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STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON STATISTICS AND STRATEGY FOR THE HARMONIZATION OF STATISTICS IN AFRICA

PROGRESS REPORT 2012

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ACRONYMS

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| ACS | African Centre for Statistics/ECA |
| AfDB | African Development Bank |
| AGDI | African Gender Development Index/ECA |
| AICMD | African Integrated Census MicroData |
| AGROST | African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources |
| AGGeS | African Group on Gender Statistics |
| AGNA | African Group on National Accounts |
| AIKP | Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Programme |
| APRM | African Peer Review Mechanism |
| AMU | Arab Maghreb Union |
| AUC | African Union Commission |
| ASS | African Statistical System |
| ASSD | Africa Symposium on Statistics Development |
| COMESA | Community of Eastern and Southern Africa |
| CRO | Civil Registration Office |
| CRVS | Civil Registration and Vital Statistics |
| GeSNet | Gender Statistics Network |
| ECCAS | Economic Community of Central African States |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |
| HCPI | Harmonized Consumer Price Index |
| IAEG | Inter-Agency Expert Group |
| ICP | International Comparison Programme for Africa/AfDB |
| IHSN | International Household Survey Network |
| IMTS | International Merchandize Trade Statistics |
| LMIS | Labour Market Information System |
| NSDS | National Strategy for Development of Statistics |
| NSO | National Statistical Office |
| NSS | National System of Statistics |
| PAO | Pan-African Organization |
| PHC | Population and Housing Census |
| REC | Regional Economic Community |
| SADC | Southern African Development Community |
| SHaSA | Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa |
| SNA | System of National Accounts |
| StatCom-Africa | Statistical Commission for Africa |
| STC | Statistical Training Centre |
| STG | Specialized Technical Group |
| STPA | Statistical Training Programme for Africa |
| TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| UNECA | United Nations Economic Commission for Africa |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in March 2011, after considering the report on implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), resolved to:

(a) Invite all African Union Member States which have yet to sign and ratify the Charter to make every effort to do so within a period of one year to enable it to enter into force;

(b) Request Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union Commission (AUC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other members of the African Statistical System (ASS) to implement the peer review mechanism of national statistical systems and to ensure that all countries are covered within five years;

(c) Request Member States, RECs, AUC, ECA and AfDB to take the necessary steps towards implementation of all initiatives contained in SHaSA, and further develop other strategies in emerging areas such as gender statistics;

(d) Call upon the AUC, ECA, AfDB and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to strengthen their collaboration for operationalization of the AfricaInfo initiative to ensure that it has a continental dimension, and produce a plan for its implementation.

2. Thus, in pursuance of these recommendations and under the aegis of the three pan-African organizations (PAOs), namely, AUC, ECA, AfDB and all members of the African Statistical System (ASS) undertook various activities to implement them, in close collaboration with development partners.

3. This report presents some actions and related outcomes and proposes recommendations for the effective implementation of ongoing and future activities.

II. AFRICAN CHARTER ON STATISTICS

A. Signing and ratification of the Charter

4. Since the adoption of the African Charter on Statistics by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its 12th ordinary session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2009, 21 AU Member States have signed it and only five (5) Member States have ratified it.

B. Actions to speed up signing and ratification of the Charter

5. AUC has undertaken consultative missions to advocate for ratification and endorsement of the Charter in many countries. Advocacy documents were developed in order to popularize the Charter and ensure ownership by all stakeholders with the support of the World Bank. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in their capacity as coordinators of national statistical systems (NSSs) were expected to popularize the Charter in their respective countries, using appropriate means and documents which were provided to them.

