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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

STATISTICS DIVISION

Progress Report on

The Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA)

December 2012

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Introduction

After the adoption of the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics (SHaSA) in Africa as reference frameworks to guide the production of quality, comparable and timely statistical data in Africa, the three panafrican institutions namely AUC, UNECA and AfDB recognize the need to develop action plans for the effective implementation of these two initiatives.

In addition many activities have been carried out in the context of the implementation of Charter and SHaSA. This report reviews the major a progresses made by countries, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Panafrican Organizations; analyzes the gaps that need to be filled and presents the way forward on the implementation of the Charter and 5-year action plan for the implementation of SHaSA.

The main purpose of the document is to serve as advocacy document to sensitize decision makers and mobilize development partners on the importance of statistics in order to get their support for the effective implementation of the Charter and SHaSA.

The document emphasizes the importance of statistical leadership, the over-arching role of statistics in the state system covering the whole spectrum of political and legislative, judicial, citizenry, public finance and rights-based mandates and puts the notion of Statistics for Transparency, Accountability, Results and Transformation (START) at the centre of decision-making. This makes, statistics alive to systems of evidence and review of institutional arrangements to create enabling environments for implementation of the principles in order to produce statistics to respond to integration requirements.

Overall, this report shows that the African Statistics System has become responsive to the need for data on integration agenda by designing appropriate statistics initiatives on a number of integration areas. In addition, many Statistical Authorities have updated their statistical legislations; incorporated the SHaSA and Charter in their National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). There are, however, a number of integration areas for which no statistical initiatives have been designed yet and some Statistical Authorities are still lacking resources and leadership.

This report is organized as follows. Section 1 gives an overview of high-level assessment by member states, analyses gap and presents the way forward. Section 2 deals with the action plan of SHaSA, the progress made and analyses the gap on SHaSA. Chapter 3 concludes with a set of recommendations.

Chapter 1: African Charter on Statistics

Section 1.1   Overview on high level assessment by Member States

1.1.1   Status of Signing and Ratification

The African Charter of Statistics is an essential tool for statistical development in Africa. It was adopted during the second ordinary session of Heads of States of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, February 4, 2009. This charter is being signed and ratified by the Member States. But the fact remains that only 21 countries have signed the Charter and only three have ratified it. This Charter shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the deposit of instruments of ratification by fifteen (15) Member States. The charter is based on the following six principles:

   (i)   Professional independence

   (ii) Quality

   (iii) Mandate for data collection and resources

   (iv) Dissemination

   (v) Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents
   (vi) Coordination and Cooperation

Table 1**List of countries which have signed, ratified/acceded to the African Charter on Statistics**

NO	COUNTRY/PAYS	DATE OF SIGNATURE	DATE OF RATIFICATION	DATE DEPOSITED
01	Algeria			
02	Angola			
03	Benin	17/08/2009		
04	Botswana			
05	Burkina Faso[1]	06/07/2010		
06	Burundi			
07	Cameroon			
08	Central African Rep.			
09	Cape Verde			
10	Chad			
11	Côte d'Ivoire	11/06/2009		

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[1] Burkina Faso has already ratifiedthe charterbuthas not yet deposited the instruments of ratification or accession

NO	COUNTRY/PAYS	DATE OF SIGNATURE	DATE OF RATIFICATION	DATE DEPOSITED
12	Comoros	02/02/2010		
13	Congo	28/06/2009		
14	Djibouti			
15	Democratic Rep. of Congo	02/02/2010		
16	Egypt			
17	Equatorial Guinea			
18	Eritrea			
19	Ethiopia			
20	Gabon	29/01/2010		
21	Gambia	30/06/2009		
22	Ghana	28/06/2009		
23	Guinea-Bissau			
24	Guinea			
25	Kenya	25/01/2010		
26	Libya			
27	Lesotho			
28	Liberia			
29	Madagascar			
30	Mali	22/10/2010	06/04/2011	13/07/2011
31	Malawi	05/08/2010		
32	Mozambique	17/06/2009		
33	Mauritania			
34	Mauritius	21/01/2010	27/01/2010	09/02/2010
35	Namibia			
36	Nigeria			
37	Niger	12/05/2009		
38	Rwanda	15/05/2009		
39	South Africa			

NO	COUNTRY/PAYS	DATE OF SIGNATURE	DATE OF RATIFICATION	DATE DEPOSITED
40	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic			
41	Senegal	24/02/2010		
42	Seychelles			
43	Sierra Leone	18/06/2009		
44	Somalia			
45	Sao Tome & Principe	01/02/2010		
46	Sudan			
47	Sudan, South			
48	Swaziland			
49	Tanzania			
50	Togo	12/05/2009		
51	Tunisia			
52	Uganda			
53	Zambia	31/01/2010		
54	Zimbabwe			

1.1.2   Self-Assessment Results

Two years after its adoption, the African Union Commission undertook an evaluation of the implementation of the principles of the Charter at the country level to see the implementation of the various principles of the charter at national level. For this purpose, the AUC sent a questionnaire to national statistical offices. Of the 54 African countries, only 25 countries responded 46.30% response rate. These are the results of the self-assessment by principles and sub-principles.

In general, the result shows that all the principles of the Charter are implemented in some degrees. However, the degree of implementation varies from principle to principle. Except for the sixth principle ''coordination and cooperation" the degree of implementation is 80 percent and above (Figure 7).

Figure 1: **Analysis of the six principles of the African charter on statistics**
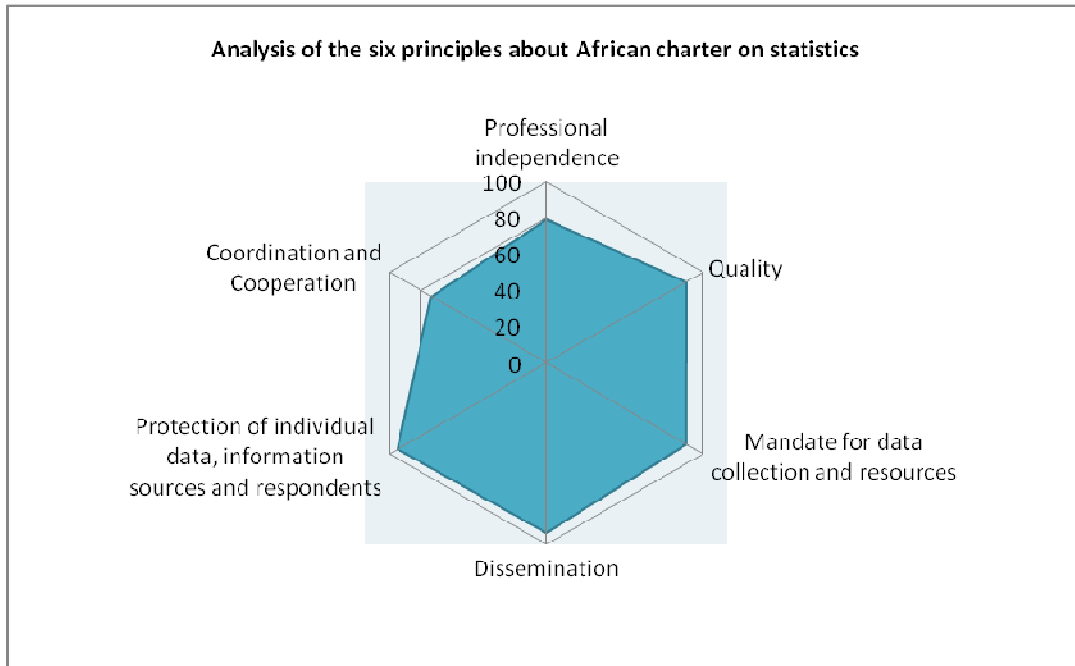
Principle 1: Professional Independence

Figure 2: Status ofimplementationof the principleof ''professional independence''
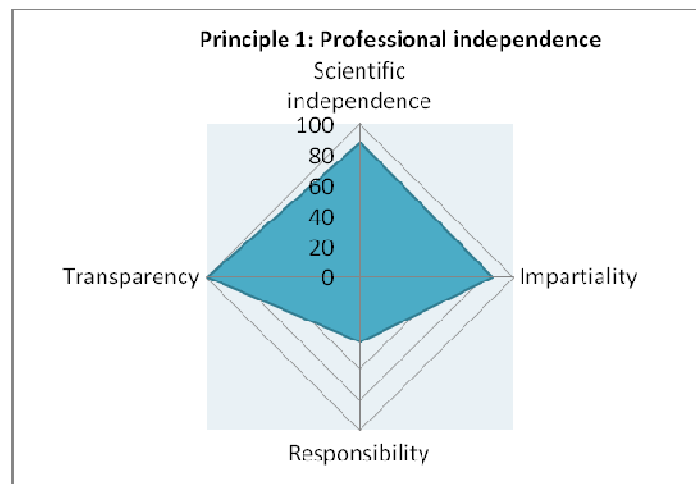
As can be seen from figure 1 three of the four sub-principles are implemented at national level. These are scientific independence, transparency and impartiality all having above 80 percent implementation rate. The implementation rate on responsibility is very low at national level.

Principle 2: Quality

Figure 3: Status of implementation of the principle ''quality''

All the sub principles under the principle ''quality'' are well implemented at national level with the exception of two sub principles ''relevance'' and ''timeliness'' (Figure2).

