



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa
African Centre for Statistics



Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa II)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
18– 21 January 2010

Harnessing Financial and Technical Resources in Support
of the Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals in
African Countries

Report of the Second Meeting of
the Statistical Commission for Africa



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACBF	African Capacity-Building Foundation
ACS	African Centre for Statistics
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGNA	African Group on National Accounts
AFRISTAT	Economic and Statistical Observatory for sub-Saharan Africa
AGROST	African Group on Statistical Training
AHSCP	African Household Survey Capability Programme
ASCC	African Statistical Coordination Committee
ASSD	Africa Symposium on Statistical Development
AUC	African Union Commission
CCSA	Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
CPI	Consumer Price Index
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FASDEV	Forum on Statistical Development in Africa
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IAEG	Inter-Agency and Expert Group
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICP- Africa	International Comparison Programme for Africa
IFORD	Institut Régional de Formation et de Recherches Démographiques
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INWENT	Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung
ISAE	Institute for Statistics and Applied Economics
ISI	International Statistical Institute
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NSA	National Statistical Association
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical System
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
REC	Regional Economic Community
RPHC	Round of Population and Housing Census
RRSF	Reference Regional Strategic Framework
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SNA	System of National Accounts
STPA	Statistical Training Programme for Africa
SYSCOA	Accounting System of West African States
UNCC	United Nations Conference Centre
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNSC	United Nations Statistical Commission
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division

Introduction

1. The African Centre for Statistics (ACS) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) organized the second meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa) from 18 to 21 January 2010, at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The theme of this second meeting of StatCom-Africa was “Harnessing Financial and Technical Resources in Support of the Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals in African Countries.” As a matter of fact, only five years away from the MDG target date, there is a need for a clear picture of where things are in order to monitor the achievement and to undertake corrective measures where required. The work of StatCom-Africa II will provide a key input into the Global MDGs review taking place in New York in September this year.
2. StatCom-Africa is UNECA’s intergovernmental mechanism to review the relevance of the statistics subprogramme of ECA (Subprogramme 9). Following the creation of ACS, StatCom-Africa was established to be the apex entity in the field of statistics in Africa. It endorses the statistical programme of ACS and reviews its implementation, proposing necessary decisions on emerging issues. StatCom-Africa also serves as a link between the African Statistical System to the UN-StatCom and accordingly promotes the development and implementation of statistical standards. The first session of this subsidiary body took place in January 2008 under the theme “Scaling up Statistical Development in Africa”. Since then, StatCom-Africa has set up working groups to promote the implementation of national accounts, informal sector and gender statistics, among other things. In addition, the bureau of StatCom-Africa works closely with the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC). The ASCC consists of AfDB, ACBF, AUC and ECA; its objective is to implement joint programmes and to avoid duplication of efforts through the leveraging of each partner’s comparative advantage.
3. StatCom-Africa and ASCC provide leadership for the implementation of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity-Building in Africa (RRSF). It has established a repository of data on Africa that is aggregated at the continental and subregional levels; as well as for individual countries, through a joint data collection and processing mechanism. One major achievement of the ASCC was the publication of the first ever Joint African Statistical Yearbook and development of a joint statistical database. The bureau of StatCom-Africa and the ASCC endorsed the inception of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST), which is a working group under the umbrella of StatCom-Africa, to ensure the coordination of activities and initiatives in support of statistical training and human resources development in Africa. AGROST reported on its planned activities during Stat-Com II.
4. Also notable is the considerable progress made regarding the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (2010 RPHC), where the advocacy and technical support provided by the ASSD and the friends of ECA for proper census taking and sharing of best practices is paying off. Since the beginning of the Round in 2005, over 20 countries have already taken their censuses and the total number is expected to rise to over 35 by 2010 according to the commitments already made. Should this trend continue, the participation and the quality of the 2010 RPHC will improve over the 2000 RPHC, when only 37 countries participated.

Attendance

5. The Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa II) held its second meeting at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Addis Ababa from 18 to 21 January 2010. The meeting was preceded by a workshop on statistical capacity-building held on 17 January and followed by the fourth Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV IV) on 22 January 2010.

Member States

6. The session was attended by delegates from the following 44 member States of UNECA: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

7. The country delegations mainly comprised Heads of National Statistics Offices (NSOs), National Statistical Councils, Poverty Reduction Strategy Units, Young Statisticians and National Statistical Associations.

