakeholders on statistical development policy issues;
- Promoting closer collaboration and enhancing coordination among data producers, data users, research and training institutions as well as bilateral and multilateral donors in statistical development;
- Developing, managing and harnessing human capacity in order to enhance organizational performance, broaden the knowledge and strategic skills base and raise staff motivation;
- Developing more effective and responsive National Statistical Offices and National Statistical Systems;
- Net-working in order to enhance and improve sharing of information and experiences including best practices;
- Harnessing new information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve statistical operations as well as data dissemination, access and sharing;
- Improving communication and dissemination of statistical data and information, and,
- Undertake proper costing of proposed activities, and develop financing plans for the achievement of the Framework objectives.

VII. Proposals for Coordinated or Joint Action

12. Proposals for coordinated or joint action include the following:

1. To Promote and Coordinate Statistical Activities in Africa

- Encourage country participation in the work of the UN Statistical Commission
- Support country participation at co-ordination meetings on statistical development in Africa at all the levels, such as CODI, ABSA, the International Comparison Programme for Africa (ICP-Africa) Governing Board, and the Partnership in Statistics for Development (PARIS 21) Consortium;
- Support the work of various task forces/workshops on statistical development;

- Improve information flow and communication on statistical activities in Africa by increasing the use of ICT, publishing Regional Statistical Newsletters and other technical publications; and,
- Establish a minimum statistical programme for Africa, which can assist African countries in drawing up their statistical development plans and annual work programmes.

2. To advance Statistical Advocacy

- Promote "statistical thinking" in society;
- Put statistics firmly on national agendas;
- Demonstrate to governments (planners, policy-makers, managers and administrators), legislators and other users the power of statistics;
- Promote a culture of evidence-based policy and decision-making;
- Mobilize national and international resources for statistical development; and,
- Collaborate with stakeholders to develop appropriate advocacy tools.

3. To Build Statistical Institutional Capacities

- Establish a conducive legislative environment that underpins the functions and operations of the National Statistical System and National Statistics Office; promotes professional independence and autonomy in statistical production thereby ensure that official statistics have integrity, impartiality and credibility; safeguards the confidentiality of data; and provides for data dissemination and access;
- Raise the profile of National Statistical Offices by making them autonomous agencies of government; ,
- Ensure that National Statistical Offices are better resourced and capable of coordinating and becoming a standard-setter for the National Statistical System; and,
- Streamline coordination and collaboration arrangements among stakeholder institutions.

4. To Strengthen Training Activities

At the national level, provide:

- Technical support to in-service and mid-level statistical training programmes;
- Training for statistical personnel in subject-matter areas, such as national accounts, basic economic statistics, and social statistics; and,
- Links between national training centers and other training institutions.

At the sub-regional and regional levels:

- Ensure that the training of statisticians is given high profile in African academic institutions and adequately funded;
- Encourage women to do statistics courses at all levels;
- Provide teaching consultancy to African Statistical Training Centres in specialized areas;
- Organize management training courses for Heads of NSOs and other senior management of the statistical system;
- Develop training materials and supply equipment in the form of computers, photocopy, books, and so on to facilitate teaching at the centres;
- Promote partnerships between statistical training centers and other centres of excellence teaching statistics within and outside Africa;
- Provide technical advice regarding training materials and content;
- Assist Heads of training centers to attend major advisory council/board meetings;
- Disseminate information on training including publishing on a regular basis Statistical Training Newsletter and a Directory of Training Centres in Africa;
- Periodically attach or second member states' statistical personnel to statistical offices within or outside the region, where there are innovative activities in a relevant statistical area, or where a "best practice" has been established (examples of where this would be most useful are statistical coordination, environmental statistics and implementation of the 1993 SNA); and,
- Set up a Fellowship Programme for the benefit of middle-level statisticians from African countries.