Principle 2: Quality
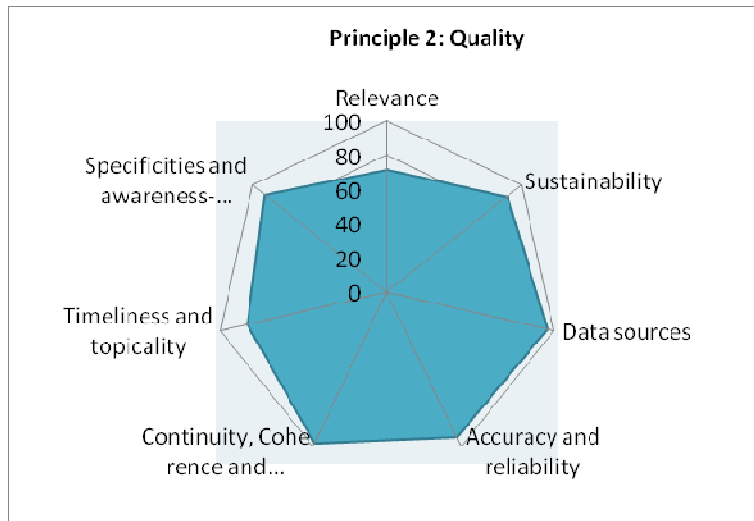
Principle 3: Mandate for data collection and resources

Figure 4: Status of implementation of the principle ''**Mandate for** data collection and resources''

Principle 3: Mandate for data collection and resources
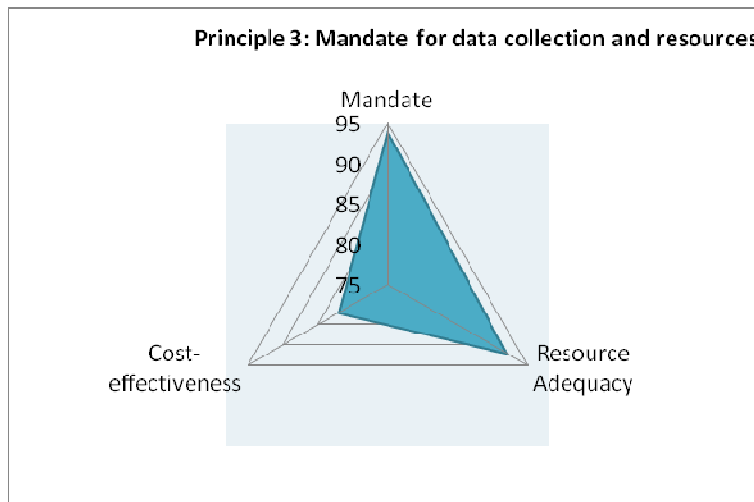
The two sub principles ''Mandate'' and ''Adequacy resources'' are implemented well at national level. However, the degree implementation of the sub principles ''cost effectiveness'' is very low below 50 percent (Figure 3)

Principle 4: Dissemination

Figure 5: Status of implementation of the principle '' **Dissemination**''

Principle 4: Dissemination
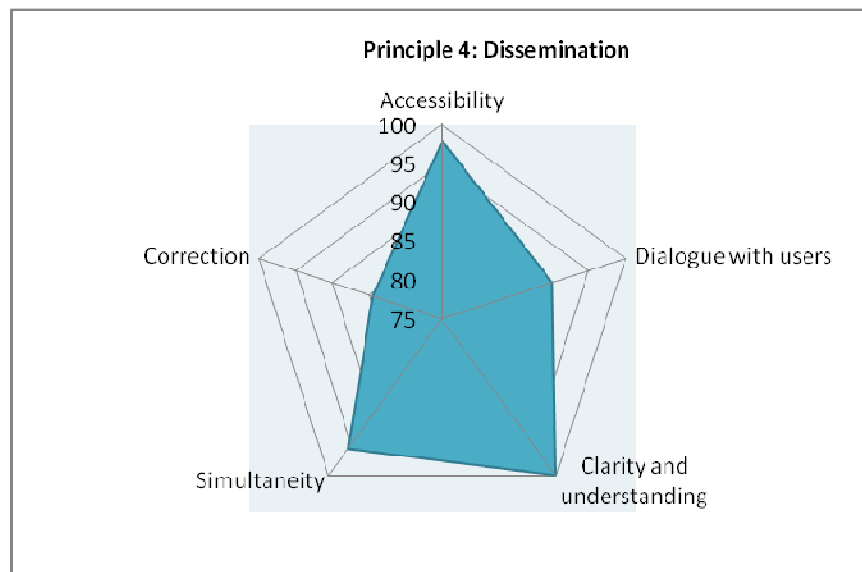
Figure 4 shows that onlytwosubprinciples "accessibility" and "clarity" and understanding are verywell implementedat national level. Subprinciples "simultaneity" and "dialogue with users" are also implemented at medium level. However, the sub principle"correction" is poorlyimplementedat national level

Principle 5: Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents

Figure 6: Status ofimplementationof the principle " **Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents** "

Principle 5: Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents
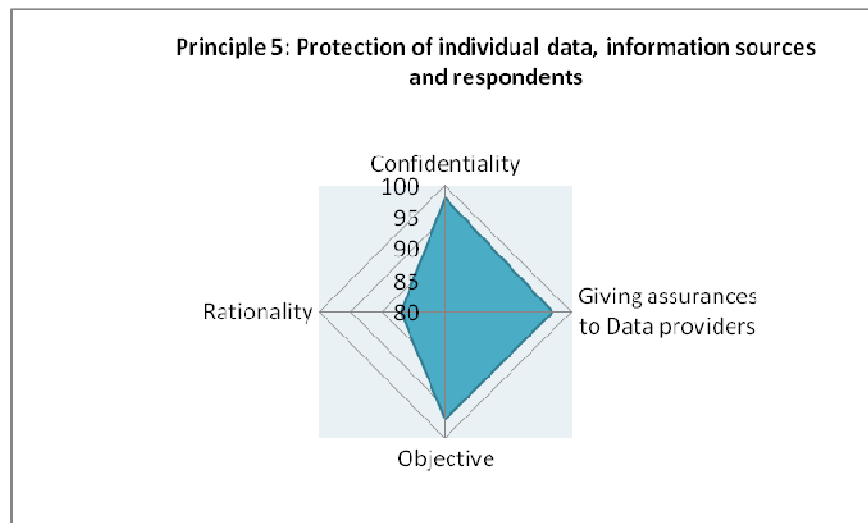
The three sub principles"Confidentiality ","Giving assurances to data providers "and" Objective "are very wellimplementedat the national level. However "rationality"is not implementedat the national level at all. (Figure5).

Principle 6.**Coordination and Cooperation**

The two sub principles on "coordination" and "co-operation" are implemented at national level.

	Principle 6: Coordination and Cooperation	Degree (%)
6.1.	Coordination	98
6.2.	Co-operation	49

Section 1.2 Gap analysis on the implementation of principles of the Charter

The African union Commission with the support of a consultant and Statistics South Africa has developed guidelines and a plan for the implementation of the Charter's principles. The guideline was reviewed by Directors-Generals of National Statistics Offices from selected countries at the meeting held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from December 5-9, 2011.

The Commission in collaboration with a consultant has conducted a study to identify to what extent the principles of the charter are implemented by member states. The preliminary results of the study revealed that except for principle six the countries that responded to the self-assessment questionnaire are implementing the principles of the charter well. However, when it comes to implementing the sub principles there are still some gaps.

The preliminary results of the study revealed that on Principle One,Professional Independence, three of the four sub-principles are implemented at national level. These are scientific independence, transparency and impartiality all having above 80 percent implementation rate. However, the implementation rate on responsibility is very low. Analysis of on principle two "Quality" shows that the two sub principles relevance and timeliness are not implemented well. On the third principle "Mandate for data collection and resources" the degree of implementation of cost effectiveness is very low (below 50 percent). Analysis of principle four "Dissemination" revealed that three of the sub principles namely correction, dialogue with users, and simultaneity are lagging behind. On the fifth principle "Protection of individual data, information sources and respondents" shows that one of the sub principles "Rationality" is not implemented at all by member states. Implementation of principle six "Coordination and Cooperation" is in general good at all member states that responded to the questionnaire

The AUC is also conducting advocacy missions to present the African Charter on Statistics to African ministries that are responsible for signing and ratification of the charter. However, the African Charter on Statistics was signed by 21 Member States and ratified by only 3 African countries. It will enter into force after 15 Member States have signed and ratified it, and have deposited the instruments of ratification at the Commission. Therefore a lot of work has to be done on advocating the charter and creating awareness on the importance of the charter among member states.

As per commendation of fifth Committee of Directors-General held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in December 2010, which urged the AUC to implement the Peer Review Mechanism and ensure continental coverage within five years; the Commission conducted a peer review of National Statistics System of Senegal from 24 to 28 October 2011. PARIS21 has conducted eight peer reviews before handovers the process to AUC in 2011. The AUC is planning to develop a programme to cover all African countries within the coming five years.

Section 1.3   Implementation Plan for the African Charter on Statistics

1.3.1   Sign and ratify the African Charter on Statistics
Action plan:

- Countries take necessary steps to sign and ratify the Charter by March 2012;

- Regional Committees (RECs) promote, advocate and follow-up signing and ratification of Charter; and

- Pan African Organisations (PAOs) advocate and follow-up signing and ratification of Charter.

1.3.2   Adopt standards and guidelines of the Charter
Action plan:

- Directors-General/Heads of National Statistics Offices adopt standards and guidelines by January 2012;

- RECs align regional statistics strategy to implement Charter; and

- PAO promote and follow-up adoption of standards and guidelines of Charter.

1.3.3   Develop a management framework for the implementation of the Charter
Action plan:

- PAO finaliseself assessment questionnaire and training manual by March 2012;

- PAO develop an action plan for implementation consisting of the following:
  - Develop an advocacy and awareness programme
  - Conduct environmental assessment to define the current situation and the gap that exist to meet the Principles of the Charter
  - Conduct study to identify best practice for benchmarking
  - Develop a training plan.