Observers

8. The meeting was also attended by observers from the following non-African States, as well as international, regional, subregional and national organizations and institutions.

9. Non-African States: Germany (InWent), France (Association pour le Développement des Techniques Economiques et Financières (ADETEF), Développement, Institutions et Analyses de Long Terme (IRD-DIAL) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)).

10. International, regional and subregional organizations and institutes: Partnership In Statistics for development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), World Bank, EUROSTAT, African Development Bank (AfDB), African Union (AU), Google.org, PROGNOZ, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic and Statistical Observatory for sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT), and the Economic Community Central African States (ECCAS).

11. Training Institutes: ESTAC (Tanzania), Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD), Makerere University's Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE), Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA), Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales (ICASEES), Institut de Statistiques Sociales et d'Economie Appliquée (ISSEA-Yaoundé), University of Ibadan, University of Lomé and the National University of Rwanda.

12. Statistical Associations: Association Malienne de la statistique, Association marocaine des ingénieurs statisticiens, Association des Statisticiens du Congo, Ethiopian Statistical Association (Ethiopia), Association des Statisticiens du Gabon (Gabon), Ghana Statistical Association, Statistical Association (Malawi), Association Sénégalaise pour la Statistique (Sénégal), Nigerian Statistical Association, South African Statistical

Association and International Statistics Institute (South Africa), Tanzania Statistical Association, Association des Statisticiens et Démographes (Togo), and Uganda Statistical Society (Uganda).

13. United Nations offices: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), International Labour Organization (ILO), ILO Subregional Office for Eastern Africa, United Nations Statistical Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Liaison Office to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

14. Others: Award winners, international statistics consultants, and other prominent personalities.

Plenary Session I: Opening Ceremony

15. Opening statements were made by the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, a representative of the Ministry of Justice of Ethiopia, the Acting Chief Economist of AfDB, and a representative of the Commissioner for Economic Affairs of AUC. Finally, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made a keynote speech.

Opening statement by the Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECA

16. Ms. Lalla Ben Barka, welcomed all the participants to the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and to the Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa II). She thanked the representative of Mr. Berhan Hailu, Minister of Justice of Ethiopia, for his presence. She indicated that StatCom-Africa have been created to provide a regular forum for discussion and decision-making on all aspects of statistical development in the continent. The theme of “Harnessing Financial and Technical Resources in Support of the Monitoring of the MDGS in African Countries” was most appropriate with only five years remaining from the MDG target date. The work of StatCom-Africa II would provide a key input into the Global MDGs review taking place in New York in September 2010.

17. She also noted that in terms of coordination and advocacy for statistical activities in Africa, the African Statistical Coordination Committee (ASCC) would optimize the work undertaken by various stakeholders, thereby avoiding duplication. Mainly, ASCC have published the first ever jointly-produced African Statistical yearbook (ASYB), developed a joint statistical database and endorsed the inception of AGROST. Further progress has been made regarding Population and Housing censuses (PHCs). Since the beginning of the 2010 Round in 2005, nearly 20 countries have already taken their censuses. ACS has also developed a number of census materials specific to the African context.

18. Ms. Lalla Ben Barka also indicated the PARIS21 Consortium meeting and the 5th ASSD that were held in Dakar, Senegal in November 2009. Those meetings have resulted in the Dakar and Gorée Declarations. The United Nations General Assembly have created six additional professional posts for ACS. Those additional human resources would work in the various areas of statistics. She commended the Government of France for providing ACS with one regional advisor on household surveys. Finally, she thanked all other development partners for their support in the development of statistics in Africa and indicated the need for close collaboration among all Pan-African institutions in the development of statistics.

Welcoming remarks by the representative of the Ministry of Justice of Ethiopia

19. In the statement read on his behalf, the Minister for Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia welcomed participants to Addis Ababa, to participate in the Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa. He has personally attended the regional workshop on civil registration and vital statistics systems organized by ACS/ECA in Dar-es-Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania in June 2009. That workshop has been a great opportunity to visualize the dimensions, depth and power of statistics serving as critical instrument for changing the lives of African people, specifically in reaching the huge population residing in the rural and semi-urban areas.

20. After the downfall of the former military dictatorial regime in 1991, Ethiopia has embarked on a new democratic and developmental system registering significant economic, social and political achievements. Democratization through the popular participation of the general public has yielded encouraging results both in the economic, social and justice sectors. Among other things, the economy has registered double-digit growth, averaging 11 per cent per annum for the last five consecutive years and that have never happened in the country's contemporary history. Currently, the economy was expected to grow by more than ten per cent in 2010. The country has also made significant strides in social sectors like education and health towards achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) and remained committed to enhancing democracy and good governance.