5. To Promote Household Surveys

- Assess needs in the area of integrated household surveys, including training needs;
- Review the status of household surveys under implementation or planned, survey organization, in terms of sampling plans, data processing and

dissemination arrangements, arrangements for data archiving and storage, networking arrangements with other partners;

- Upgrade national capabilities for planning and conducting household surveys;
- Provide technical assistance and advisory services to countries upon request, in the planning and management of household surveys;
- Organize national and regional training workshops for statisticians in household survey methods and operations;
- Publish household survey manuals and technical materials; and,
- Build household survey databases/databanks for data analysis and other statistical operations, and for policy-related analyses.

6. To Accelerate the Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA 93)

- Adapt the SNA93 framework to specific country situation and development objectives;
- Conduct additional surveys and use additional administrative data sources for improving the basic data for the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates;
- Exchange experiences at national, sub-regional and regional levels through seminars and workshops;
- Conduct studies on the implementation of the SNA93 at the regional level and on special topics such as gender in the national accounts within the framework of the 1993 System of National Accounts, etc.
- Provide advisory services to countries on the implementation of the SNA93 including compilation of satellite accounts, and,
- Implement the existing mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the SNA93 at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

7. To Promote the Development of Statistical Databases

- Identify users' needs;
- Identify data sources;
- Re-organize existing statistical information systems;
- Develop, maintain and net-work statistical systems at all levels;
- Promote the use of information and telecommunication technologies and geo-information for statistical production;
- Build capacities at all levels to develop and maintain databases; and,

- Establish a regional hub, and a system of networks and of regional data Management.

8. To Establish Peer Review Processes to Enhance Statistical Governance in the Africa region

- Build capacities for production of accurate, timely and reliable statistical data; and,
- Establish a system of external evaluation of the quality and integrity of country data and an authoritative repository of data.

9. To Promote a New Partnership for Statistics in Africa: From Coordination to Collaboration

- Establish modalities for collaboration between statistical actors and other stakeholders in the analysis, definition, implementation, and monitoring of global development goals and in the promotion of country-driven approaches to the development of national statistical systems;
- Rationalize statistical demand on national statistical offices from different external users, including donors that support development and statistical activities in individual countries; and,
- Establish a reporting system to monitor progress in statistical development.

10. To Strengthen Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations

- Evaluate strength of statistical units within Sub-regional organizations such as, ECOWAS, COMESA, EAC, SADC, WAMZ, UEMOA and CEMAC;
- Establish a programme of technical support for sub-regional organizations;
- Establish statistical training programmes for sub-regional organizations;
- Strengthen the connectivity between NSOs and the sub-regional organizations; and,
- Assist the sub-regional organizations with resource mobilization.

11. To Promote production and utilization of gender-disaggregated data in national accounts

- Organize workshops to demonstrate to key policy-makers the importance of gender-based obstacles and hence gender-disaggregated data to development and poverty reduction;
- Undertake an inventory of tools, concepts and capacities to engender national accounts;
- Develop a conceptual framework for integrating gender into national accounts; and,
- Develop a reference guide to sharpen skills in the production and use of time-use data and in Household Surveys.

12. To Accelerate Implementation of On-going Initiatives in Africa

- Vigorously pursue the implementation, coordination and linking up of various initiatives on statistical development in Africa, notably (see Annex C):
 - Live Databases, Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) and STATCAP of the World Bank;
 - General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) and the Statistical component of the AFRITACs of the IMF and other sponsors;
 - The Common Minimum Statistics Programme (PROSMIC) of AFRISTAT;
 - ICP-Africa of the World Bank and ADB;
 - PARIS21;
 - The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and ChildInfo Software of UNICEF;
 - FAO's Regional Programmes in Agricultural Statistics (African Commission on Agricultural Statistics and FAO Regional Action Programme); and,
 - European Union initiatives in statistical training and other training programmes launched by bilateral and multilateral partners of the African statistical system.