- PAO develop a monitoring and evaluation framework
  - Develop peer review mechanism (assessment by pairs)
  - Develop best practice benchmarking tool
- PAO and RECs advocate the adoption of the management framework;

- RECs incorporate management framework into regional strategy; and

- Countries adopt management framework and commit to implement the Charter

1.3.4   Implement the Charter
Action plan:

- AUC train statistical leadership

- POAs facilitate technical support and mobilize funding

- RECs facilitate technical support and mobilize funding

- Countries conduct self assessment (identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and strengths within the national statistical system) and identify areas of improvement

- Countries incorporate Principles of the Charter into Statistics Law and NSDS

- Countries create awareness for implementation of the Charter

- Countries submit annual report on implementation of Charter

1.3.5 Monitor, report and evaluate the Implementation of the Charter

Action plan:

- Conduct independent assessments (peer review)

- Countries submit annual report on implementation of Charter

- PAO compile Yearly report

- African Group on Statistical Harmonization consider Yearly report

- Committee of DGs approve Yearly report

- Yearly report submitted to Ministers Committee for consideration

Chapter 2: Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA)

Section 2.1   Progress report on the implementation of SHaSA

Since the adoption of SHaSA, there are different strategies that have been put in place to foster statistical development. A five-year action plan has also been developed for 2011-2015. The plan provides details on the expected outputs, activities, time frame and responsibilities. The following section discusses the progress made at national, regional and continental levels.

2.1.1   At National Level: National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)

There is an international consensus about the need for a holistic and strategic approach for improving national statistical systems and building statistical capacity to provide the information needed for poverty-focused development programmes. The NSDS is essentially a second-generation statistical plan that provides a comprehensive framework for statistical development at national level. It provides, among other things:

- statistical advocacy to create greater awareness about the role of statistics, enhance demand for and use of statistics especially for results agenda;
- Building and/or strengthening partnershipsfor statistical development among producers and users of statistics as well as with donors ;
- a vision of where the National Statistical System should be in the medium term and long term;
- a "road map" and "milestones" for getting there and a base from which progress can be measured and establishes a mechanism for informed change when needed; continual assessment of ever-changing user needs for statistics and for building capacity to meet emerging needs in a more coordinated, synergic and efficient manner;
- a framework to support production and use of better statistics now, and to accelerate sustainable statistical capacity building for the future;
- good communication, feedback and learning that are essential for organizational growth and performance enhancement;
- mobilizing, harnessing and leveraging resources (both national and international); galvanizing individual energies into total effort; the creation of quality awareness and enhancement of national statistics;
- forward thinking and organizational learning; and
- Introduction of modern and proven strategic planning and management principles and good practices in the handling of official statistics.

At least half of the African countries are implementing the NSDS or its equivalent and other countries are at different stages of designing or updating one. The following table presents the status of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) as of November 2011.

Table 1. Summary table of NSDS status in Africa

	Countries currently implementing a strategy		Countries currently designing a strategy or awaiting adoption		Countries with strategy expired or without strategy and currently planning an NSDS		Countries without a strategy or strategy expired and not planning one		TOTAL
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
AFRICA	22	55.0%	15	37.5%	2	5.0%	1	2.5%	40

Source: http://www.paris21.org

Table 2. Detailed Status of NSDS per African Countries

COUNTRY	Status	Name	Time Span	Status	Time Span	PRSP or National Development Plan Time span
Algeria	Implementation	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2007-12	Not yet planned		2009-15
Angola	Strategy expired	Plano EstatisticoNacional de MedioPrazo	2002-06	Planned		2003-08
Benin	Implementation	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2007-12	Not yet planned		2007-09
Botswana	Strategy expired	CSO Strategic Plan	2003/4-04/05	Planned		2009-15
Burkina Faso	Implementation	Schéma directeur de la statistique	2010-15	Not yet planned		2011-15
Burundi	Implementation	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2010-14	Not yet planned		2008-11
Cameroun	Completed, awaiting adoption	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2009-13	Not yet planned		2010-20

COUNTRY	Status	Name	Time Span	Status	Time Span	PRSP or National Development Plan Time span
Cap Verde	Implementation	Plano Estatistico	2008-12	Not yet planned		2008-11
CAR	No Strategy			Being designed	2012-15	2011-15
Chad	Strategy expired	PPAST-Programme d'Activités statistiques à moyen-Terme	2002-2007	Being designed		2006-2010
Comoros	Implementation	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2010-14	Not yet planned		2008-12
RDC	No Strategy			Being designed	2011-16	2006-08
Congo	Strategy expired	Programme pluriannuel de développement de la statistique	2005-09	Being designed		2008-10
Cote d'Ivoire	Completed, awaiting adoption	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2009-13	Not yet planned		2009-10
Djibouti	Completed, awaiting adoption	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2008-13	Not yet planned		2006-10
Egypt	No Strategy			Planned		2007-12
Equatorial Guinea	Strategy expired	Stratégie de Développement de la Statistique	2003-08	Planned		No PRSP
Eritrea	Completed, awaiting adoption	Master Plan for Development Economics Statistics	2010-14	Planned		No PRSP

COUNTRY	Status	Name	Time Span	Status	Time Span	PRSP or National Development Plan Time span
Ethiopia	Implementation	The Ethiopian National Strategy for the Development of Statistics	2009/10 - 2013/14	Not yet planned		2006-10
Gabon	Implementation	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2011-15	Not yet planned		2006-10
Gambia, The	Implementation	Master Plan for the Statistics System of the Gambia	2008-11	Being designed	2012-15	2007-11
Ghana	Completed, awaiting adoption	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics	2009-13	Not yet planned		2006-09
Guinea	Implementation	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2009-13	Not yet planned		2007-12
Guinea-Bissau	No Strategy			Being designed		2006-08
Kenya	Implementation	Strategic Plan for the National Statistical System	2009-13	Not yet planned		2008-12
Lesotho	Implementation	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics	2008/09 - 2012/13	Not yet planned		2009/10-2010/11
Liberia	Implementation	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics	2009-13	Not yet planned		2007-11
Libya	No Strategy			Being designed		No PRSP

COUNTRY	Status	Name	Time Span	Status	Time Span	PRSP or National Developme nt Plan Time span
Madagascar	Completed, awaiting adoption	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2007-12	Not yet planned		2007-12
Malawi	Implementation	NSS Strategic Plan	2008-12	Planned	2013 -17	2006-11
Mali	Implementation	Schéma Directeur de la Statistique	2008-12	Planned	2012 -17	2007-11
Mauritania	Implementation	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2007-14	Not yet planned		2006-10
Mauritius*	Strategy expired	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics	2007-10	Not yet planned		No PRSP
Morocco	Implementation	Plan d'Action à Long-Terme de la Direction de la Statistique	2002-12	Being designe d		2007-15
Mozambiqu e	Implementation	Plan Estrategico do SistemaEstatisticoNaci onal	2008-12	Planned	2013 -17	2006-09
Namibia	Strategy expired	Namibia Third National Statistical Plan	2005-09	Planned		2007/8-11/12
Niger	Implementation	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2008-12	Not yet planned		2008-12
Nigeria	Implementation	Statistical Master Plan for the Nigeria National Statistics System	2007//-2011/12	Not yet planned		2003-07
Rwanda	Implementation	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics	2009-14	Not yet planned		2008-12

COUNTRY	Status	Name	Time Span	Status	Time Span	PRSP or National Development Plan Time span
Sao Tome and Principe	No Strategy			Being designed	2009-18	2003-15
Senegal	Implementation	Schéma Directeur de la Statistique	2008-13	Not yet planned		2006-10
Seychelles	Completed, awaiting adoption			Not yet planned		2000-10
Sierra Leone	Implementation	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics	2008-12	Not yet planned		2005-07
Somalia	No Strategy			Not yet planned		No PRSP
South Africa	Implementation	Statistics South Africa Strategic Plan	2010/11-2014-15	Planned		No PRSP
Sudan	Strategy expired	Central Bureau of Statistics Strategic Plan	2003-08	Planned		I-PRSP 2003/4
Swaziland	Strategy expired	Strategic Plan	2004/5-08/09	Being designed	2001-16	2005-15
Tanzania	Implementation	Tanzania Statistical Master Plan	209/10-2013/14	Planned		2010/11-2014/15
Togo	Completed, awaiting adoption	Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique	2009-13	Not yet planned		2009-11
Tunisia*	Implementation	Le Programme National de la Statistique	2007-11	Planned		2007-11

COUNTRY	Status	Name	Time Span	Status	Time Span	PRSP or National Development Plan Time span
Uganda	Implementation	Plan for National Statistical Development	2007-11	Not yet planned		2008-08
Zambia	Completed, awaiting adoption	Zambia NSDS	2009-13	Not yet planned		2006-10
Zimbabwe	Completed, awaiting adoption	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics	2011-15	Not yet planned		2009-13

Source: http://www.paris21.org

Legend

For existing NSDS

Category	Definition
No Strategy	There is no strategy in place
Completed, awaiting adoption	An NSDS document has been completed but has not yet been adopted by the Government
Implementation	An NSDS document has been adopted by the Government and is being implemented
Expired	The existing strategy has expired

For next NSDS

Category	Definition
Not yet planned	The process to design a NSDS has not yet started
Planned	The process to design a NSDS has been initiated (e.g. roadmap) and funding s being sought
Being designed	An NSDS is being designed with funding secured
Expired	A NSDS document has been completed. Once approved, it will replace the existing NSDS

2.1.2   At Regional level: Statistical programmes of RECs

Different RECs have developed medium-to-long term statistical programmes to support regional integration by making available relevant, timely and accurate statistical information to be used in the region for planning, policy formulation, protocol monitoring and decision-making. The programmes generally focus on the availability of harmonized, comparable, reliable and up-to-date core statistics in the economic and social areas in particular economic, social statistics and cross cutting issues.

Section 2.2   Mapping and aligning projects to SHaSA

At National level, some countries have not yet designed their National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (Table 1). Countries have not yet aligned their NSDS to the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA).

At Regional level, all RECs have not yet designed a medium-to-long term statistical programmes to support regional integration. Their different programmes should be aligned to the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA).