21. Ethiopia was also highly committed to working closely with the ECA and other key development partners to improve statistical operations and systems in Africa. From his discussions with various organizations at the Dar-es-Salaam workshop, he has the impression that statistics required more political support from governments. Therefore, following the recommendations of the Dar-es-Salaam workshop, the Ethiopian Government have expressed its commitment and readiness to host the upcoming High-level Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration. Such initiatives and readiness would bring a huge encouragement, specifically to the Heads of National Statistical Offices that would in turn require them to proactively coordinate and liaise with their national counterparts.

Opening Statement by the Director of Statistics Department of AfDB

22. The Director, Statistics Department and Officer-in-charge, Chief Economist Complex in the African Development Bank noted that StatCom-Africa II was taking place at a time when Africa was coping with the effects of the financial and economic crises that have beset the world since the latter part of 2008. Under those circumstances, sound statistics represented a key weapon in the battle against poverty and for fostering development. That was why AfDB was fully committed to supporting efforts to develop statistical systems and capacity-building in African countries. AfDB has expanded its activities to include support for improving social statistics, MDG monitoring, agricultural statistics, infrastructure statistics, gender and regional integration. He urged development partners to align their support to the country-owned National Strategies for Statistical Development (NSDS) that provided an essential platform for mapping multiple sources of funding to national priorities and country systems. He also urged African countries to make concerted efforts to allocate adequate budgetary resources for national statistical development work.

Statement by the Director of Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission

23. The AUC Commissioner for Economic Affairs noted the need to examine together the balance-sheet of all the action and initiatives undertaken, so as to capitalize on achieved results and lessons learnt from mutual experiments as well as difficulties, in order to produce credible statistics to support development programmes in Africa. To correctly evaluate the progress achieved on the ways to growth and development, Africa needed to be equipped with strong statistical institutions, coupled with qualified human resources and suitable materials and finances. The African Union Commission (AUC) was committed to finding sustainable solutions to the severe problems which undermined the development of statistics on the continent. Accordingly, AU Heads of State and Government have taken a decision to expedite the process of African integration through the adoption of the African Charter on Statistics. Among other initiatives, the AUC was creating an African fund for statistics, to be financed by member States and partners.

Keynote address by Mr. Paul Cheung (Director of UNSD at DESA of the UN Secretariat)

24. Mr. Paul Cheung made a presentation entitled “Advancing the Global Statistical System (GSS): Perspectives of Africa”. The GSS comprised the National Statistical Systems (NSS), regional and international organizations with the UNSC as an apex entity. Its main objective was to create a strong and cohesive global statistical community producing high quality, objective and internationally comparable statistics. The key functions of the GSS also included: Establishing professional norms and values; adopting statistical standards & methods; issuing guidelines and recommendations; developing tools to support the collection, analysis and use of statistics; and offering technical assistance to build production capacity.

25. The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) remained a crucial actor for building and reinforcing the GSS, a forum for decisions, a coordination body for statistical activities, and provided intellectual leadership to national and international efforts to establish strong statistical systems. Relevant to the mission of UNSD was the fact that statistical development in Africa was due to its weak capacity, despite the support of international and regional organizations. In the area of economic statistics, African countries have met such hindering factors in the implementation of the 1993 SNA as the reporting and scope of national accounts data; not to mention the quality and coverage of data sources, outdated business registers, over-reliance on surveys and censuses, and inconsistency of collected variables with national accounting concepts. The scope of national accounts data availability of rapid estimates in African countries was scarce, and both the quality and content of data varied by country. Consequently, there was a need to increase the number of staff working on national accounts and limit the high turnover.

26. With regard to the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, the situation was better than in the 2000 round but some countries faced problems and have already postponed their censuses for political and/or financial reasons. In the area of civil registration and vital statistics, Africa still faced serious under coverage and very few countries operated a civil registration system with full coverage for births and deaths. The challenges for the future included the need for strong leadership from Chief Statisticians, improved governance structure and personnel policies, and the need for political leadership support.