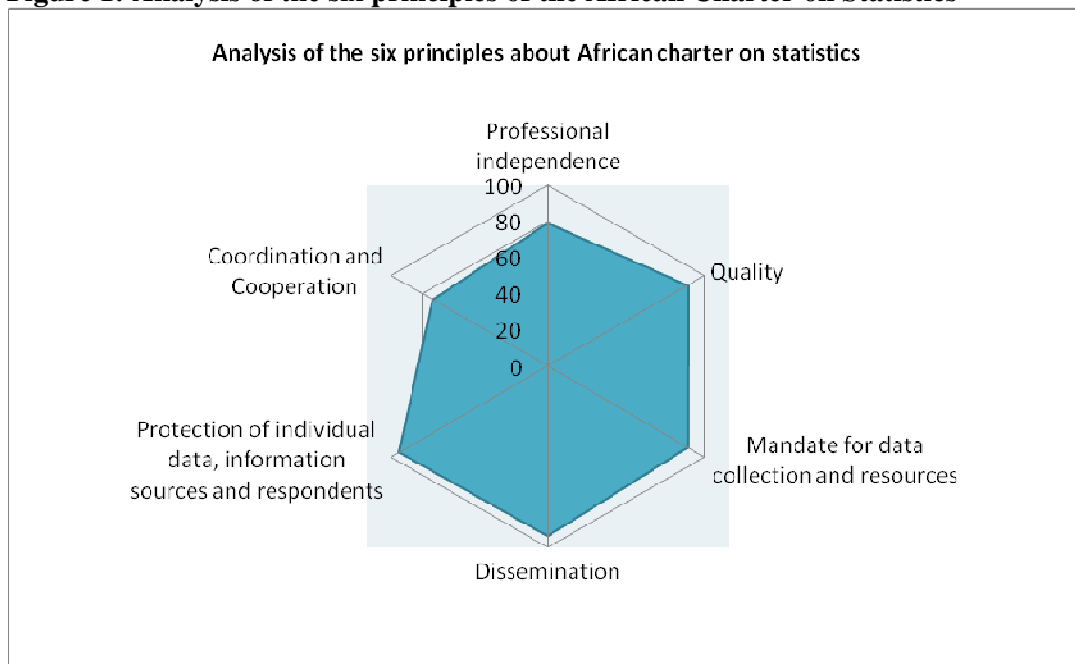
C. Development of guidelines and implementation of the Charter

6. AUC has developed guidelines and indicators to measure the extent to which NSSs are implementing the principles of the Charter. An action plan for implementation of the principles was also developed. A training session was organized in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in December 2011 to adopt the guidelines and indicators, and train selected Directors-General of NSOs on the implementation of guidelines.

7. AUC has conducted a study to determine the extent to which the principles of the Charter are implemented by Member States. The preliminary results of the study revealed that 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.

8. In general, the results show that all the principles of the Charter are implemented to some extent. However, the level of implementation varies across the principles, except principle six, "coordination and cooperation", implementation of which is over 80 per cent (figure 1).

Figure 1: Analysis of the six principles of the African Charter on Statistics



9. As per the recommendation of the fifth Committee of Directors-General held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in December 2010, that urged AUC to implement the statistical peer review mechanism and ensure continental coverage within five years, AUC conducted a peer review of the NSS of Senegal from 24 to 28 October 2011. In 2011, PARIS21 conducted eight peer reviews before handing over the process to AUC, which is programming coverage of all African countries within the coming five years.

III. STRATEGY FOR HARMONIZATION OF STATISTICS IN AFRICA AND SECTORAL STRATEGIES

10. Regarding SHaSA, the following activities have been conducted:

A. Implementation of the Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa

11. AUC, ECA and AfDB have prepared an Action Plan for implementing SHaSA and some of its sectoral strategies. The Action Plan provides details on the expected outputs, activities, timeframe and responsibilities. The following section discusses the progress made at national, regional and continental levels in this regard.

1. At national level: National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs)

12. At least half of the African countries are implementing NSDSs or their equivalent and the remaining countries are at different stages of designing or updating one. It is worth noting that countries have not yet aligned their NSDSs to SHaSA. Table 1 presents the status as of November 2011.

Table 1: Summary table of NSDS status in Africa

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

Source: <http://www.paris21.org>.

2. At regional level: statistical programmes of RECs

13. Different RECs have developed medium- to long-term statistical programmes to support regional integration. Making relevant, timely and accurate statistical information available for use in the communities for planning, policy formulation, protocol monitoring and decision-making is vital. 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 and social statistics and cross-cutting issues. Some RECs have not yet designed a statistical programme to support regional integration. Their different programmes should be aligned to SHaSA.

¹ An NSDS is being designed with funding secured.

² A NSDS document has been completed. Once approved, it will replace the existing NSDS.

3. At continental level: the African Statistical System

14. The African Statistical System has become responsive to the need for data on the integration agenda by designing appropriate statistical initiatives in a number of integration areas. However, there are a number of areas for which no statistical initiatives have yet been designed.