At continental level, there are many existing statistical initiatives to support different integration areas. Several of them have not used a template to show how each initiative will contribute to the realization of SHaSA strategic objectives under the four SHaSA strategic themes. The following table presents the three dimensions of integration (column 1), the integration area (column 2) and the statistical area (column 3). This mapping exercise aligns existing statistical initiatives to the statistical areas (column 4) and gives in column 5 the lead agencies for each initiative.

Table 1: Statistical areas for the integration process

Dimensions	Integration area	Statistical area	Statistical initiative	Lead agency
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Political integration and regional governance	Political governance and collective security	Peace and security		AUC
		Governance		AUC
Economic integration	Trade	Wholesale & retail trade, motor trade, hotels and restaurants		UNECA
		Balance of payments	Strategy for the harmonization of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) and Balance of Payment	AUC
		Foreign trade		
		Prices	Implementation Plan for the International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa)	AfDB
	Monetary and finance integration	Currency and finance	African Monetary Cooperation Programme	AACB/AUC
		Public finance		
		National accounts	African Strategy for the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts	UNECA
		Banking and insurance		AACB/AUC
		Financial intermediation, insurance, real estate and business services		AACB/AUC
	Economic cooperation and partnerships	Investments		AfDB
	Transport	Transport infrastructures	Infrastructure Statistics	AfDB
	Industry	Manufacturing		

Dimensions	Integration area	Statistical area	Statistical initiative	Lead agency
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
		Construction		
	Labour	Labour statistics	Labour Market Information System Coordination and Harmonization Framework Project	AUC
		Informal sector		AFRISTAT
	Energy	Energy infrastructures	Infrastructure statistics	AfDB
	Communication	Communication infrastructures		
	Agriculture and Environment	Agriculture	Global strategy for improving agriculture statistics – Implementation plan for Africa	AfDB
		Natural resources		
		Mining and quarrying		
		Environmental management		
		Climate change		
Social and cultural integration	Education	Education and literacy	Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education	AUC,
			Millennium Development Goals	UNECA
			The Statistical Training Programme for Africa (AGROST)	UNECA
		Science and technology		
	Health	Health	• Civil Registration and Vital Statistics • Millennium Development Goals	AUC, UNECA, AfDB
	Regional and	Demography	• Civil Registration and	UNECA, AfDB

Dimensions	Integration area	Statistical area	Statistical initiative	Lead agency
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	continental citizenship	Migration	Vital Statistics • 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census	
	Art, culture, sports and leisure	Tourism		
	Women and youths	Gender	• Plan of Action on Gender Statistics in Africa • Millennium Development Goals	UNECA, AfDB, AUC
		Social protection		
	Human development	Human development	Millennium Development Goals	AUC, UNECA, AfDB
		Poverty		AUC, UNECA, AfDB

It can be seen from the table that the African Statistics System has become responsive to the needs for data on integration agenda by designing appropriate statistical initiatives on a number of integration areas. However, there are a number of integration areas for which no statistical initiatives have been designed yet.

Section 2.3   Progress report by Specialised Technical Groups

Since the adoption of SHaSA, Specialized Technical Groups (STGs) have been established for each identified statistical area, under the coordination and responsibility of a lead organization. These groups, comprising 20-25 members, will be made up of statistics specialists and practitioners from member states, RECs, and representatives of specialized, regional and international agencies. Membership will be on voluntary basis and STGs will hold meetings at least twice a year. Twelve STGs will be formed around the various identified statistical areas (see Table below). As far as possible, STGs should coordinate/ synchronize their activities with similar groups established by StatCom-Africa.

Leading Countries (LCs) must be designated based on their capability to champion STGs for an effective implementation of the Strategy.

2.3.1   Specialized Technical Groups

No.	Specialized Technical Group	Leader	Leading Country (to be determined)	Composition (Other members)
1	STG-GPS: Governance, Peace & Security	AUC		ECA, AfDB, ACBF, RECs, Member States (MS)
2	STG-ES: External Sector (External Trade & Balance of Payments)	AUC		ECA, AfDB, ACBF, RECs, AFRISTAT, AFRITAC, MS
3	STG-MF: Money & Finance	AACB		AUC, ECA, AfDB, ACBF, RECs, AFRITAC, MS
4	STG-NA&P (AGNA): National Accounts & Price Statistics	ECA		AUC, AfDB, ACBF, RECs, AFRISTAT, MS
5	STG-II&T: Infrastructure, Industries & Tourism	AfDB		AUC, ECA, ACBF, RECs, MS
6	STG-PFPS&I: Public Finance, Private Sector & Investments	AfDB		AUC, ECA, ACBF, RECs, AFRISTAT, AFRITAC, MS
7	STG-STE: Science, Technology & Education	AUC		AUC, ECA, ACBF, RECs, MS
8	STG-So: Demography, Migrations, Health, Human Development, Social Protection & Gender	ECA		AUC, AfDB, ACBF, RECs, AFRISTAT, MS
9	STG-Env: Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources	AfDB		AUC, ECA, ACBF, RECs, FAO, MS
10	STG-CB (AGROST): Statistical Training	ECA		AUC, EAC, RECs, MS
11	STG - Informal Sector	AFRISTAT		AUC, AfDB, ECA, RECs, MS
12	STG – Classification	ECA		AUC, AfDB, AFRISTAT, RECs, MS
13	STG - Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	ECA		AUC, AfDB, AFRISTAT, RECs, MS
14	AGSHa – African Group on Statistical Harmonisation (overall coordination and integration)	AUC	South Africa	AUC, AfDB, ECA, RECs, MS

Below is a progress report by each of the Specialised Technical Groups:

2.3.2   Governance, Peace & Security

There is growing consensus in Africa that better governance is a key element in promoting growth and development and enabling African countries to achieve their development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Therefore, ECA strongly committed itself to advocate for improved governance in Africa as well as a popularization of the concept and its dimensions through a report on governance in Africa which shed light on the progress made towards this goal.

So far, ECA publication entitled African Governance Report (AGR) was published twice in 2005 (AGR I) and in 2009 (AGR II). The AGR I was actually the findings of study with a 85 indicators clustered according to the following themes: political governance; economic governance and public financial management; private sector development and corporate governance; effectiveness and accountability of the executive; human rights and rule of law; corruption; and institutional capacity building.

The statistical work underlining this study was undertaken by the ECA division in charge of governance but involved national research institutions, representatives of government, civil society, private sector, international partners during the launching of national workshops in 26 participating countries. But, the household surveys were conducted by the research collaborators in close collaboration with the national statistical offices (NSOs).

Even though the issue of governance was broadly discussed during the third Meeting of the Committee on Development Information (CODI-III) Sub-Committee on Statistics, the Pan-African Organizations (PAOs) did not follow up on this issue. Nevertheless, one of the key recommendations of CODI-III on this issue was that PAOs and their Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) should conduct peer reviews on statistics in all African countries. Then, the handing over on this endeavor by PARIS21 to AUC is a good start top bring again on board the governance.

The Specialized technical Group on Peace, Security and Governance should take the lead in revisiting the important issue of governance.

2.3.3 *Labour Market Information System Coordination and Harmonization*

The 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation places special emphasis on the information systems of the labour market, and includes job creation and poverty alleviation initiatives as indicators in the African Peer Review Mechanism. The Regional Integrated Employment Policy Frameworks unanimously recognize the shortcomings of the Labour Information Systems (LMIS) in African countries and the resulting problems of planning, monitoring and evaluation of employment policies for all the labour market's stakeholders.

For the purpose of formulation and implementation of employment promotion policies and programmes in a sustainable manner, and the monitoring and evaluating of their performance, it is imperative to have an effective and harmonized labour market information system. It is in this connection that the project was formulated by the African Union Commission.

The goal of the project is to improve the labour and employment policy setting, monitoring and evaluation processes in Africa. Its objectives are structured around the following:
- defining a set of key labour/employment indicators that are relevant to the follow-up of the Ouagadougou 2004 Plan of Action;
- facilitating the harmonization, coordination and coherence of the labour and employment data collection, treatment, analysis and dissemination at all levels;
- ensuring a regular production of labour harmonized and coordinated labour statistics as defined on the above item (i);
- promoting awareness of, and accessibility to reliable, affordable and accurate labour/employment data to all the stakeholders; and
- enhancing technical and institutional capacity of Member States LMIS.

The project provides for significant efforts and investments in developing LMIS at national level as the first step of the harmonization process. It also provides for regional LMIS initiatives and spells out the role of AUC and development partners.

The AUC organized a capacity building and planning workshop on the *"Harmonization and Coordination of the Labour Market Information Systems in Africa",* in Addis Ababa, from 14-15 December 2010. Following this workshop and other consultative works with the stakeholders, the AUC elaborated a *"Labour Market Harmonization and Coordination Framework" Project*. The UNDP West Africa Regional Centre supported the AUC in developing a Minimum List of Labour, Employment and TVET Indicators, and preparing a Plan of Action for the realization of a harmonized Labour Force Survey.

The steering committee met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 7-8 September, 2011 to review the documents and made some amendments. After the steering committee, the African Union Commission held a seminar in Dakar from 24 to 26 November 2011. The minimum list of indicators and action plan was presented to the panel composed of officials of Labor Statistics and responsible observatory. The action plan and the minimum list of indicators will be presented at the StatCom meeting in January 2012.

2.3.4   External Sector (External Trade & Balance of Payments)
The main objective of this working group is to harmonize the production of foreign trade and Balance of Payment statistics in Africa. It also encourages countries to use International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) as a single methodology for the elaboration of trade statistics in Africa, EUROTRACE for the treatment of foreign trade data and ASYCUDA for recording customs declarations. For the Balance of Payment, countries will be assisted in implementation of the IMF manual. Since the creation of the working group, several activities have been conducted.