Plenary Session II: Awards ceremony

27. In order to mark the long-standing contribution of UNECA to the development of statistics in Africa, the African Centre for Statistics (ACS), on behalf of the statistical community in Africa and with the concurrence of the African Statistics Coordination Committee, decided to honour, with Africa Statistics Awards, those daughters and sons of Africa who have, over the years, played a leading role in the development of statistics in the motherland. Those Awards were conferred on four persons in recognition of their contribution to the development of statistics in Africa.

28. Mr. Michel Mouyelo-Katoula, current Manager of the International Comparison Programme (ICP) at the World Bank and former: Manager of the Statistical Capacity- Building Division and Regional Coordinator of the ICP-Africa Programme at AfDB; International Consultant for DFID at the Department of Statistics, Ministry of Finance, Rwanda; Director of Development Plan Preparation, Planistat, Windhoek, Namibia; Coordinator of the ICP for Africa at the Eurostat/EuroCost Luxembourg; Principal Statistician-Economist at UDEAC, Central African Republic; Director of Economic Statistics, Ministry of Planning, the Congo; and Visiting Lecturer at the universities of the Congo, Central African Republic and Statistical Training Centres in Germany.

29. Mr. Antoine Simonpietri, current Senior Statistician at the World Bank. Contributions included: Design and implementation of advocacy programmes for the use of statistics for development, and launching of statistical development support programmes under the NSDS approach, as Manager of PARIS21; Team Leader of the Poverty Monitoring Unit and Coordinator in the Social Dimensions of Adjustment Unit for household surveys of the Africa region; worked in national statistical offices in Chad for the population census preparation, in Côte d'Ivoire for the Multi-Round Household Survey and the Electoral Census, and in Central African Republic, within the regional economic institution of UDEAC, to promote population policies and statistical development in six countries.

Certificate of Recognition

30. Dr. Miranda Mafafo, current Executive Director of Agricultural Development Programmes at the Pan-African Agricultural Business Development Institute, an affiliate of the AU/NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). Her contributions include postgraduate teaching and research in Development Studies at the University of Witwatersrand and the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa; as well as her work at Statistics South Africa where she coordinated and managed the SADC Millennium Census Project, the maths-stats programme, and the ISIBalo capacity-building programme.

Special Recognition

31. Professor Paul Cheung, current Director of UNSD at DESA. Prior to joining the UN Secretariat, he has served as Chief Statistician of the Government of Singapore. After his graduation, he taught at the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University. He was also the past Chairman of the Governing Board, UN-SIAP, the Chair of the UNESCAP Committee on Statistics, as well as Chairman of the Regional Advisory Board of the Asian Development Bank's International Comparison Programme for Asia and the Pacific. Professor Cheung has made statistical development in Africa one of his pre-occupations and played an important role in the revival of the statistics function at ECA; ensured that more African statisticians attended the UNSC and other international meetings; worked diligently towards building greater

statistical capacity; and been in the forefront of the efforts to get all African countries to participate in the 2010 world population and housing census programme. Professor Cheung have received his education in Singapore and the U.S.A and done postgraduate work at the East-West Centre, Hawaii, and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Statements by the four Award recipients

32. Mr. Michel Mouyelo-Katoula recounted, after 35 years, the first international meeting he have attended after just two years of work experience. He expressed his gratitude for the award given to him, mentioning the countries and organizations he has served during those long years of service. He encouraged all young statisticians to work with determination to attain the noble objectives, especially of statistical development in Africa and the use of statistics for regional integration.

33. Mr. Antoine Simonpietri indicated that he had worked with Mr. Mouyelo-Katoula for many years and logged in total, 32 years work experience. He mentioned the difficulty of undertaking population censuses in conflict areas and recalled both the failures and successes in his working life, indicating the importance of partner coordination. He further pointed out that technological developments to improve statistical work was important since statistical development rested on the shoulders of young statisticians, they could also play a role in statistics renaissance. He recognized the roles STCs played in producing trained manpower for the whole society in economic and social development.

34. Dr. Mirinda Mafafo thanked Mr. Pali Lehohla, Statistician General of South Africa, for his support and expressed her indebtedness to “mentors” for her success in life. There was a growing demand for statistics due to the MDG indicators. Africa could not measure the MDGs adequately due to data and resource gaps. She recalled the discussions held on the 2010 RPHC as success in Yaoundé. At that time, African governments were ill-prepared, there was no strategy in place, and ASSD was an ad-hoc intervention. While the ground work has now been done, a strategy looking beyond 2015 must involve dialogue with development practitioners and partners, and should look into harnessing human resources. Interestingly, the ISIBalo capacity-building programme instilled statistics in the young to bring a fresh perspective and Heads of NSOs should create such space for young statisticians.