ANNEX A:

CODI RESOLUTIONS

CODI II Resolution

The second meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI) held in September 2001 adopted a series of resolutions which were approved by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, at its thirty-fifth session held from 19 to 21 October 2002, in Johannesburg (South Africa). The resolution related to the Addis Ababa Ababa Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s is formulated as follows:

The meeting

1. *Acknowledges* that the principles and objectives of the AAPA were and still remain relevant to statistical development in Africa;
2. *Regrets* the slow level of implementation of the AAPA identified by CASD in the evaluation;
3. *Appreciates* the commendable work done by CASD and resolves that its mandate has come to an end;
4. *Resolves* that a new plan, as proposed in the evaluation report, will not be necessary. Instead, a new framework for statistical development in Africa be put in place that will take into account:
 - full stakeholder participation at all levels;
 - new demands for information (PRSPs, New African Initiative¹);
 - strategies at national, sub-regional and regional levels for enhancing statistical capacity;
 - the plight of countries emerging from war and other crises;
 - mechanisms of continuous monitoring and evaluation;

¹ *The New African Initiative has been renamed New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD)*

Approves that:

- Full stakeholder participation at all levels;
- In order to effect the proposed framework, the Advisory Board design the modalities of statistical advancement in the region;
- A broad based Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) be constituted;
- The Board works in close partnership with sub-regional, regional and international organizations.

CODI III Resolution

The CODI III meeting held in May 2003 resolved as follows:

Accepting that official statistics produced in accordance with the fundamental principles of official statistics are a necessary condition for good governance,

Recommends that :

members states adopt a process for assessing the statistical capacity of member states. Initially volunteer countries should undertake the testing and adoption of tools and processes for the peer review of statistical capacity for adoption as part of the NEPAD commitment supported by an expert group provided by UNECA/PARIS21.

ANNEX B

THE AFRICAN STATISTICAL SYSTEM

At the national level

National Statistical Systems (NSS) comprise producers, including national statistical offices, as the coordinating body; line ministries and public agencies; data users, including key users such as policy makers; data suppliers, including business establishments and households; and research and training institutions including universities.

In many African countries, national statistical systems are weak, and characterized by inadequate supply of resources and low profile in government hierarchy. To address these weaknesses some countries have designed or are in the process of designing Statistics Master Plans that would provide a “road map” for the development of national statistics and an integrated framework for harnessing both national and international resources for building sustainable statistical capacity. Short, medium and long-term programmes covering all classic statistical areas have been provided for in these Master Plans. Those countries that have not yet developed Statistics Master Plans have been encouraged to do so in order to improve their national statistics.

In some countries, the Master plans did not anticipate new challenges that emerged after the plans were launched, whilst others did not include strategies to sustain the current statistical activities including large-scale operations such as population census and agriculture and household surveys.

Guidelines for designing such Plans have been prepared both by ECA and the World Bank. Within the context of these Master Plans, the profile of the National Statistics Offices will be enhanced to enable them play an effective role as the coordinator and standard-setter for the national statistical systems. In addition, statistical legislations will be reviewed with a view to making them more relevant to the current situation. It is important to mention that there are some best practices in the management of national statistics and these can be very useful in the peer review process for developing statistics in Africa.

At the sub-regional level

In the sub-regional context, the statistical system comprises AFRISTAT, which was created to support its member states, the UNFPA Country Support Teams (CSTs) and the statistical divisions and units of ECOWAS, SADC, WAMZ, UEMOA, CEMAC, COMESA, EAC, as well as the statistical component of IMF African Technical Assistance Centre.

In order to assess the economic and social integration process and to achieve greater comparability across countries and over time, the sub-regional economic groupings have created statistical bodies aimed at strengthening statistical systems in their respective sub-regions.

The main focus of the statistics units of the sub-regional organizations is the harmonization of national statistics and building sustainable capacity through training. In this connection, these sub-regional organizations organize periodic meetings of Heads of National Statistics Offices as well as technical meetings and workshops to address common issues such as data gaps, harmonization of statistical definitions and concepts, and methodologies, and lack of expertise in specific areas.

At the regional level

At the regional level African statistical system includes the ECA and the ADB, the sub-Committee on Statistics of the Committee on Development Information (CODI), the Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa (ABSA) and the FAO African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS).

ECA has assisted in building and strengthening capacity of African countries in various areas of statistical development, through the provision of advisory services, preparation of guidelines for statistical needs assessment, strategy development and, group training activities; preparation and adaptation of handbooks and manuals; and co-ordination of technical cooperation. 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, and the Statistical Development Programme for Africa.

