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**Quatrième réunion du Comité de l'information
Pour le développement (CODI IV)**

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Report on the Synthesis of Country Reports

Countries Reports Summary

1. Introduction:.....	1
2. Standard Format for Countries Reports	1
3. Countries and STCs compliances to CODI Recommendations.....	2
4. Summary of the Reports:	2
4.1 Organizational Structure of the NSOs and Legislation.....	2
4.2. Human Resources:	3
4.3. Regular Budget and External Funding.....	4
4.4. Major Statistical Activities in 2003 and 2004.....	5
4.4.1 Surveys and Censuses:.....	5
4.4.2 ICP-Programme	6
4.4.3 Implementation of the SNA 1993	6
4.4.4 Activities on MDG Indicators.....	6
4.5. Data Dissemination.....	6
5. Presentation on Good Practices	7
6. Conclusion	7

1. Introduction:

The purpose of this presentation is to report on one of the recommendations of the second meeting of CODI with respect to Countries reports and present the summary of the reports submitted to the Secretariat

To enable fruitful exchange of experience and best practices among countries, the second meeting of CODI called upon national statistical offices (NSOS) of member states to prepare and submit country reports to the ECA on the previous year by the end of June of each year.

The other recommendations relative to countries report were:

For countries and Statistical Training Centres

- (i) Countries should report on the other components of their national statistical systems;
- (ii) and disseminate the reports on their websites.
- (iii) Statistical Training Centres (STCs) were also called to report on their activities.

For the ECA

- (iv) to work out a standard format for reporting;
- (v) to supplement country reports with country profiles;
- (vi) to synthesize the reports and select countries that could make presentations on good practices;

2. Standard Format for Countries Reports

The ECA has prepared and sent to countries along with the invitation letters to CODI, a template that can be used to prepare country reports (cf. annex 1).

This template outlines the organisational structure, human and financial resources, statistical activities, major outputs and the dissemination methods. of the National Statistics Offices.

3. Countries and STCs compliances to CODI Recommendations

Seven countries have sent their reports as of 21st April 2005 to the Secretariat. The countries are Congo, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger Sierra Leone and Tunisia.

None of the STCs has reported on its activities.

This constitutes a slight decline compared to the 25 countries that have submitted their reports in the previous CODI meeting.

4. Summary of the Reports:

The following is a summary of the seven reports sent to the Secretariat so fare. The summary focuses on the organisation and legislation of the NSOs, their human and financial resources, and major statistical activities including national and international data needs for the African Development Agenda.

4.1 Organizational Structure of the NSOs and Legislation

The organizational chart of the NSOs are mostly structured following a subject matter pattern with departments in charge of demographic and social statistics, economic statistics...and few functional lines in charge of data processing and dissemination.

The Statistical offices of Tunisia and Mauritius have expressed the need to re-organize their offices to increase the efficiency of the data collection and dissemination.

In terms of legislation, the five last years have seen promulgations or updating of statistical laws aiming at empowering NSOs in their missions of collecting, compiling, classifying, producing, publishing, and disseminating countries' general-purpose statistics.

The latest of them are the statistical acts in Ethiopia (2005) and Niger (2004).

Table 1: Organizational Structure of the NSOs

Countries	Date creation	Statistical acts	Organization structure	Responsible to
Ethiopia		1970/1972/2005	Subject matter	Ministry of Finance and Development
Congo		Adoption of a new stat. act in progress	NA	Ministry of Plan, Economic integration, and the NEPAD
Mauritania		Adoption of a new stat. act in progress	NA	Ministry of Economics and Development
Mauritius	1945	1951/2000	Subject: matter	Ministry of Finance and Economic development
Niger		2004	NA	Ministry of Economic and Finance
Sierra Leone		2002		Autonomous body
Tunisia	1969	1999	Subject matter	Ministry of development and international cooperation

4.2. Human Resources:

The tables below provide the repartition of permanent Staff by categories (professional, sub-professional and supporting staff).

As a percentage of the total staff the share of professional is between 8 percent 46.5 percent. The ratio is one professional for 2 staff in the OECD countries (cf UN handbook of statistical organisation, third edition).

Staff qualifications include a mix of skills, statisticians, economists, demographers, computer engineers and mathematicians...

Table 2: Human resources by category

	Professional	Sub-professional	Supporting staff	Total
Ethiopia	127 (8.36%)	840 (55.30%)	49 (36.34%)	1519 (100%)
Congo	Na	Na	Na	Na
Mauritania	Na	Na	Na	Na
Mauritius	48 (22.54%)	43 (20.19%)	122 (57.28%)	213 (100%)
Niger	Na	Na	Na	Na
Sierra Leone	27 (34.18%)	27 (34.18%)	25 (31.64%)	79 (100%)
Tunisia	193 (46.51%)	173 (41.69%)	49 (11.81%)	415 (100%)

4.3. Regular Budget and External Funding

Two main funding channels have been reported: Funding through the Government and External Funding

Table 3: Estimated Regular budget for 2004 in millions of USD:

Countries	2004 Budget
Ethiopia	5.500
Congo	1.875
Mauritania	NA
Mauritius	2.200
Niger	NA
Sierra Leone	NA
Tunisia	4.453

The budget pressure remains an issue for the NSOs. To take the case of Congo, only 1.5 percent of the budget approved (USD 1.875 millions) by the government, was allocated to the Office.