35. Mr. Paul Cheung said that both he and UNSD took pride in assisting Africa. He looked forward to working with Africans in order to improve their statistical systems. He reminded participants that there was much work to be done and they must continue to work hard.

IV. Plenary Session 3: Election of the Bureau

Election of Officers

36. After recalling the procedure adopted in 2008 by the first session of StatCom-Africa, in nominating members of the Bureau the present session decided, in exceptional and transitory circumstances, to renew the Bureau in place. Thus, the Bureau hereafter was elected by acclamation:

- 1) Chair: South Africa;
- 2) Vice-Chair: Morocco;
- 3) Second Vice-Chair: Niger;
- 4) First Rapporteur: Uganda;
- 5) Second Rapporteur: Cameroon.

V. Plenary Session 4: Reports on StatCom-Africa Working Groups

37. The Commission adopted the proposed agenda and programme of work (see annex), after reformulating the daily schedule: the afternoon session concentrated on reports of the seven working groups to the plenary.

1. Report on ECA's activities in the area of Data Management

38. Introducing document E/ECA/STATCOM/2/5: Report on ECA's activities in the area of data management since the first session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, ECA made a PowerPoint presentation on:

- a. Enhancing ECA's Statistical Database Platform: ECA has continued to improve the StatBase platform to incorporate feedback received. A Google-like search mechanism has been added to the database to enable users to quickly find data on African countries;
- b. Joint African Statistical Yearbook: Following the recommendation of the ASCC, UNECA, AfDB, and the AUC have produced the first joint African Statistical Yearbook (ASYB-2009). The second issue was expected to be published by end of March 2010;
- c. Implementing the African Statistical Knowledge Network: In response to the recommendation of the data management workshop, ECA has developed the "African Statistical Knowledge Network" (ASKN);
- d. Capacity-Building Activities: A Regional Workshop on Data Management have been conducted in Kampala, end October 2009, jointly organized by ECA, AfDB, and UNSD, in close collaboration with the AUC and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). The main objective of workshop was to promote and strengthen statistical data management practices in Africa. The workshop has also provided a forum for the exchange of information, views and ideas on statistical data compilation, archiving and dissemination in Africa;
- e. Enhancing ECA Capacity in Data Management and Dissemination: ECA has received funding from Google.org and Google Foundation to enhance its data management and dissemination system in terms of the collection, management, archiving, documentation and delivery of regional statistical information. The project was aimed at developing innovative methods of data collection and dissemination, including platforms for management, archiving and documentation. Under this activity, a study visit had been undertaken to OED and PARIS21 focusing on statistical data management, including current trends in statistical information systems development, tools and technologies for developing statistical applications, automated methods of data capture, data production mechanisms (validation, estimation, rebasing, etc.), data dissemination mechanisms and archiving survey micro data;
- f. Participating in the United Nations Data Managers' Meeting organized by UNSD in New York in June 2009, with the aim of presenting the UN Data portal to streamline and facilitate dissemination of data created and compiled by all United Nations offices;
- g. Supporting member States in the implementation of national databases, more specifically, collaborating with ECOWAS to assist six member countries to implement a database for compiling and disseminating statistics in line with the ECOWAS plan to streamline statistical data exchange and dissemination among its 15 member countries;
- h. The meeting was also informed that ECA has established a data management function in ACS. Activities covered under the data management functions of ACS include:

- i. Standard Data Management Practices: this provides policy advice to member States, subregional and regional institutions, to adopt sound data governance;
- ii. Micro Data Management: the archiving of micro data resulting from censuses and surveys are crucial in Africa where surveys and censuses are often archived outside due to the lack of in-country capacity;
- iii. Geo-enabling Statistical Processes: Geography and Statistics are closely linked because many statistical data collection units are geographic entities. Distribution of socio-economic variables such as education, labour force, health conditions, fertility, mortality, migration, etc. will be studied;
- iv. Regional Databases: ACS have implemented regional database for use by ECA, subregional and regional organizations. This database was being enhanced and new features added to better serve Regional Economic Communities and ECA's subregional offices; and
- v. Support to ECA Sub-Programmes: ACS would provide expert advice to other divisions of ECA on the use of statistics and on sound data management.