B. Progress reports on sectoral strategies

15. 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. In order to avoid duplication and to build on ongoing and existing efforts, the STGs correspond to the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) working groups, albeit not a one-to-one correspondence. In areas where these working groups did not exist new STGs have been created to deal with the relevant issues. These groups, comprising 20-25 members, are made up of statistics specialists and practitioners from Member States, RECs, and representatives of specialized, regional and international agencies. Membership is on a voluntary basis and STGs are expected to hold meetings at least twice a year. Fourteen STGs are expected to be set up around the various identified statistical areas. Lead countries (LCs) were identified based on their ability to champion STGs for effective implementation of the Strategy.

1. Governance, Peace and Security

16. 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, the PAOs strongly committed themselves to advocate for improved governance in Africa as well as popularization of the concept and its dimensions through a report on governance in Africa which sheds light on the progress made towards this goal.

17. So far, the ECA publication entitled *African Governance Report (AGR)* has been published twice: 2005 (AGR-I) and in 2009 (AGR-II). AGR-I presented the findings of a study with 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.

18. The statistical work underlining this study was undertaken by ECA but involved national research institutions, representatives of government, civil society, private sector, and international partners, in national workshops organized in 26 participating countries. In addition, household surveys were conducted by the researchers in close collaboration with NSOs.

19. The STG on Peace, Security and Governance statistics will be launched in 2012.

2. Labour Market Information System coordination and harmonization

20. 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 (APRM). The Regional Integrated Employment Policy Frameworks unanimously recognize the shortcomings of the Labour Market Information Systems (LMIS) in African countries and the resulting problems of planning, monitoring and evaluating employment policies for all labour market stakeholders.

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

22. AUC organized a capacity-building and planning workshop on “*Harmonization and Coordination of the Labour Market Information Systems in Africa*”, in Addis Ababa, 14-15 December 2010. Following this workshop and other consultative initiatives with stakeholders, AUC elaborated a “*Labour Market Harmonization and Coordination Framework Project*”. The UNDP West Africa Regional Centre supported AUC in developing a minimum list of labour, employment and TVET indicators, and in preparing a plan of action for realization of a harmonized labour force survey.

23. The steering committee met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 7 to 8 September 2011 to review the documents and made some amendments. After the steering committee meeting, AUC held a seminar in Dakar, Senegal, from 24 to 26 November 2011. The minimum list of indicators and the action plan were presented to the panel composed of officials for labour statistics and responsible observatories. The action plan and the minimum list of indicators were presented to the StatCom-Africa meeting in January 2012.

24. AfDB, under the statistical capacity-building programme (SCB), has been assisting countries to improve their labour statistics to cover the following areas: technical and operational support for conducting labour force surveys and household expenditure surveys; labour statistics classifications (product, economic activity and occupation classifications) and development of business registers. In addition, it has embarked on the production of operational and methodological guidebooks for conducting labour force surveys and household expenditure surveys. The guidebooks are expected to be published in 2012.

25. AfDB support is expected to continue under SCB phase III. This will start during the first quarter of 2012 and will focus more on Francophone countries.

3. External sector (external trade and balance of payments)

26. The main objective of this working group is to harmonize the production of foreign trade and balance of payments 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 balance of payments, countries will be assisted to implement the IMF manual. Since creation of the working group, several activities have been conducted.

27. The first meeting of the STG finalized the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the STG and focused on IMTS. It discussed obstacles to the development and harmonization of IMTS, and proposed appropriate recommendations.

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

29. The Regional Seminar on International Merchandise Trade Statistics held from 14 to 18 November 2011, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was organized by ACS and the Regional Integration Infrastructure and Trade Division (RIITD) of 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 IMTS concepts and definitions.

4. African Strategy for the Implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts

30. The essential phenomena of a country's economic behaviour (production, consumption, accumulation and the associated concepts of income and wealth) are identified and measured in the general framework of the System of National Accounts (SNA)³. Thus, SNA facilitates 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.

31. The African Group on National Accounts (AGNA) designed a strategy to establish national accounts tools for the African region in line with international standards and practices. 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 development levels across countries vary. At the 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 is being executed through components related to: the advocacy campaign that 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.