External Funding

As reported by the majority of countries, external financial assistance is not a determining factor for the implementation of statistical work programmes. It is mainly directed towards capacity building activities.

For Sierra Leone, however, external financial assistance constitutes a major part of budget. The budget allocated by the government has dropped from 68% to 20% in 2004.

4.4. Major Statistical Activities in 2003 and 2004

4.4.1 Surveys and Censuses:

Surveys and Censuses constituted a huge component of the NSOs statistical activities during the biennium 2003-2004.

Twenty-six surveys and three censuses have been realised in various subjects.

Table 4: Censuses and surveys during the biennium 2003 and 2004

	2003	2004	Total
Surveys	10	16	26
Census	1	2	3

It is worth underlining the National Integrated Surveys Programme (NISP) in Ethiopia and the Continuous Multipurpose Household Survey (CMPHS) in Mauritius that allowed them to undertake surveys in diverse areas on a continuous basis.

In terms of huge operations, Sierra Leone has realised in 2004 a Population and Housing Census. Congo has been finalising the preparation of its Population and Housing Census in 2004. Ethiopia and Mauritius have both realised a Census of economic activities.

4.4.2 ICP-Programme

Two countries (Mauritania and Niger) have reported on preparatory works for the International Comparison Programme (ICP) with the African Development Bank.

4.4.3 Implementation of the SNA 1993

One country, Niger, has reported on its activities on the 1993 SNA implementation.

4.4.4 Activities on MDG Indicators

One country, Sierra Leone, has started the collection and validation of MDGs indicators.

The secretariat believes that the analysis of surveys and censuses data described above could help in the collection of MDGs indicators, and countries should report on their activities towards the collection and analysis of the MDGs indicators.

4.5. Data Dissemination

Data dissemination is a key characteristic of data quality. The principal medium of data dissemination remains printed copies.

Countries have reported their effort to take advantage of ICT development to boost the quality of their dissemination.

To this regard it is worth noting that Ethiopia and Congo have created new departments in charge of ICT.

Six of the seven countries have a website which is a critical medium to ensure the widest possible dissemination.

5. Presentation on Good Practices

To enable exchange of experience among countries, the Secretariat has selected:

- a theme on **statistical organization**
- and another in **continuous survey**.

Two countries have reported good experiences in the field of continuous surveys namely Ethiopia with its NISP and Mauritius with its CMPHS.

The secretariat would like Mauritius to share its experience in undertaking the CMPHS.

The issue regarding statistical organization is equally important. One of the major goals of PARIS 21 is that the NSOs produce a NSDS by the end of 2006.

Mauritania has undertaken the review of its master plan for statistics development and the secretariat would like Mauritania to share its experience on NSDS.

6. Conclusion

The secretariat would like to point out the following:

In the negative side

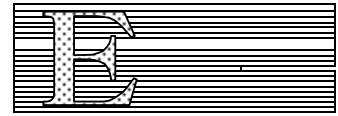
- the non compliance of members countries to submit their reports;
- the non compliance of members countries to disseminate their reports on the internet; and
- the non production of the reports by some NSOs to enable inter-countries comparison.

In the positive side, it is worth noting the trend to empower NSOs through proper legislations and the work undertaken by NSOs to respond to national and international data needs.

Annex 1:

Proposed Outline for Country Reports

1. Organizational structure of the NSO (including organizational chart).
2. The place of the NSO in the organizational structure of the country: Is the NSO within a governmental department (Ministry)? Is it dependent or independent from the government?
3. Human Resources of the NSO: the number of professional, sub-professional and support staff.
4. Amount of annual recurrent and capital budget of the NSO for each year. Is the budgetary allocation for NSO adequate, if not how is this problem surmounted?
5. Amount of External Financial/Technical Assistance received to support the NSO activities per year. Is the external financial/technical assistance a determining factor for the NSO's activities? What are the magnitude and the sources of the annual external financial/technical assistance of the NSO?
6. Statistical activities of the NSO during the year: Give a detailed classification of statistical activities and state which statistics are produced.
7. Data dissemination: What is the mode of making the statistical data available to the public? That is, through publishing the data (information) in the form of hard copy, announcing its existence through the mass media, press release, CD ROM, posting the data on a website, organizing dissemination seminars, ...etc.
8. What are the main users of statistical information: Ministries, Central Bank, Universities, and researchers....
9. Challenges faced by the NSO in the production, compilation and the dissemination of statistics.



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SUMMARY OF COUNTRIES REPORTS