2. Report of the Working Group on Development Indicators

39. Introducing document E/ECA/STATCOM/2/6: Report of the Working Group on Development Indicators, a presenter outlined activities performed or envisaged in the future and the major challenges facing Africa. The accomplished activities included:

- a. Organizing a workshop on the coordination of reporting mechanisms and data discrepancies in MDG monitoring in May 2008 in Kampala, Uganda;
- b. Conducting cases studies on the assessment of data discrepancies between national and international sources and possible solutions in six African countries; and
- c. Drafting the terms of reference of the Group.
- d. The presenter emphasized the need to review the effectiveness of current and alternative data sources with mechanisms to ensure sustainability, as well as data quality and data validation and stressed the need for a coordinating mechanism among statistical producers and users within countries and for addressing human and financial resource gaps. The report also highlighted current challenges in MDG measurement and monitoring in two broad categories: discrepancies and data gaps. Under discrepancies, the following issues were mentioned as major sources and areas of concern: definitions and specifications, inadequacies of estimates and coverage, differences in methodology and adjustments in the MDG framework. In relation to data gaps, frequency of updates, periodicity of sample surveys and national priorities were mentioned.

3. Report of the Working Group on Gender Statistics

40. The presenter introduced the Kampala City Group on Gender Statistics (KCG-GS), a forum where African stakeholders and partners discuss, propose and address needs and challenges related to the development of gender statistics in line with poverty reduction strategies. The forum's main objectives were:

- a. To advocate for the development and use of gender statistics among statistical boards and councils, management and staff of national statistical systems and data users;
- b. To mainstream gender issues and concerns in all statistical programmes and activities;
- c. To improve country capacity to produce and use gender sensitive indicators and sex disaggregated statistics to inform policy formulation;

- d. To provide a platform for discussion and exchange of information on new and emerging issues of gender statistics arising from different fora;
- e. To strengthen partnerships in African countries to generate gender-responsive policies;
- f. To develop strategies to promote the use of gender statistics; and to disseminate information on identified training opportunities on gender;
- g. The expected outputs included:
 - i. Increased production and use of gender-sensitive statistics;
 - ii. Increased production and use of gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated statistics;
 - iii. Strategies to address emerging issues on the development of gender statistics;
 - iv. Strengthened partnerships in gender statistics production and use; and
 - v. Reports on experiences and best practices on gender statistics.

Terms of Reference of the Gender Working Group:

- a. The Group's mandate was to support and advise on gender statistical issues, needs and challenges affecting PRSPs and MDGs. The overall objective was to provide a statutory forum to discuss and convey all gender statistics issues to StatCom Africa. Specifically, its task was to:
 - i. Mainstream gender into national statistical systems and the StatCom-Africa specialized Working groups;
 - ii. Provide a forum for discussion between key users and producers of statistics;
 - iii. Coordinate initiatives and activities on gender statistics;
 - iv. help exchange experiences and foster best practices on gender statistics; and
 - v. Advocate for the development of a regional strategy on mainstreaming gender into national statistical systems.
- b. The group's expected outputs included:
 - i. A compendium of definitions, concepts and terminologies on gender statistics;
 - ii. A strategy on the development of gender statistics; and
 - iii. An inventory of gender statistics.

4. Report of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa

41. This presentation was supported with a study document entitled "Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa in short SHaSA." Its contents was partitioned into four broad topics: (a) background and rationale; (b) African integration agenda and statistical requirements; (c) state of the African statistical system; and (d) strategy for the harmonization of statistics.

- i. The background gave general information about successful initiatives taken by various regional organizations, challenges facing Africa in regional statistical system development and the rationale for initiating SHaSA as a regional strategy for the development of an African statistical system framework;
- ii. Serving as a basis for the African integration agenda were well-known regional policy frameworks such as the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and others. The AU organ

- was referred to as the pillar for integration programmes being implemented in the four areas of: political, economic, social and cultural integration; and
- iii. Regional priority statistical requirements were presented in a matrix form. National, regional, continental and international stakeholder capacities for the production, dissemination and harmonization of statistics were described and detailed strategies for the harmonization of statistics proposed.