32. Nevertheless, in order to accelerate implementation, it is necessary to improve AGNA governance, finalize the ToRs of regional coordinators, integrate the representatives of Central Banks and organize discussion forums. There are still many issues to be addressed,

³ Essential SNA: Building the Basics, Eurostat Methodologies and Working Papers, European Commission, 2010 edition.

such as: local accounts to inform decision-making at sub-national level; complementary approaches with respect to income distribution and environmental issues among others; and household production and time-use accounting. Such accounting is useful for taking the gender dimension into consideration and can also be used to analyse and map in which directions people are heading as a society.

5. Implementation Plan for the International Comparison Programme for Africa (ICP-Africa)

33. The 2005 round of the ICP covered over 140 countries including 48 countries in Africa. AfDB coordinated the design and implementation of the 2005 International Comparison Programme for Africa (ICP-Africa) in partnership with the World Bank, IMF, DFID, ECA, UNDP, PARIS21, ACBF, INSEE-France, ONS-UK and various African subregional organizations and institutions. In the previous ICP round of 1993, 22 African countries, out of a total of 118 countries globally, participated in the programme. 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, and production of Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs). It also aided general statistical development including design of the NSDSs. AfDB used ICP-Africa as a springboard for its continent-wide statistical capacity-building programme.

34. The 2011 round of ICP-Africa was launched in June 2010 and its activities officially kicked off in January 2011. The activities can be divided into two main categories, namely, price statistics and national accounts including training, technical assistance, etc.

6. Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI)

35. AfDB, in collaboration with COMESA and SADC statistics secretariat, has since 2010 embarked on a programme to assist RECs to compile the Harmonized Consumer Price Index (HCPI), in line with the regional integration efforts of meeting the macroeconomic convergence criteria on the continent. So far, with AfDB support, the member countries in the two secretariats have been compiling the HCPI and it is posted on COMESA, SADC and AfDB websites. AfDB, under SCB phase III, will provide similar support to the remaining subregional organizations, namely, ECOWAS, ECCAS and AMU. This work is expected to start in the first quarter of 2012.

7. Science, technology and education

36. The 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.

37. 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 the levels of progress or regression made for each country and each REC. Indicators for measuring progress were designed and agreed. However, it has been observed that on the whole 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 a multiplicity of departments managing statistical data on education, which makes the task of data collection difficult. The Plan of Action aims to address these shortcomings.

38. After the launching of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education, many activities have been conducted. AUC 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, RECs and key partners ADEA, UIS/UNESCO, UNICEF and CONFEMEN/PASEC, in Dakar, Senegal, 4 to 6 March 2009.

8. 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (PHC)

39. About five years ago, the PAOs along with the United Nations agencies and other international partners came together to promote and support implementation of the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (PHC) in African countries. 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 a census and as a result, about half of the African population was not enumerated during that census round.

40. As a result, African countries have committed themselves to improving their participation in the current 2010 census round. To translate this commitment into action, countries organized a series of country-led African Symposia on Statistical Development, the main theme of which was the population census. So far, since 2006, six symposia have been organized successively in Angola, Egypt, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa. This effort has resulted in improved awareness, especially at political levels of the need for undertaking a census. To-date, thirty-two countries have completed the 2010 round of censuses and all the others are planning to conduct a census by 2014.

41. To achieve the above, ECA in collaboration with AfDB, AUC and with strong support from Statistics-South Africa, has assisted countries to build capacity in various areas of census taking, through 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 were 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.

42. In this regard, ECA developed a series of manuals for improving data quality while undertaking the censuses. These included: (a) African Addendum on Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses; (b) Handbook on Data Capture; (c) Handbook on Data Editing; and (d) Handbook on Data Tabulation.

43. Whilst the challenge of conducting censuses in Africa is being resolved, the use of census data remains at an unacceptably low level. This happens for a variety of reasons, including census data availability and accessibility. The African Census Analysis Project was 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 has been initiated with contributions from African scholars, intellectuals and practitioners.

44. It is worth noting that the African Integrated Census MicroData (AICMD) website has been launched at ACS, through which 51,524,324 person records are freely available to researchers and policymakers. By simply registering and agreeing to the conditions of user license such as protection of statistical confidentiality, and sharing research results, etc.), visitors can download and use the desired datasets.

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

9. Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)

46. 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 in response to the mushrooming of groups and initiatives on statistical training in Africa, a situation that was leading to inefficient use of scarce resources and duplication of efforts in pursuit of ASS capacity upgrading.

47. 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 takes place at three different levels, namely, ongoing activities and initiatives, project planning, and alignment of technical and financial partners' support to statistical training in Africa.