This first meeting of the STG finalised the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the STG and focused on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS). It discussed obstacles to the development and harmonisation of IMTS, and proposed appropriate recommendations to address them. Specifically, it:

• Provided a forum of exchange for statisticians at National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Central Banks (CBs);

• Discussed international concepts, definitions and practices (both international and national) in the area of IMTS compilation; and

• Finalised the ToRs of the technical group.

A second meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the Compendium of Intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics from 5 to 7 October 2011. The Compendium of Intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics was first published by the Statistics Division of ECA in 1997. It was a recurrent publication produced on biennial basis. The Compendium was produced until 2005 and discontinued. The African Centre for Statistics started producing the publication from 2011. The AUC is also preparing a publication on intrafrican Trade to be discussed during the January 2012 Summit.

The Regional Seminar on International Merchandise Trade Statistics: 14 to 18 November 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was organized by the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) and the Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in collaboration with AUC and AfDB. The main purpose of the Regional Seminar was to strengthen the capacity of African countries on the latest concepts and definitions of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS). The Seminar discussed international concepts, definitions and practices on IMTS, and gauged their applicability to African specificities; updated the participants on the recently developed recommendations for Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS2012); introduced to the participants the software packages of EUROTRACE and ASYCUDA that are used in international trade data collection and compilation; shared country experiences.

As a pillar of SHaSA, this group is expecting to develop a detailed action plan for the development and harmonisation of IMTS and balance of payment by 2012.

2.3.5 National Accounts and Price Statistics

2.3.5.1 African Strategy for the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts

The essential phenomena comprising of a country's economic behaviour (production, consumption, accumulation and associated concepts of income and wealth) are identified and measured in the general framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA)[2]. Thus SNA facilitates the assessment of the economic status of a country and its changes over time; national accounts statistics are also important for pinpointing deficiencies in performance and planning for development in countries.

The 2008 System of National Accounts was adopted at the United Nations Statistics Commission in 2009. However, some African countries have not succeeded in implementing fully its predecessor (the 1993 SNA). This situation reminds us of the adoption of the 1993 SNA at a time when some African countries had not even implemented the 1968 SNA. A more recent assessment characterized the status of National Accounts in African countries as followed: limited human, financial, and technical resources; weak capacity and statistical infrastructure; unharmonious National Accounts Systems in the Continent; inconsistency and incompleteness in the coverage of the economy; early stages in the development of National Accounts. The African Group on National Accounts (AGNA) was established by StatCom-Africa to find the ways and means of overcoming such gaps.

AGNA designed a strategy to establish National Accounts tools for African region in line with international standards and practices as was done in Europe. The strategy aims to equip the continent with the capacity to develop national accounts in accordance with international standards, taking specific realities into account, as the development levels of the different African countries vary. The strategy, therefore, is an opportunity for African countries to include their own concerns and specificities without prejudice to the necessary development of national accounts according to international standards. Finally the strategy was proved to be the first pillar of the SHaSA.

On an operational level, a five-year (2010-2014) Regional Programme on the Implementation of the 2008 SNA has been developed to implement the strategy. The programme will be executed through

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[2]Essential SNA: Building the Basics, Eurostat Methodologies and Working Papers, European Commission, 2010 edition.

components related to: advocacy campaign which started with the 2011 ASD; methodological developments followed by capacity building (training and technical assistance); and institutional setting and strengthening. These components will be supported by continuous monitoring, evaluation and reporting process.

It will comprise activities to be undertaken at regional, sub regional and national levels. That plan aims to reflect the African region statistical development within a consensual programming framework, with a clear definition of the role of each stakeholder, as well as a well-defined timeline. The activities in the plan aim at making the strategic objectives easier to reach. Finally, the plan is supported by an intervention matrix that shows the activities that each stakeholder is expected to carry out and/or to support.

Since the adoption of the Programme, several activities were achieved or launched including: the setting up of the coordination mechanism starting by the designation of focal points in the pan-African organizations, the adoption by AGNA of the terms of reference of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs); country snapshots in National Accounts of 44 African countries (as part of the M&E exercise); a Study on the impact of the implementation of 208 SNA in African countries with 10 countries which volunteered to participate for now; creation of a website at ACS to archive AGNA documents and make them accessible by only the AGNA members; 2011 ICP-Africa activities.

Nevertheless, in order to accelerate the implementation process, there is a need, among others, to clarify AGNA governance, finalize the ToR of regional coordinators, integrate representatives of Central banks, organise discussion forums.

Finally, there is still issues to be addressed a such as: local accounts to inform decision-making at sub-national level; complement approaches with respect to income distribution and environmental issues for instance; and household production accounting and time-use accounts to take into account note only gender dimension but also to figure out where people are heading as a society.

2.3.5.2 Developing price statistics

Price statistics are ones of the most popular statistics world-wide. At the continental level, several initiatives were launched on price statistics including; (i) the implementation of the International Comparison Program (ICP) since the late seventies; (ii) the harmonization of Consumer Price indexes (CPI) in Regional Economic Communities (RECs); and the last initiative of ACS on price statistics.

(i)   Implementation Plan for the International Comparison Programme for Africa (ICP-Africa)
The International Comparison Program (ICP) was launched in 1970 as a global statistical initiative to generate comparable price and expenditure data to facilitate cross-country comparisons of GDP and its sub-aggregates in real terms without price and exchange rate distortions. ICP data make it possible to analyze the structural characteristics of the economy using international prices. Multinational corporations increasingly use the ICP data for monitoring and assessing exchange rate developments because their investment decisions are based on the real values of the return on their investment. ICP data are also used for evaluating cross-country investment costs, including unit of labour and material costs, project viability, market size and asset allocation; as well as comparing relative size of economies and estimating weighted averages of regional growth rates.

The 2005 round of ICP covered over 140 countries including 48 countries in Africa. The AfDB coordinated the design and implementation of the 2005 International Comparison Program for Africa (ICP-Africa) in partnership with the World Bank, IMF, DFID, ECA, UNDP, PARIS21, ACBF, INSEE-France and ONS-UK and various African sub-regional organizations and institutions. In the previous ICP round of 1993, 22 African countries out of a total of 118 countries globally participated in the program. The 2005 ICP-Africa assisted participating countries to strengthen their economic statistics and compilation of consumer price indexes, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and related indexes, production of Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) and general statistical development including the design of the NSDSs. AfDB used the ICP-Africa as a springboard for the continent-wide statistical capacity building program it is now implementing.

The 2011 round of ICP-Africa officially kicked-off in January 2011. However, the activities began in 2010 and can be divided into two main parts, namely price statistics and national accounts activities including training, technical assistance, etc..

(ii)   Harmonization of Consumer Price Index (CPI)
Harmonization of CPI was first done in the *Union EconomiqueetMonétaireOuest-Africaine* (UMEOA). This initiative was supported by Technical and Financial partners (TFPs) and led to the publication of the monthly CPI before the 10th day of the following month, in all participating countries. This success spread towards other African regions such as the*CommunauteEconomique et Monétaired'AfriqueCentrale* (CEMAC) and the Southern Africa Development countries (SADC) . This experience needs to be evaluated and replicated to other regions with the support of the Pan-African Organizations (PAOs).

(iii)   Compiling a Consumer Price Index at regional and sub-regional levels
In order to complement the work being done by the ICP-Africa, ECA started, early 2011, conducting a study to compile a CPI at continental level and for the ECA five regions (Central Africa, East Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa). Are monthly compiled for Africa and the five regional groupings: (i) a general CPI, and (ii) indices on the following items: food, clothing & footwear, health, transport & communication, and education. The study is expected to publish early next year (i.e. 2012).

After a review of the findings of the study, the Pan-African organizations (PAOs) could embark in the preparation of a comprehensive strategy aiming at strengthening the research on as well as the production, dissemination and use of price statistics at all level.

2.3.6   Science, Technology and Education
In 1994, the Segou Prospects, defined as an African integration process through basic education, were launched.[3] In 1995, moved by the wind of the World Conference on Education For All (Jomtien 1990), the World Forum on Education (Dakar 2000) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development(2000), the Organization of African Unity(OAU) proclaimed 1995 " Year of Education in Africa", 1997-2006 " Decade of Education for Africa" and in 1999, it held the Conference of African

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[3]*UNESCO/BREDA, EFA/The urgency of integrated sectorial policies, Education For All in Africa 2007, Report + 7, Editorial, p. 33.*

Ministers of Education which adopted the Plan of Action of the Decade. This Plan set itself 4 priority areas:

- equity and access to basic education;
- quality, relevance and effectiveness of education;
- complementarity of teaching methods;
- capacity building.

The evaluation of the First Decade of Education in Africa revealed that most of the objectives set in its Plan of Action had not been attained due to a number of factors. Since educational development issues in Africa are essential in terms of urgency, the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union (COMEDAF II), held in 2006, considering the lessons of the First Decade of Education for Africa, proposed the launching of a new Decade of Education for Africa. This was proclaimed for 2006-2015, in January 2006, by the 6th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

This Second Decade of Education for Africa, known as the Plan of Action, "was elaborated by Africa itself in the interest of the entire continent and its populations". Its ambition was to ensure that Africa assumes its own educational destiny while taking advantage of the multiple, useful and indispensable assistance from the international community. Most countries have partially integrated the seven priority areas of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education for Africa into their national educational development plans. Therefore, in pursuance of this status report, they were quite simply satisfied to indicate in their country reports actions undertaken or envisaged in the seven priority areas.

In order to evaluate the development of education in Africa, the PIED/Observatory used the indicators proposed for the continental status report. They cover the 7 priority areas of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education. Analysis of these indicators will determine for each country and each sub-regional economic community, and the levels of progress or regression made.

Indicators of progress were designed and agreed. However, it has been observed that on the whole, the data management systems are not well structured. In a number of countries, there is no central structure for the validation of data. In many others, there is lack of funding for the collection of statistical data and in still many others, the multiplicity of departments which manage statistical data on education make the task of data collection difficult. The Plan of Action aims to address these shortcomings.