5. Report of the Working Group on the Informal Sector

42. In January 2008, StatCom-Africa has entrusted AFRISTAT with the responsibility to organize and monitor the activities of the Working Group on the Informal Sector in Africa. Despite the fact that its first meeting was not heavily attended, AFRISTAT, in partnership with some other agencies, has carried out such key activities as:

- a. The International Seminar on the Informal Sector in Africa: This Seminar was organized by AFRISTAT in October 2008 in Bamako. Its central theme was: “measuring instruments, analyses and integration of economic and social policies”. More than 120 participants from 31 countries and 25 institutions and organizations of Africa, Europe, Asia and America attended the seminar. The scientific community interested in informal sector problems has contributed substantially to the technical preparation by submitting 35 papers, 12 of which were presented in plenary session. The other papers were published in the proceedings of the seminar. In response to one of the International Seminar recommendations, AFRISTAT and the ACS/ECA drafted an “Action Plan for Improving and Monitoring Informal Sector Statistics in Africa for 2010-2012”, to be discussed during the present session; and
- b. The Regional Workshop on Informal Employment in SADC Countries: This workshop was held in October 2009 in Dar-es-Salam. It was facilitated by ILO, UNSD and the National Bureau of Statistics of the United Republic of Tanzania. During the workshop, the complexity of improving and harmonizing mechanisms for collecting data on informal employment and the informal sector was highlighted. However, though the mechanisms used in collecting data on the informal sector differed from one subregion to another, SADC and West African countries were producing comparable figures.

6. Report of the African Working Group on National Accounts (AGNA)

43. The System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008) was adopted by the 39th session of the UNSC. However, African countries have yet to complete implementation of the SNA 1993. The implementation of the SNA 2008 in Africa was therefore conceived as a programme mobilizing all stakeholders at national, regional and continental levels. The strategy has components in seven activities to which are added monitoring, evaluation and reporting, as follows:

- a. Activity 1. To equip the continent with a System of National Accounts (ASNA) adapted to Africa’s socio-economic realities;
- b. Activity 2. To improve the assets of IPC-Africa for the accounts work;
- c. Activity 3. To work out an operational system of producing/disseminating accounts;
- d. Activity 4. To reinforce the analysis and outputs of National accounts;
- e. Activity 5. To improve the quality of the source data necessary for compilation of the national accounts while respecting the NSDS;
- f. Activity 6. To increase human, material and financial resources; and

- g. Activity 7. To conduct advocacy at all decisional levels;
- h. The financing plan, established over the period 2009-2014, indicates the resources assigned annually to each activity, as well as potential financing. AGNA, chaired by AfDB was set up during StatCom-Africa I in January 2008. The first task assigned to AGNA was to develop an African strategy for the implementation of the SNA 2008. The key points of the discussions stressed on reinforcing NSO capacities as regards national accounts, improving the quality of data sources, conceptual compliance and coordinating both technical and financial assistance; and
- i. In addition to AfDB, UNECA, and AUC, the AGNA brings together experts from countries, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AFRISTAT to develop a comprehensive African strategy for the implementation of the SNA 2008, including the development of manuals specific to the African context, including agriculture and disaster management.

7. Report of the Working Group on Statistical Training

44. In document E/ECA/STATCOM/2/10: Report of the Working Group on Statistical Training, training and human resources development were identified as one of the main challenges facing the NSS of Africa. To answer this challenge, a significant number of initiatives, working groups and projects on statistical training have been launched recently in Africa. However, as of 2009, there was still no coordinating body of statistical training activities in Africa. In response to the requests of African countries and their main Technical and Financial Partners, the Group was created to reinforce their dialogue and to create a single mechanism of coordination. In view of the above the following meetings, forums and activities were undertaken:

- a. Meeting of Ouagadougou (April 2009): In order to harmonize approaches to statistical training, a meeting was held in Ouagadougou, in April 2009, of representatives of statistical training centres (STCs) subregional, regional, and international organizations. The meeting has aimed at coordinating existing initiatives in terms of statistical training in Africa and led to the creation of a single Working group on statistical training and human resources development in Africa and the organization of a forum on statistical training in the first half of 2009;
- b. Forum of Bujumbura (June 2009): The Forum on the statistical training and human resources was held in Bujumbura in June 2009 and attended by 58 representatives of African STCs, departments of statistics of African universities, NSOs and subregional, regional, and international organizations dealing with statistical training and human resources development in Africa. Its main objective was to establish a single and permanent mechanism for human resource development and exchange of information and best practices in statistical training among African NSS. Participants recommended the creation of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST) as a single working group in statistical training for Africa formed by the various stakeholders. AGROST reports every two years to StatCom-Africa. Until the definite installation of a permanent secretariat, participants charged UNECA, PARIS21, two representatives each of STCs and NSOs to serve as provisional secretariat of the Group; and
- c. From Bujumbura to StatCom-Africa-II: Since the forum of Bujumbura, the following activities have been undertaken: Finalization of the Terms of Reference of AGROST, its permanent secretariat, its Officer-in-charge, the list of AGROST members, the priority thrusts of its work (August 2009) as well as the mobilization of funds to finance its permanent secretariat (January 2010). In order to be able to implement the activities of AGROST, the provisional secretariat expects: (a) StatCom-Africa to officially place AGROST under its authority; and (b) Technical and Financial Partners to commit to the sustainable financing of AGROST. It is hoped that the first meeting of the Group would take place before the end of the year 2010.