48. Since its Establishment, 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: (a) the Compendium of the Statistical Training Centres (STCs); and the Strategy for Harmonization of Training Programmes and Diplomas, which will be part and parcel of SHaSA.

49. 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 ECA-based secretariat; limited existence of STCs for African Portuguese-speaking countries; and language barriers impeding collaborative research activities among STCs.

10. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

50. ECA, 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 on the continent, adopting a holistic approach that seeks to address systemic issues related to legal, policy, management and operational aspects of CRVS. In addition, the Africa Symposium on Statistics Development (ASSD), having achieved its previous objectives of getting African States to embark on the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census, has decided to now focus on the development of CRVS in all countries across the continent.

51. One of the major achievements has been the commitment made by the Ministers responsible for Civil Registration at their first conference held in August 2010 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to support a time-bound implementation plan of the reform process for the improvement of CRVS systems in their respective countries. The Declaration made by the Ministers at the meeting and the Medium Term Action Plan developed by the Expert Group meeting earlier and endorsed by the Ministers, now form the basis of future action for accelerating improvement of the CRVS systems in the region.

52. 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 ECA, AUC, AfDB, UNFPA, UNICEF, HMN and UNHCR with ECA as secretariat. It finalized a medium-term programme and designed a questionnaire for supporting assessment of the status of CRVS in African countries. The NSOs are expected to: (a) play a key role in undertaking comprehensive assessment of the CRVS and preparing national action plans; (b) annually compile CR-based statistics and promote statistics of areas (city) where CR is complete; (c) collaborate with Ministries of Health and CROs to improve causes of death statistics; and (d) promote use of CRV-based statistics.

53. PAOs and RECs should: (a) identify countries to be included in the Coordination Team of any revamping process of the CRVS; (b) ensure compliance with the P&R for a VS with respect to collection, editing, processing, tabulation and dissemination; (c) regularly evaluate the CRVS system in order to identify bottlenecks and challenges and provide technical assistance and training to overcome the limitations.

11. African strategy to produce gender-responsive data for the monitoring of the development agenda including the MDGs

54. Since the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, many statistical offices around the world embarked on gender statistics programmes aimed at assessing gender gaps in various development dimensions and compiling and disseminating gender-disaggregated statistics. In recent years, several initiatives have been launched at the global level including the Global Gender Statistics Programme, the Global Forum on Gender Statistics which has been 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.

55. At continental level, there have been several initiatives on gender statistics aiming at: advocating for gender-sensitive statistics; promoting gender mainstreaming in NSSs; exchanging best practices and experiences; and building capacity for collection, compilation and dissemination of gender-related statistics. Significant steps have been taken in the measurement of inequality with use of the African Gender Development Index (AGDI) developed by ECA at its African Centre for Gender and Social Development (ACGSD) and 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 not 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. AGGeS is designed to be in line with the ongoing efforts on statistical harmonization at continental level.

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

56. 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: (a) establishment of a minimum set of core data that countries will provide to meet their current and emerging demands; (b) integration of agriculture into their NSSs to ensure that the data will be comparable across countries and over time; and (c) ensuring sustainability of the National Agricultural Statistical System (NASS) through governance and statistical capacity-building.

57. Africa is the first region to develop and implement the Global Strategy. The Action Plan for Africa of the Global Strategy was designed in 2010 by AfDB, ECA, AUC and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Action Plan 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 first Regional Steering Committee meeting was held in July 2011. AfDB and FAO have held initial discussions with donors and some have shown interest in funding the Africa Plan. In the meantime, field testing has been completed and plans are underway to launch the country assessment programme.

58. The AfDB infrastructure statistics initiative under the Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Programme (AIKP), a successor programme 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 the fiscal costs of each sector, 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.

59. In 2009, the World Bank, in collaboration with AfDB and other partners, undertook the Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic (AICD), an ambitious project to analyse the cost of 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 per cent of GDP per year for low-income countries and about 10 per cent of GDP per year for middle-income countries would be required over the next decade.