However, the amount of ECA's technical assistance to African countries declined drastically when funding from UNDP and UNFPA for the Commission's major regional co-operation programmes ceased in 1993. It is expected that ECA will again play a leading role in the pursuit of the objectives of this Framework.

ADB also has provided funding for stand-alone statistical projects, and statistical components have been incorporated in some projects funded by the Bank in various African countries. The Bank also collects, processes and publishes data on member countries as well as on co-operation for Africa's development. Since 2002, the Bank has been coordinating the African component of the millennium International Comparison Programme (ICP).

At the international level

Over the years, international organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors have played an important role in funding statistical programmes and projects at regional, sub-regional and country level and also in the development of methodologies and frameworks for collecting and handling statistical data and the organization of working groups to review them. At country level, technical and financial assistance were mainly given to meet specific short-term data needs. Moreover, the assistance was mainly done in a piecemeal and uncoordinated manner.

Statistical activities originally funded by donor assistance could not be sustained when such assistance came to an end. Because of the pressure to meet urgent data needs, short-term projects and programmes have generally taken precedence over long-term planning. This approach has in a number of cases: (a) distorted national priorities for statistical production and led to lack of synergy and cost-effectiveness in data production, (b) led to production of conflicting and largely inaccurate data, and (c) not engendered sustainable capacity for production of national statistics.

As a result there is now an urgent need to rationalize and prioritize demands on NSOs, so as to provide opportunity for these NSOs to develop their own national plans and programmes that would ensure a more sustainable system of data production and management.

ANNEX C

SOME MAJOR STATISTICAL INITIATIVES IN AFRICA

1. AFRISTAT's Common Minimum Statistics Programme PROSMIC (2001-2005)

The PROSMIC is a framework for Afristat's statistics activities in 14 African member countries of the Franc Zone and Mauritania, Guinea and Cape Verde. Activities include organization and management of national institutes of statistics, information technology, national accounting, price indexes, agricultural surveys, household surveys, company surveys, population and social statistics, list frames and repertories, informal economy and management charts and macro-economic modelling.

2. IMF Initiatives

General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)

IMF launched in 2001, a sub-regional project funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DIFD) and executed by IMF in collaboration with the World Bank to assist in the implementation of the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) in 14 Anglophone countries: Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

GDDS provided a comprehensive framework for improving data quality, evaluating needs for data improvement, and setting priorities in this respect. GDDS also guides member countries in the dissemination to the public of comprehensive, timely, accessible and reliable economic, financial, and socio-demographic statistics.

Statistical Component of AFRITACs

The Initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of African countries to design and implement their poverty-reducing strategies, as well as to improve the coordination of capacity building technical assistance in the PRSP process. As part of the Initiative, two **African Regional Technical Assistance Centers (AFRITACs)** have been established: The East AFRITAC established in October 2002 and based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, serves 6 English-speaking countries in East Africa, including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda; West AFRITAC

established in Bamako, Mali, in June 2003, serves 11 French-speaking countries in West Africa, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo.

The two centers are helping countries in East and West Africa build and strengthen their domestic institutional framework in the following areas: macroeconomic policy, tax policy and revenue administration, expenditure management, monetary policy, the exchange rate system, financial sector sustainability, and statistics.

3. World Bank Initiatives

Live databases

The Live Database (LDB) is a user-friendly information tool that gives the latest socio-economic data at the national level for Country Live Databases (CLDBs) and at regional level for the Africa Live Database (ALDB). LDB is a powerful tool for improving the monitoring and evaluation of statistical capacity at national and regional levels. It is designed to provide decision makers easy access to the latest development information in an integrated manner. The basic interest of establishing LDBs is a user-friendly interface between users and producers of statistics built on a sustainable demand-driven statistical system.

The system was developed by the Africa Region of the World Bank with two complementary goals in mind: (i) in the short term, to provide staff in the region with an efficient means of collecting, analyzing and manipulating economic and sectoral data and (ii) in the long term, to become the linchpin of a major effort for capacity building in African countries, aimed at upgrading local capacity in statistical data collection and analysis.

Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ)

Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ) is a household survey tool developed by the World Bank in close collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF and the ILO to provide countries with an instrument to generate essential and timely statistical data that measure changes in key social indicators for different population groups – specifically indicators of access, utilization and satisfaction with core social and economic services.

CWIQ is a very effective tool for improving project and sector program design and targeting of services towards the poor and most disadvantaged communities. When repeated, the CWIQ becomes a monitoring tool for assessing implementation, effectiveness and impact of programmes/projects on living conditions. This tool is in use in several African countries including Tanzania (Mainland), Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, Nigeria and recently in Malawi and Lesotho.

STATCAP

This is essentially a WB lending facility designed to assist developing countries break out of the vicious cycle where inadequate resources constrain output and undermine the quality of statistics, while the poor quality of statistics leads to lower demand and hence fewer resources. STATCAP is designed to enable countries to make significant investments in statistical capacity to both improve efficiency and effectiveness in the future and finance the most urgent current statistical activities.

4. PARIS21

Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) was established in November 1999 as a North-South partnership with the objective of: putting countries in control of country-owned statistical systems with senior level support; serving key policy areas through priority setting and steering processes; improving statistical information and resources by addressing the required data needs such as data mining and analysis; effective co-ordination and support of both national and international resources; and putting in place Statistical Master Plans and Strategies, taking into account the existing capacities, resource constraints and other needs such as professional standards and the need for legislation.

The PARIS21 is essentially a consortium of policy makers and statisticians, international organizations, professional bodies and academic institutions from donor and developing countries, working under five main principles, namely, partnership, advocacy, resources mobilization, information sharing, and sustainable country-owned strategies.

5. International Comparison Programme (ICP) for Africa region

The International Comparison Programme (ICP)-Africa is a comprehensive region-wide statistical capacity building initiative within the framework of the global

International Comparison Programme (ICP) covering the period 2002-2005. The programme was launched jointly by the African Development Bank (ADB), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the World Bank to provide a comprehensive and coherent regional capacity building support, with the view to meeting the urgent demand for reliable and timely data to support Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Poverty reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). The ultimate objectives of the programme are to strengthen national statistical capacity in price and national accounts; make the ICP an integral part of the National Statistical Systems; bring purchasing power parities (PPPs) for the poor into mainstream of ICP; and promote use of ICP data for policy formulation and monitoring of progress both at the national and international levels. Already 50 countries have indicated preparedness to participate in the programme.

The ICP-Africa has country-specific and region-wide capacity building components. Its country specific components include (a) establishing the greatest possible synergy between the ICP data collection efforts and routine national statistical programs, (b) strengthening institutional capacity through technical and managerial training and assistance, (c) providing financial, technical and material assistance, including hardware and software for data collection, verification, and processing, (d) creating and maintaining databases and improving the quality and timeliness of the publication and dissemination of the data, and (e) promoting the use of data for policy making and monitoring of progress.

6. UNICEF Initiatives

Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey was developed by UNICEF to support governments and other partners, in measuring progress for children and women at the end of the decade. At present 70 countries in the world including some in Africa are preparing to implement the survey.

Childinfo Software

Childinfo computer software that was developed to store and present data from multiple databases, and display it in simple and user-friendly formats using its strong display features, is being promoted by the UN system as a platform for developing

comprehensive national socio-economic databases in various African countries mainly for poverty monitoring purposes.

7. FAO's Regional Programmes in Agricultural Statistics

African Commission on Agricultural Statistics

The Commission was established in 1962 to: (a) review the state of food and agricultural statistics in the region, (b) advise member countries on the development and standardization of agricultural statistics within the general framework of FAO's work in statistics, and (c) convene study groups or other subsidiary bodies of national experts to review and advise on developments in agricultural statistics. The commission has held its sessions every other year since 1962. The last session was held in 2001 and the next session is planned for October 2003.