After the launching of the plan of action of the Second Decade of Education many activities have been conducted.

The EMIS Meeting: Harare, Zimbabwe 24-25 September, 2007.
The meeting was organized by the African Union Commission in collaboration with the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA). The purpose of the meeting was to develop an implementation strategy for EMIS. The work shop was attended by all responsible stake holders.

RTM workshop in Dakar, Senegal: March 4-6, 2009. The Commission developed a robust set of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Second Decade of Education for Africa in 2008.

These were stabilized through the work of a restricted technical workshop that brought together COMEDAF Bureau Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and key partners ADEA, UIS/UNESCO, UNICEF and CONFEMEN/PASEC, in Dakar, Senegal, March 4-6, 2009.

RTM Workshop in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo: July 2010. The participants agreed in a set of recommendations focusing on the performance indicators on reporting on COMEDAF V and the African Union observatory.

Regional Workshop to Launch the African Union Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) Initiative in the East African Community region. Kampala, Uganda: 2rd- 3rd November 2011. The workshop aimed to launch the African Union's EMIS Initiative in the East African Community region and to plan for an assessment of the status of EMIS in the five EAC Member States. It is believed that the initiative will facilitate the provision of adequate responses to the main challenges faced in the statistics production process and assist the Member States in monitoring and evaluating progress in implementing the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015). In addition, the AU's Restricted Technical Committee on EMIS reviewed progress in preparation for COMEDAF V and discussed the piloting of the new AU Indicators.

2.3.7 Demography, Migrations, Health, Human Development, Social Protection & Gender

Several initiatives are presently ongoing aiming at improving the production of quality demographic, health, social protection and gender statistics. Still, there is a need to develop programmes on migrations and social protection statistics.

2.3.7.1 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census (PHC)

Population and Housing Census is the main statistical activity which provides demographic, social, economic data and also data on housing which are very crucial for any country in policy making, plan for development and monitor development agenda including MDGs. It ought to be mentioned also that the Census is the main source that can provide information at lower levels of geography which help in decentralized planning.

About five years ago, the Pan-African Institutions along with the UN agencies and other international partners came together to promote and support the implementation of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census (PHC) in the countries in Africa. They advocated for all African countries to participate in the 2010 Round so that their populations could be enumerated. In the 2000 census round, about a third of African countries did not conduct census and as a result, about half of the African population was not enumerated during that census round.

As a result of this, African countries have committed themselves to improve their participation in the current 2010 census round. To translate this commitment into effect, countries organized a series of country-led African Symposium on Statistical Development whose main theme was the population census. So far from 2006, six symposia have been organized successively in South Africa, Rwanda, Angola, Ghana, Senegal and Egypt. This effort has resulted in improved awareness especially at political level on the need for undertaking a census. To-date thirty two countries have already completed the 2010 round of censuses and all twenty others have planned for conducting the census before 2015.

In addition, support has been given to countries to build capacity in various areas of census taking, through several meetings (workshops and Expert groups meetings) on: Census Planning and Enumeration; Census Evaluation and Post-Enumeration Survey; Census Data Processing, Analysis and Dissemination; Census Data Archiving; and Use of the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) Microdata Management Toolkit. Training and technical assistance was also provided to a number of countries on: Use of digital techniques for census cartography and data processing; Census Cartography and Census Data Processing for the Population and Housing Census; Census results dissemination through the development of an interactive digital atlas; Census cartography in preparation of a Population, Housing and Animal Husbandry Census; and Geospatial Revision and Updating of Cartographic Products.

Important documents have also been developed to support the improvement of data quality while undertaking the censuses. They include: (i) African Addendum on Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses; (ii) Handbook on Data Capture; Handbook on Data Editing; and (iii) Handbook on Data Tabulation.

Whilst the challenge of conducting censuses in Africa is being resolved, the use of census data is sadly at levels that are unacceptably low. This happens for a variety of reasons, which include census data availability and accessibility. Through the African Census Analysis Project, launched in Pretoria, South Africa, the project has successfully retrieved and archived several African censuses and these census data are now available for research. Building on this initiative, the Africa Demography series have been initiated with contributions by African scholars, intellectuals and practitioners. One of this being the Demography of South Africa published in 2005 by Sharpe Publishing. Another two will be published, one being the second on the Demography of South Africa and the other publication exploring the demography of the continent.

It is worth noting the launching of the African Integrated Census MicroData (AICMD) website, in which 51,524,324 person records mark are freely available to researchers and policy makers- by simply registering and agreeing to the conditions of user license (e.g., protect statistical confidentiality, share research results, etc.), visitors can download and use the desired datasets.

As the African censuses come on stream in the 2010 Round, applied as well as scholarly publications will stream through, thus changing the role of demographic information and statistical data in general from being unavailable, unanalyzed and unused. The applied and intellectual landscape in Africa will be changed by the enormous contribution made by demographic data and statistical systems.

2.3.8 African programme on Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)

Training and human resources development have been identified as one of the main challenges facing the development of statistics in Africa. In response to this particular challenge, stakeholders have set up a number of initiatives and engaged in various activities aimed at enhancing the capacity of African countries in this regard including the following:

- The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st century (PARIS21) Working Group on Statistical Training in Africa;

- The Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) Working Group on Statistical Training;
- The African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) Working Group on Statistical Training; and
- The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) Group to accompany this organization's specific project on statistical training.

The African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST) was established in 2009 under the aegis of StatCom-Africa to coordinate various initiatives on statistical training in Africa. This was a response to the mushrooming of groups and initiatives on statistical training in Africa that was leading to an inefficient use of scarce resources and duplication of effort in pursuit of the reinforcement of capacities of African Statistical Systems.

The main objective of AGROST is to ensure the coordination of activities and initiatives in support of statistical training and human resources development in Africa. This coordination will take place at three different levels namely ongoing activities and initiatives, project planning, as well as alignment of Technical and Financial Partners' support to statistical training in Africa. The specific objectives include:

- to centralize information on initiatives and programmes in support of statistical training and ensure their monitoring;
- to ensure a permanent forum for the exchange of information and best practices on statistical training and human resources development in African NSSs.

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and ensure their monitoring; and (ii) to ensure a permanent forum for the exchange of information and best practices on statistical training and human resources development in African NSSs.

AGROST has conducted a number of activities including:

- Several meetings in Cairo, Egypt (November 2010), Maputo, Mozambique (April 2011), Dublin, Ireland (August 2011), and Yaoundé, Cameroon (November 2011);
- Organized, in collaboration with GIZ, a workshop on environmental statistics in Dublin;
- Organized a workshop on mainstreaming MDG methodologies into statistical training programmes;
- Reviewed studies conducted by ECA on: (i) the Compendium of the Statistical Training Centres (STCs); the Strategy for Harmonization Training Programmes and Diplomas which will be part and parcel of the SHaSA;
- Developed a portal with the support of the GIZ (http://gc21.inwent.org/agrost); and
- Designed its logo.

Moreover and as committed, an officer was posted under secondment by GIZ at the ACS to assume full-time responsibility as coordinator of AGROST secretariat, which contributed to the strengthening of coordination and exchange of information among stakeholders of the group. Therefore, AGROST secretariat was reinforced and was able to undertake a mission to Abidjan to discuss, with the Director of the Abidjan-based ENSAE, Chair of AGROST, the draft of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) document; and was also involved in preparing of the training programme of the ISIBalo Training Centre in South Africa.

It is worth mentioning that AGROST is also fully engaged to implement, in Africa, the training component of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

Even though progress has been made in the coordination, there are still challenges facing AGROST including resource mobilization; activities done without any information forwarded to the secretariat; non-existence of STCs for African Portuguese-speaking countries; language barriers impeding collaborative research activities among STCs.

2.3.9   Informal Sector

2.3.9.1 Action Plan on Informal Sector Statistics

The importance of informal sector in developing countries cannot be overemphasized. Nevertheless, the latter and mainly African countries are still struggling to find ways for revamping, modernizing and measuring the sector contribution in the economy. In order to take up these challenges, several initiatives were launched, since the 1980s, by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Delhi Group on the Informal Sector, research centres such as DIALin France and researchers from all horizons.

More specifically, the measurement of the informal economy, which concerns goods and services production, income distribution, and job creation, became a priority issue in the context of poverty reduction strategies that places employment and microfinance issues at the core of development

policies. In light of the impact of the recent world financial and food crises on the living conditions of households in Africa, it is obvious that greater knowledge of the informal economy is essential for developing relevant growth and poverty reduction strategies in African countries.

At the continental level, initiatives came from AFRISTAT, which has made significant progress in the implementing the "123 Surveys" developed by DIAL, in its 18 member States. Other reliable mechanisms for collecting data on employment and the informal sector have been put in place in other African regions and in countries such as the United Republic of Tanzania, South Africa and Botswana.

Four types of activities are identified as follows:

- **Establish a knowledge base on the informal sector:** This will start with an assessment of survey methodologies on the informal sector of the past 20 years to be carried out by ECA, which will lead to the development of an "African methodology" for measuring the informal economy on a consensual basis;
- **Build a strong basis for harmonization of work on the informal economy:** Even though, commendable efforts were made to conduct comparative analysis on various methodologies, and mechanisms put in place in Africa, guidelines still need to be defined to help African experts incorporate the general principles and operations of international activities in this area, mainstream new needs in line with growth and poverty reduction strategies, and requirements of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA2008);
- **Pursue and strengthen studies on the informal sector:** In-depth studies for increased knowledge on the informal sector will be conducted, particularly through: (i) the design and testing of procedures for preparing informal sector accounts on the basis of employment matrices; and (ii) measurement of the contribution of the informal economy to national accounts (GDP and its growth by branch of economic activity;
- **Build capacity for analysis of information on employment and poverty:** This will be achieved through: seminars and training workshops; establishment of a network of stakeholders and researchers on informal sector; sharing information through forum discussions and web pages on the "Informal Economy in Africa" located in the African Statistical Knowledge Networks (ASKN) platform.