60. The successor programme to AICD has been developed with a budget of \$15.6 million over 2010-2016. The implementation strategy involves activities to be undertaken by the stakeholders. In 2011 the AIKP Handbook on Infrastructure Statistics was prepared, endorsed by the Expert Group Meeting organized by AfDB in April 2011 and is ready for publication. It was presented to StatCom-Africa in January 2012. Many activities have been planned: Data collection: first group of countries is scheduled for January - June 2012 and for the second group, July - December 2012; Data validation workshops are being planned as well as data analysis, and generation of country reports and knowledge products on infrastructure.

13. AfricaInfo database and data dissemination

61. The three pan-African Organizations, together with UNICEF have developed a five-year plan of action (2011-2015). The development of this database is consistent with implementation of *Strategic Objective 3: To establish an effective technological environment for the implementation of SHaSA*. This calls for developing a management information system (MIS) for monitoring the integration agenda and for standardizing dissemination tools and platforms.

62. The key objective of AfricaInfo is to enable AUC, RECs, Member States and other users to have statistical information to monitor and evaluate the integration process at regional and continental levels. The AUC organized several meetings for all its departments and RECs to discuss the database content, structure and list of indicators. Focal points were appointed by department and trained to use AfricaInfo.

63. Reliable statistics are needed to support results, accountability, and transparency. Extensive use of data, especially for policy and decision-making is very important for the sustainability and development of statistical systems. In this regard, it is critical to improve

dissemination systems and pass information to users about available data and how to access and use them. At the continental level, AUC, ECA and AfDB jointly produce annually the African Statistical Yearbook and the MDG Report on Assessing Progress towards the MDGs in Africa. The overall objective is to develop a common database on development data on Africa that draw from country sources.

64. AfDB has put a Data Portal and Open Data System in place. It provides one-stop data centre services with easy and free access to the databases managed by the Bank as well as those of other institutions. Further, a data collection and management system is currently under development and will be shared with other regional institutions and countries to facilitate data exchange and reduce the reporting burden on countries. As part of its third statistical capacity-building programme starting in 2012, AfDB plans to provide support to all African countries for setting up such systems to facilitate data dissemination and enable full public access to official statistics. This is in line with the Busan Action Plan for Statistics which was adopted by all development partners in December 2011.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusion

65. Effective implementation of the African Charter on Statistics and of SHaSA and its sectoral strategies is expected to provide credible and harmonized data that are produced regularly, and that cover political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of the African integration process. The challenge of producing quality statistics remains huge and overcoming the onstraints is beyond the reach of individual institutions and countries.

B. Recommendations

66. To speed up implementation of ongoing and future activities of the African Charter on Statistics; and of SHaSA and its sectoral strategies (pillars), **the Conference of Ministers:**

(i) Ratification and Implementation of the African Charter on Statistics

- Invited countries to take the necessary steps to sign and ratify the Charter by December 2012, conduct self-assessments and incorporate the Principles of the Charter into Statistics Law and NSDSs;
- Requested RECs and PAOs to promote, advocate and follow-up on the signing and ratification of the Charter;
- Adopted standards and guidelines for implementation of the African Charter on Statistics approved by StatCom-Africa;
- Requested PAOs to develop a management framework, monitor, report and evaluate implementation of the Charter, conduct independent assessments (peer review mechanism) and ensure that all countries are covered within five years; and

(ii) Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA)

The Conference recommended that:

- Specialized technical groups (STGs) should be created in areas not covered by existing groups;
- STGs should align their work programme to the SHaSA strategy template;
- RECs should incorporate SHaSA into regional strategies;
- Countries should incorporate SHaSA into NSDSs;
- AGSHa to monitor, report and evaluate implementation of SHaSA;
- Countries, regional bodies, PAOs and partners should mobilize resources for implementation of SHaSA and the sectoral strategies as well as AfricaInfo;
- PAOs to support countries in putting Data Portals and Open Data systems in place, to facilitate data dissemination and enable full public access to official statistics;
- AUC to consider institutionalizing the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics as a standing platform to meet biannually, for discussion and evaluation of policy issues related to CRVS in Africa;
- PAOs and partners should reinforce the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Secretariat to enable it to respond to the ever growing demand for assistance in improvement of CRVS systems in Africa.