Through the commission, FAO has been able to assist countries:

- conduct national censuses of agriculture within a common framework of definitions, concepts, standards and guidelines,
- generate data that are internationally comparable and the provision of basic statistics on food security in a manner readily adaptable to understanding the food security situation,
- mainstream gender concerns in agricultural statistical data collection programmes and activities. This has been done in only some countries. Also planners and other stakeholders have been sensitized on the need to increase the availability and use of gender disaggregated agricultural statistical information in gender relevant planning of agricultural development programmes.

FAO has also been able to publish and distribute to countries, technical and operational manuals as well as guidelines on data collection and handling.

FAO Regional action programme

Against the data requirements for PRSP's, Food Security Programmes and other priority rural development policies and programs, technical diagnostic of agricultural and rural statistics systems reveals that for a variety of reasons, the gap between

data availability and demand is actually widening in most African Countries with a declining capacity of institutions producing these statistics.

A Regional action programme is being launched by FAO aiming at reversing the declining trend of rural and agricultural statistics systems in Africa and strengthening these systems sustainably, taking into account the lessons from past experiences and the new opportunities provided by the PRSP, Food Security and other rural development policy focus.

The programme will provide to the countries the support they need to: (a) make best use of existing information; (b) formulate a medium term framework/program, for the development of food and agricultural statistics system, driven by national priority needs, well integrated in the national statistics system; (c) strengthen technical capacity of staff; (d) promote exchange and sharing of successful country experiences and practices; (e) provide support to research in specific and priority areas.

The programme will provide support in technical assistance, capacity building activities including regional and national workshops and training sessions, a credit line to support country action, networking of experts in Africa and outside Africa and the use of internet technology to disseminate and share information; a fund for applied research and dissemination of results; regular meetings within and between sub-regions, to share experience and to guide the development of the programme.

8. European Union initiatives

The EU initiatives in the area of statistical training have been substantive. Their implementation is mainly done through some agencies like the CESD, the In-Went Munich Centre and Eurostat.

CESD

Since 1962, CESD, in collaboration with ENSEA of Abidjan, has trained many statisticians from developing countries particularly from the Africa region.

After the transfer of the training in Africa (ITS Programme in 1976 at Kigali and ISE Programme in 1987 at Abidjan), CESD has continued to assist three african schools which provide the training for "Ingénieurs Travaux Statistiques (ITS)" ; ISSEA in Yaounde, DSD-ENEA in Dakar and ENSEA in Abidjan. ENSEA also provides training for "Ingénieurs Statisticiens Economistes" (ISE).

These three statistical training centers are linked by cooperation agreements based essentially on a join admission test, periodic review of their programmes in order to

provide similar and high quality training. Exchange of documentations as well as scientific meetings in order to share experiences, are included in the cooperation framework, which is mostly coordinated by CESD-Paris. The directors of these three schools meet annually in the Conference of the Directors of African Statistical (CODESA in french) in which ECA is regularly invited. This conference remains the instance where are taken various recommendations for the improvement of the programmes, the quality of the training and the enhancement of the partnership. The CESD assists in the organization of the joint admission tests, the coordination of meetings and contributes to activities related to pedagogical support. The francophone and lusophone African countries are the main beneficiaries of the interventions of the two CESD branches (CESD-Paris and CESD-Lisbon).

InWent–Centre de Munich

The Munich Centre is a center of continuing education for the professional statisticians. Through its seminars and courses, the Center put the emphasis on national accounts, balance of payments, social statistics, and recently on the indicators of good governance. It is now part of a larger organization named International Capacity Building, Germany (InWent is the acronym in German). InWent aims to contributing in the development of human resources through retraining and knowledge exchange.

In fact, during the training courses, the emphasize is not only placed on statistical data production techniques, but also on the policy analysis, the socioeconomic concepts particularly on sustainable development, structural adjustment or poverty reduction efforts, which require quantitative information. The objective of the training activities is to produce such information, which are can serve as tools for decision making in African countries and encourage the dialogue between representatives of the government, the civil society, the private sector and the international development organizations.

EUROSTAT

EUROSTAT has also developed a strong collaboration with the Munich Centre and le CESD. EUROSTAT is often solicited for training in Economics and Statistics.