Despite the lack of resources to conduct AGIS activities, language barriers, poor attendance of AGIS meetings, lack of commitment of countries to implement the Action Plan, gaps in coordination with other groups, the AGIS has recorded an important achievement with the preparation of the above mentioned "African methodology" which will be presented to and approved by the StatCom-Africa in 2012.

2.3.10 *Classification*

The importance of classification cannot be overemphasized. It stands as one of the first step in statistical work. It provide set of categories to be utilized for the collection and reporting of statistics. Among the most popular international classifications are the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), the Product Classification (CPC). The ISIC, for example, "provides guidance to countries in developing national activity classifications and have become an

important tool for comparing statistical data on economic activities at the international level". It is used for statistics in National Accounts, demography of enterprises and employment as well.

As international standards, these classifications are based on the best practices world-wide. But they may not reflect national specificities, especially in dual economies such as Africa ones. The little participation of African countries in groups and committees in charge of the revision of such classifications is part of such a situation. This is the reason why, PAOs should be conduct reflection on the adaptation of such classifications and what it implies in terms of statistical harmonization and comparability.

Regional organizations have already done commendable work on this issue. AFRISTAT adapted the ISIC and CPC for its member States, the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and the Southern Africa Development Union (SADC) as well. In Europe, EUROSTAT did the same.

ECA has launched an initiative consisting of two phases. Existing classifications on activities and products will be reviewed in the first phase. Questions as following could be raised during this assessment: What philosophy, principles underlining the choices of the classifications? What are the seminaries and differences between the classifications of veracious regions? Could / Should Africa follow the changes occurring regularly? How to design African classifications?

Based on the findings of this first stage, guidelines will be drafted to help countries adapt and implement the classifications internationally agreed upon to meet their national needs without impeding comparability at regional and continental levels. The Specialized Technical Group on Classification will monitor such process in the framework of the SHaSA.

Another programme is being implanted by ECA, which should lead to geographical classifications which are the most popular. The programme is about geographical names. The last meeting organized on the programme has come with the following recommendations for the PAOs and RECs:

- Put geographical names standardization on the agendas of StatCom-Africa and CODIST;
- Create a database of African resource persons on the standardization of geographical names;
- Improve sharing of information and methods of doing so;
- Promotion of the significance of geographical names by putting geographical names standardization on the agendas of relevant meetings and conferences organized by UNECA, AU, Regional Centres, and RECs (e.g. ECOWAS, SADC, ECCAS, etc.);
- Establish an African Day on Geographical Names;
- Encourage countries not yet having a national geographical names authority to host a workshop to launch such a possibility.

The Specialized Technical Group on Classification should follow up on the developments of such a programme.

2.3.11 Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
The conventional data source for the generation of continuous and complete vital statistics on a permanent basis is the civil registration system. Vital statistics generated from civil registration systems provide data on population dynamics and various basic health indicators, including causes

of death statistics for a country as a whole and its sub-divisions. In fact, the purpose and services of civil registration go beyond statistical boundaries, where the records of births, deaths, marriages, divorces and the complementary notations are the official sources of evidence on the occurrence of events, and therefore have crucial legal and administrative value to society and individuals in enhancing civil and democratic rights.

In the majority of African countries, past initiatives and efforts aimed at improving civil registration and vital statistics systems were largely dominated by isolated project-based and institutionally bound *ad-hoc* exercises with no link to national development frameworks or policy issues. The regional initiatives in this area have also been sporadic and uncoordinated.

Past initiatives and efforts aimed at improving civil registration and vital statistics in African countries were largely dominated by isolated project-based and institutionally bound ad-hoc exercises with no link to national development frameworks or policy issues. The regional initiatives conducted by UNFPA, WHO, UNSD and UNECA - were not only sporadic and uncoordinated but also under statistical development programmes. Initiatives from UNICEF were based on a child rights perspective and focussed on birth registration. UNSD, on its part,   developed the Principles and Recommendations for the Vital Statistics (1953 – 1973) with non-statistical aspects covered except in the latest version (2001) in collaboration with UNFPA. To date, a paradigm shift has been operated leading to a holistic approach addressing systemic issues related to legal, policy, strategic and operational aspects of CRVS.

The UNECA, AUC and AfDB in partnership with other regional institutions and UN agencies, have embarked upon a major initiative for the improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems in the continent, adopting that holistic approach by seeking to address systemic issues related to legal, policy, management and operational aspects of the CRVS. In addition, the Africa Symposium on Statistics Development (ASSD), having achieved its previous objectives of bringing African states to embark in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census, decided now to focus on the development of CRVS all countries through the continent.

One of the major achievements in this process was the commitment made by the Ministers responsible for Civil Registration in the first Conference held in August 2010 to support a time-bound implementation of the reforms process for the improvement of CRVS systems in their respective countries. The Declaration made by the Ministers in the meeting and the Medium Term Action Plan developed by an Expert Group Meeting earlier, which was endorsed by the Ministers, now form the basis for future action in accelerating improvement of CRVS systems in the region.

In order to operationalize those commitments, an African Programme on CRVS (AP-CRVS) was developed and a Core Group was constituted to lead its implementation. It is composed of: UNECA, AUC, AfDB, UNFPA, UNICEF, HMN and UNHCR with UNECA as secretariat. It finalized the Medium-term Programme and designed a questionnaire supporting the assessment of the status of CRVS in African countries. Already 42 responses have been collected and a preliminary report will be presented at StatCom-Africa-III (January 2012) and final report to the 2nd Ministerial Conference (September 2012).

The National Statistical Offices (NSOs) are expected to: (i) play key role in undertaking comprehensive assessment of the CRVS and preparing national action plans; (ii) annually compiled

CR-based statistics and promoted statistics of areas (city) where CR is complete; (iii) to collaborate with Ministries of Health and CROs to improve causes of death statistics; and (iv) promote use of CRS-based statistics.

Pan-African organizations and RECs should: (i) identify countries to be included in the Coordination Team of any revamping process of the CRVS; (ii) ensure compliance with the P&R for a VS with respect to collection, editing, processing, tabulation and dissemination; (iii) regularly evaluate the CRS in order to identify bottlenecks and challenges and provide technical assistance and training to overcome such limitations.

2.3.12   African Strategy to improve national capacities for the collection, processing, analysis and use of data for the monitoring of the development agenda including MDGs

The evidence-based agenda has pressed African countries to produce at more frequent intervals statistics needed for the monitoring of progress towards the implementation of national development plans as well as internationally agreed development initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).But they are still grappling with challenges in timely and reliable production and reporting of data on MDG indicators. The challenges can be grouped into three categories: (i) Discrepancies and data gaps, (ii) lack of coordination, standardization and harmonization within the countries, and (iii) sub-optimal statistical capacity.

To address these statistical challenges facing Africa, StatCom-Africa has also set up seven Working Groups (WGs) on key statistical subject-matters in Africa, including the African Group on Development Indicators (AGDI). The group agreed on a number of recommendations that aim to improve the development and monitoring of development indicators, including MDGs. These recommendations focused on the need to: carry out studies; produce handbooks; build databases; set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at country level; and provide resources for the functioning of AGDI.

So far, a set of activities have been undertaken including two studies e.g. on: (i) Strategies on how to decrease statistical discrepancies in MDG indicators between national, regional and international sources; and (b) Best practices adopted by countries in the African region with regard to statistical production, monitoring, reporting, dissemination and use of data on MDG indicators including at the sub-national level. A Study on Sources and Methodologies for Newly Identified Development Indicators Customized to the Realities, Needs and Priorities for Human and Social Development beyond 2015 has also been developed and is under finalization. These studies led to the development and publication of the Handbook on Data Sources and Estimation of Development Indicators in African Countries. As for monitoring and evaluation mechanism, MDG focal points were designated in almost all countries and MDG Committees established in many countries.

Finally, it is expected from the pan-African organizations to:

• Develop a Handbook on major Data Management and Dissemination Platforms based on the inputs collected from the workshop held on the same subject;

- Encourage countries to update their DevInfo versions or other databases to get a web-based platforms;
- Systematically involve civil society and private sector in MDG monitoring, already undertaken at the highest levels of the government in many countries; and
- Implement the ECA Project on Strengthening Statistical Capacities of African Countries to meet challenges in the collection, compilation, dissemination, and use of data to address inclusive social and economic development agendas: Looking beyond 2015;

2.3.13 African Strategy to produce gender-responsive data for the monitoring of the development agenda including MDGs

Since the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, many statistical offices around the world embarked on gender statistics programmes aiming at assessing gender gaps in various development dimensions and compiling and disseminating sex-disaggregated statistics. Even though, these programmes were generally reported successful, there is still a need to go further in the development of programmes and their full implementation in the area of gender statistics.

In recent years, several initiatives were launched at the global level including the Global Gender Statistics Programme; the Global Forum on Gender Statistics which was held thrice since 2007; and a coordination mechanism based on the activities of the United Nations Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on Gender Statistics. These initiatives aimed at exchange of knowledge and experience, development of gender statistics and indicators databases; development of training courses on gender statistics; and best practices regarding legislation on gender statistics.

At continental level, there have been several initiatives on gender statistics aiming at: advocating for gender-sensitive statistics; promoting gender mainstreaming in National Statistical Systems (NSS); exchanging best practices and experiences; and building capacity on collection, compilation and dissemination of gender-related statistics. Significant steps have been taken in the measurement of inequality with the African Development Gender Index (ADGI) and time-use surveys taking; the undertaking of time-use surveys; the development of a satellite account on household production; other gender-related themes such as statistics on Violence against women; the establishment of forum for discussion and exchange of experiences with the Kampala City Group even though the group did meet all expectations; and the establishment of the Gender Statistics Network (GeSNet). Moreover, the establishment of the African Group on Gender Statistics (AGGeS) by StatCom-Africa will facilitate the coordination of the various activities on gender statistics in Africa.