ANNEX

List of countries which have signed, ratified/acceded to the African Charter on Statistics and Detailed Status of NSDSs

| No | Country | African Charter on Statistics | | | Detailed Status of NSDS per African Countries | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|
| | | Date of Signature | Date of Ratification | Date of deposit | Status | Name | Time Span | Status | Time Span | PRSP or National Development Plan Time span |
| 1 | Algeria | | | | Implementation | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2007-2012 | Not yet planned | | 2009-2015 |
| 2 | Angola | | | | Strategy expired | Plano Estatístico Nacional de Medio Prazo | 2002-2006 | Planned | | 2003-2008 |
| 3 | Benin | 17/08/2009 | 10/01/2012 | | Implementation | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2007-2012 | Not yet planned | | 2007-2009 |
| 4 | Botswana | | | | Strategy expired | CSO Strategic Plan | 2003/2004-2004/2005 | Planned | | 2009-2015 |
| 5 | Burkina Faso ⁴ | 06/07/2010 | | | Implementation | Schéma directeur de la statistique | 2010-2015 | Not yet planned | | 2011-2015 |
| 6 | Burundi | | | | Implementation | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2010-2014 | Not yet planned | | 2008-2011 |
| 7 | Cameroon | | | | Completed, awaiting adoption | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2009-2013 | Not yet planned | | 2010-2020 |
| 8 | Central African | | | | Implementation | Plano Estatístico | 2008-2012 | Not yet | | 2008-2011 |

