



Forum on African Statistical Development

Third Meeting

FASDEV-III

**“Scaling Up Statistical development in Africa –
Donors’ Perspective”**

Addis Ababa, 23 January 2008

Aide-mémoire

I. Background

1. The Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV) is a United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) initiative co-sponsored with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), and the World Bank. Representatives of 12 international organizations, 4 donor institutions, and 17 regional and sub-regional agencies attended the FASDEV meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 2004; and endorsed the establishment of FASDEV with the following functions: (i) to have an overview of statistical activities in Africa, including assistance and training; (ii) to set up a permanent system for monitoring statistical development in Africa; and (iii) to strengthen modalities for cooperation with a view to leveraging on each partner's comparative advantage. **A major outcome of the meeting was the commitment by participants to draft a reference strategic framework for statistical capacity building in Africa.** The opening ceremony was chaired by the ECA Executive Secretary. A statement from the President of the AfDB Group was read, and a video from the Chairman of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) shown by representatives of these primary sponsors of FASDEV. The representative of the World Bank also made a welcoming address.
2. The second meeting of FASDEV was attended by the Executive Secretary of ECA, the commissioner for economic affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC), the chairman of OECD-DAC who is also the co-chair of Paris21, the director of the Development Data Group of the World Bank, and the director of the Planning and Budgeting Department of the AfDB. Representatives from 36 African countries, 3 Statistical and demographic training centres in Africa and the University of Minnesota; and 18 sub-regional, regional and international organizations also attended the meeting. This second meeting was very significant for statistical advocacy as it culminated in the adoption of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF).
3. The ECA, jointly with the African Development Bank, PARIS21 Consortium and World Bank, will organize the third meeting of FASDEV.

II. Objectives

4. The main objectives of FASDEV III include:
 - To share information about the various statistical programmes for African countries;
 - To consider further modalities for collaboration in order to create more synergy among statistical programmes;
 - To take stock of the resolutions taken in order to scale-up the investment in National Statistical Systems (NSSs); and
 - To explore new financing sources for statistical capacity building in Africa.

III. Expected Outcomes

5. The expected outcomes of the meeting include:

- More technical assistance and training possibilities in the area of statistics in Africa;
- Greater ownership of monitoring systems of statistical development and reporting mechanisms by the countries;
- And a broader spectrum on financial resources made available for statistical investment and to funding agencies for statistical activities in Africa.

IV. Venue and Date

6. The meeting is scheduled to take place at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 24 January 2007. It will be organized back-to-back with the first meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (STATCOM-Africa) to be held from 20 to 23 January 2007.

V. Draft agenda

7. The meeting format will be two half-day sessions on the following items:

- Session 1: Implementation of the RRSF
- Session 2: New donors' initiatives
- Session 3: Financing statistical development in Africa
 - Report on the Paris Meeting on "Scaling up Investment in National Statistical Systems"
 - South-South cooperation: Putting financial resources in the basket
 - South Africa's contribution: A best practice to be emulated
 - Other cases
 - Other financing sources to be explored
 - BADEA
 - Islamic Development Bank
 - Others

VI. Targeted audience

8. The target audience is all organizations working in the area of statistics in Africa.

VII. Secretariat and other services

9. As the secretariat of the forum, ECA will provide facilities and support for the meeting.

10. ECA will make travel and accommodation arrangements for all participants attending FASDEV III.