In order to implement the recommendations of the AGGeS approved by StatCom-Africa, the Africa Programme on Gender statistics (APGS) is being developed aiming at: (i) setting up Regional partnership and coordination mechanism for the development of gender statistics; (ii) building capacity programme and research; (iii) creating a mechanism for efficient reporting, storage and dissemination on gender statistics; (iv) developing monitoring and evaluation framework; (v) continuously advocating and sensitizing members states for the development and implementation of gender statistic programmes in their countries. The AGGeS is designed to be in line with the ongoing efforts on statistical harmonization at continental level.

2.3.14   Action Plan for Africa of the Global Strategy for Improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics

In order to respond to the declining quantity and quality of agricultural statistics in developing countries, a Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics was produced and endorsed in February 2010 by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The purpose of the Global Strategy is to provide a framework and methodology that will lead to improvements in the availability and quality of national and international food and agricultural statistics, to guide policy analysis and decision-making in the 21st century. The Global Strategy has three pillars, namely: (i) the establishment of a minimum set of core data that countries will provide to meet their current and emerging demands, (ii) the integration of agriculture into their national statistical systems (NSSs) to ensure that the data will be comparable across countries and over time, and (iii) ensuring the sustainability of the National Agricultural Statistical System (NASS) through governance and statistical capacity building.

Africa is the first region to implement the Global Strategy. The Action Plan for Africa of the Global Strategy (AP) was designed in 2010 by the African Development Bank (AfDB), UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The AP adopts a long-term perspective (10 to 15 years) but will follow a phased approach, with the first phase covering the five-year period 2011–2015.

The following activities have been undertaken as part of the AP implementation process:

- Two AP documents have been produced and published. They are:
    - ✓ "Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development - Action Plan for Africa" which will be used as the main reference material for countries and donors alike in their efforts to develop and strengthen statistics for food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development in Africa over the next five years, and
    - ✓ A comprehensive Summary of the main document.
- Establishment of a Coordination Office for the AP at AfDB and recruitment of the AP Coordinator
- The 1st Regional Steering Committee meeting was held in July 2011. The Regional Steering Committee is the decision-making body of the plan and it includes both users and producers of statistics.
- Resource mobilization: AfDB/FAO have held initial discussions with donors and results are promising.
- Country assessment: the AP provides for undertaking country assessment of statistical capacity as the first step in the implementation of the AP. Field testing of instruments for the assessment has been completed and the questionnaire finalized.
- On-going work includes: translating the AP into French, finalization of the Implementation Strategy Document for the AP, and development of country assessment guidelines and database.

The next steps/planned activities:

- Training/launching of Country Assessment
- Integration of the Agric. Stats in the NSDS; etc

In addition, the AfDB has undertaken the following related activities:

- launching of the 1st Quarterly Action Plan Bulletin initiated, January 2011 to as part of the communication strategy to inform key stakeholders about progress in the implementation of the AP.
- launching a Data Portal on Food Security in Africa, May 2011
- launching of the 1st Quarterly Bulletin on Food Security Situation in Africa, June 2011

2.3.15   Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program (AIKP)

The AfDB infrastructure statistics initiative under the Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program (AIKP), a successor program to the Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic (AICD), seeks to improve the infrastructure knowledge base to help monitor the impact of increased investment in the sector. The initiative represents an unprecedented effort to collect detailed economic and technical data on African infrastructure relating to fiscal costs of each of the sectors, future sector investment needs, and sector performance indicators. The AIKP has a long-term perspective and provides a framework for generating knowledge on infrastructure on a more sustainable basis.

In 2009, the World Bank in collaboration with the ADB and other partners, undertook the Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic (AICD), an ambitious project to analyze the cost for redressing the infrastructure deficit in 24 African countries, based on country level information on various dimensions of infrastructure needs. The study estimated that an average investment of about 15% of GDP per year for low income countries and about 10% of GDP per year for middle income countries would be required over the next decade.

The successor program to the AICD has been developed with a budget of USD 15.6 million over 2010-16. The implementation strategyinvolvesactivities to be undertaken by the following stakeholders:

- AfDB as regional coordinator and in partnership and Regional Statistical Organizations (RSOs) undertaking the following activities::
  - ✓ enhancing the original AICD (Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic) database into a long-term sustainable data system of infrastructure indicators,
  - ✓ defining and generate analytic knowledge products
  - ✓ building adequate in-country and sub-region
  - ✓ mainstreaming infrastructure into the NSS
  - ✓ sharing knowledge and data on AIKP website
- NSOs in coordination with infrastructure sectors undertaking data collection/ validation/ analysis/reporting/dissemination every alternate year.

The following activities were undertaken in 2011:

- Establishment of Bank-wide AIKP Working Group
- Successful transfer and integration of AICD portal into AfDB AIKP website

- AIKP Handbook on Infrastructure Statistics was prepared, endorsed by Expert Group Meeting organized by AfDB in April 2011 and is ready for publication. It will be presented to the StatCom-Africa in January 2012.
- 95 Demographic and Health Surveys (DHSs) and 32 Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICSs) covering 43 countries have been processed to generate indicators on access to infrastructure
- Data collection is on-going in 11 AICD countries (6 Sub-Saharan and 5 North Africa countries)
- A training workshop on data collection for 15 Anglophone countries was held in Pretoria, South Africa (28 June – 1 July 2011)
- A training workshop on data collection for 10 Francophone countries was held in Douala, Cameroon (29 – 31 Aug 2011)

The following are ongoing activities:

- About 10 briefs/studies related to infrastructure have been prepared and these will be combined in one document. Other knowledge products are to be prepared in 2012
- AIKP data collection and data management tools are being prepared.
- Data validation workshop is planned for early-2012 for 8 countries that collected data in 2011
- Data collection: 1st group of countries is scheduled for January - June 2012 and for the 2nd group, Jul - December 2012.
- Data validation workshops are being planned
- Data analysis, generation of country reports and knowledge products are being planned.

Chapter 3: Conclusion and Recommendations

Section 3.1 Conclusion

This document is a reflection of a wide-ranging consultative process followed to place statistics on the development agenda of the continent and ensure that African statistical practices rate amongst the best in the world under the stewardship of the AUC, AfDB and UNECA. The process was punctuated by a series of workshops that included a meeting held in East London, South Africa in December 2009 in which Directors-General of National Statistics Offices adopted the SHaSA as the vehicle by which the Charter was to be driven; the committee of Directors-General in Yaoundé, Cameroon in December 2010. Recently, a workshop was held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 4 to 9 December 2011 to discuss the implementation standards and guidelines for the Charter and recommendations stemming out of this meeting are presented in earlier parts of this document.

The Charter as a continental legal framework for statistics development on the African continent which was adopted on 3rd February 2009 by the 12th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia encourages African policy makers to use statistics as a base for policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation and decision-making. The chairperson of the African Union Commission in the foreword to the Charter states that (i) statistics should be considered as an essential public asset in any decision-making process, (ii) the Charter should strengthen the independence and status of national institutes of statistics as well as regional and continental statistics services and (iii) its effective implementation would make it possible to enhance the coordination of statistics and the effective functioning of Africa's statistical system as well as (iv) avoid duplication in African statistical programmes.

The Charter rests on six principles, viz. professional independence, quality, mandate for data collection and resources, dissemination, protection of individual data, information sources and respondents and coordination and cooperation. The Principles for implementing the charter are a call to a new way of conducting and managing the business of statistics in the continent. They emphasise the importance of statistical leadership, the over-arching role of statistics in the state system covering the whole spectrum of political and legislative, judicial, citizenry, public finance and rights-based mandates and they put the notion of Statistics for Transparency, Accountability, Results and Transformation (START) at the centre of decision-making, making statistics alive to systems of evidence and a review of institutional arrangements to create enabling environments for implementation of the principles.

The Charter will be implemented through the SHaSA and an agreed set of Standards and Guidelines. The SHaSA supports the African Integration Agenda particularly the Minimum Integration Programme adopted by Heads of State and Government in July 2009 by providing a strategic framework for production of quality harmonized statistics for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of integration and development policies in the continent. The Standards and Guidelines not only constitute a structured mechanism for implementation of the Charter through the resultant detailed Action Plan with activities, outputs, timelines and responsible parties but form the framework on which periodic assessments of progress and adherence will be based.

Section 3.2 Recommendation on African Charter on Statistics

3.2.1 Countries must take the necessary steps to sign and ratify the African Charter on Statistics

3.2.2 StatCom/CoDG to adopt standards and guidelines of the Charter

3.2.3 AUC to develop a management framework for the implementation of the Charter

- Finaliseself-assessment questionnaire and training manual

- Develop an action plan for implementation

- Develop monitoring and evaluation framework

- Train statistical leadership

3.2.4 Countries to implement the Charter

- Conduct self-assessment and incorporate Principles of the Charter into Statistics Law and NSDS

3.2.5 AGSHa to monitor, report and evaluate the Implementation of the Charter

- Conduct independent assessments (peer review)

- Compile annual report

Section 3.3 Recommendation on Strategy for Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa

3.3.1 Specialised technical groups to align work programme to SHaSA strategy template

3.3.2 StatCom/CoDG to identify lead countries for specialized technical groups

3.3.3 StatCom/CoDG to adopt Action Plan of SHaSA

3.3.4 StatCom/CoDG to consider progress report

3.3.5 Ministers Conference to endorse progress report on SHaSA

3.3.6 RECs to incorporate SHaSA in regional strategy

3.3.7 Countries to incorporate SHaSA in NSDS

3.2.8 AGSHa to monitor, report and evaluate the Implementation of SHaSA