⁴ Burkina Faso has already ratified the Charter, but has not yet deposited the instruments of ratification or accession.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|------------|--|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Republic | | | | | | | planned | | |
| 9 | Cape Verde | | | | No Strategy | | | Being designed | 2012-2015 | 2011-2015 |
| 10 | Chad | | | | Strategy expired | PPAST-Programme d' Activités statistiques à moyen-terme | 2002-2007 | Being designed | | 2006-2010 |
| 11 | Côte d'Ivoire | 11/06/2009 | | | Implementation | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2010-2014 | Not yet planned | | 2008-2012 |
| 12 | Comoros | 02/02/2010 | | | No Strategy | | | Being designed | 2011-2016 | 2006-2008 |
| 13 | Congo | 28/06/2009 | | | Strategy expired | Programme pluriannuel de développement de la statistique | 2005-2009 | Being designed | | 2008-2010 |
| 14 | Djibouti | | | | Completed, awaiting adoption | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2009-2013 | Not yet planned | | 2009-2010 |
| 15 | Democratic Republic of the Congo | 02/02/2010 | | | Completed, awaiting adoption | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2008-2013 | Not yet planned | | 2006-2010 |
| 16 | Egypt | | | | No Strategy | | | Planned | | 2007-2012 |
| 17 | Equatorial Guinea | | | | Strategy expired | Stratégie de Développement de la Statistique | 2003-2008 | Planned | | No PRSP |
| 18 | Eritrea | | | | Completed, awaiting adoption | Master Plan for Development Economics Statistics | 2010-2014 | Planned | | No PRSP |
| 19 | Ethiopia | | | | Implementation | The Ethiopian National Strategy for the Development of Statistics | 2009/2010-2013/2014 | Not yet planned | | 2006-2010 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| 20 | Gabon | 29/01/2010 | | | Implementation | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2011-2015 | Not yet planned | | 2006-2010 |
| 21 | Gambia | 30/06/2009 | | | Implementation | Master Plan for the Statistics System of the Gambia | 2008-2011 | Being designed | 2012-2015 | 2007-2011 |
| 22 | Ghana | 28/06/2009 | | | Completed, awaiting adoption | National Strategy for the Development of Statistics | 2009-2013 | Not yet planned | | 2006-2009 |
| 23 | Guinea-Bissau | | | | Implementation | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2009-2013 | Not yet planned | | 2007-2012 |
| 24 | Guinea | | | | No Strategy | | | Being designed | | 2006-2008 |
| 25 | Kenya | 25/01/2010 | | | Implementation | Strategic Plan for the National Statistical System | 2009-2013 | Not yet planned | | 2008-2012 |
| 26 | Libya | | | | Implementation | National Strategy for the Development of Statistics | 2008/2009-2012/2013 | Not yet planned | | 2009-2010/2011 |
| 27 | Lesotho | | | | Implementation | National Strategy for the Development of Statistics | 2009-2013 | Not yet planned | | 2007-2011 |
| 28 | Liberia | | | | No Strategy | | | Being designed | | No PRSP |
| 29 | Madagascar | | | | Completed, awaiting adoption | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2007-2012 | Not yet planned | | 2007-2012 |
| 30 | Mali | 22/10/2010 | 06/04/2011 | 13/07/2011 | Implementation | NSS Strategic Plan | 2008-2012 | Planned | 2013-2017 | 2006-2011 |
| 31 | Malawi | 05/08/2010 | | | Implementation | Schéma Directeur de la Statistique | 2008-2012 | Planned | 2012-2017 | 2007-2011 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 32 | Mozambique | 17/06/2009 | 18/11/2012 | | Implementation | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2007-2014 | Not yet planned | | 2006-2010 |
| 33 | Mauritania | | | | Strategy expired | National Strategy for the Development of Statistics | 2007-10 | Not yet planned | | No PRSP |
| 34 | Mauritius | 21/01/2010 | 27/01/2010 | 09/02/2010 | Implementation | Plan d' Action à Long-Terme de la Direction de la Statistique | 2002-2012 | Being designed | | 2007-2015 |
| 35 | Namibia | | | | Implementation | Plan Estrategico do Sistema Estatistico Nacional | 2008-2012 | Planned | 2013-2017 | 2006-2009 |
| 36 | Nigeria | | | | Strategy expired | Namibia Third National Statistical Plan | 2005-2009 | Planned | | 2007/2008-2011/2012 |
| 37 | Niger | 12/05/2009 | | | Implementation | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2008-2012 | Not yet planned | | 2008-2012 |
| 38 | Rwanda | 15/05/2009 | | | Implementation | Statistical Master Plan for the Nigeria National Statistics System | 2007-2011/2012 | Not yet planned | | 2003-2007 |
| 39 | South Africa | | | | Implementation | National Strategy for the Development of Statistics | 2009-2014 | Not yet planned | | 2008-2012 |
| 40 | Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic | | | | No Strategy | | | Being designed | 2009-2018 | 2003-2015 |
| 41 | Senegal | 24/02/2010 | | | Implementation | Schéma Directeur de la Statistique | 2008-2013 | Not yet planned | | 2006-2010 |
| 42 | Seychelles | | | | Completed, awaiting adoption | | | Not yet planned | | 2000-2010 |
| 43 | Sierra Leone | 18/06/2009 | | | Implementation | National Strategy for the Development of Statistics | 2008-2012 | Not yet planned | | 2005-2007 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------|--|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 44 | Somalia | | | | No Strategy | | | Not yet planned | | No PRSP |
| 45 | Sao Tome and Principe | 01/02/2010 | | | Implementation | Statistics South Africa Strategic Plan | 2010/2011-2014/2015 | Planned | | No PRSP |
| 46 | Sudan | | | | Strategy expired | Central Bureau of Statistics Strategic Plan | 2003-2008 | Planned | | I-PRSP 2003/2004 |
| 47 | Sudan South | | | | | | | | | |
| 48 | Swaziland | | | | Strategy expired | Strategic Plan | 2004/2005-2008/2009 | Being designed | 2001-2016 | 2005-2015 |
| 49 | Tanzania | | | | Implementation | Tanzania Statistical Master Plan | 2009/2010-2013/2014 | Planned | | 2010/2011-2014/2015 |
| 50 | Togo | 12/05/2009 | | | Completed, awaiting adoption | Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique | 2009-2013 | Not yet planned | | 2009-2011 |
| 51 | Tunisia | | | | Implementation | Le Programme National de la Statistique | 2007-2011 | Planned | | 2007-2011 |
| 52 | Uganda | | | | Implementation | Plan for National Statistical Development | 2007-2011 | Not yet planned | | 2008-2009 |
| 53 | Zambia | 31/01/2010 | | | Completed, awaiting adoption | Zambia NSDS | 2009-2013 | Not yet planned | | 2006-2010 |
| 54 | Zimbabwe | | | | Completed, awaiting adoption | National Strategy for the Development of Statistics | 2011-2015 | Not yet planned | | 2009-2013 |

Source: AUC and Paris21.org.

Legend

For existing NSDS

For next NSDS

| Category | Definition | Category | Definition |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No Strategy | There is no strategy in place | Not yet planned | The process to design a NSDS has not yet started |
| Completed, awaiting adoption | An NSDS document has been completed but has not yet been adopted by the Government | Planned | The process to design a NSDS has been initiated (e.g. roadmap) and fundings being sought |
| Implementation | An NSDS document has been adopted by the Government and is being implemented | | |
| Expired | The existing strategy has expired | | |