8. General discussion

45. The presentations were followed by a general discussion, during which the following issues were raised:

- a. Presenters have not considered the demand for and use of statistics in their presentations. A proper advocacy component should be reflected in all the working groups and included in their terms of reference;
- b. Though there has been difficulties in finding consolidated indicators for gender statistics to put in census questionnaires, such indicators were available and reference was made to a workshop where the subject has been discussed.
- c. The needs of institutions of higher learning did not seem to have been well taken into consideration;
- d. The report of the Data Management Group seemed to reflect only ECA's activities so the next working group session should address the issue further;
- e. EUROSTAT indicated its readiness to further discuss and share its experience in the compilation of national accounts data with African countries and agencies and would be releasing a handbook in 2011 on national accounts for Europe;
- f. There was a need to develop mechanisms for monitoring the performance of all StatCom working groups;
- g. The potential for duplication between the Inter Agency-Expert Group (IAEG) and the data harmonization Group. A question was also raised about the monitoring mechanisms of SHaSA after its endorsement by the Ministers; and
- h. Concerning discrepancies, it was explained that differences and lack of harmonization in methodologies represented huge challenges, and that variations in methods and approaches and definitions were issues that needed to be addressed during group work sessions.

VI. Plenary Session 5: Other ongoing or new emerging issues

46. The plenary session was dedicated to the presentation of other ongoing or new emerging issues.

9. Presentation on the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (by ACS)

47. Under the leadership of the three regional institutions namely ECA, AfDB and AUC, as well as the Chair of the Friends of ECA and Statistics South Africa, a vigorous advocacy for enhanced participation of African countries during the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (RPHC) was developed, notably through ASSD:

- a. At the same time, ECA has developed a number of manuals that have helped countries to harmonize their methodologies, share their respective experiences, and provide guidance in census taking. They included the African Addendum to the Principles and Recommendations of PHC, a handbook on census planning and enumeration, and a handbook on African experiences in census data processing, analysis and dissemination which was being finalized;
- b. Since 2005, 19 countries have conducted their censuses. Emerging conflicts have compelled a few countries to postpone their censuses. Fourteen more countries planned to conduct their censuses in 2010. The ASCC was working on better coordination of its activities within the continent.

Accordingly, it has organized many meetings and workshops in order to harmonize methodologies and concepts and to provide support to countries in different areas of statistics. ASSC has supported the organization of the ASSD in Accra (2008), in Luanda (2009) and in Dakar (2009). Those fora have constituted the main opportunities for African countries to discuss PHC issues; and

- c. In addition to the substantive servicing of the annual ASSD in Ghana in 2008 and in Angola in 2009, ECA has organized one EGM on census planning and enumeration; one EGM on census data processing, analysis and dissemination; two workshops on census planning and enumeration in French and English; two workshops on data processing, analysis and dissemination in French and English; and one workshop on census evaluation and post-enumeration surveys.

10. Presentation on civil registration and vital statistics (ACS)

48. The presentation entitled “Securing Political Commitment in Revitalizing Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in Africa” started with highlights of the past situation and current status of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in Africa. Though almost all countries have inherited civil registration laws from the colonial period, CRVS has been neglected in most of Africa, even by the statistical community (NSDS documents either omit or inadequately reflect CRVS). Lack of or limited political support from national governments was mentioned as one critical area that needed to be addressed within the current initiative. With respect to ongoing activities, the presenter cited four major areas of intervention:

- a. The preparation of a regional roadmap document entitled “Medium-term Regional CRVS Programme”;
- b. The preparation of regional operational manuals on CRVS based on United Nations guidelines and the African context, building the African Knowledge Base;
- c. The continued implementation of key recommendations of the Dar-es-Salaam workshop, organizing a high-level Ministerial Conference on improving CRVS systems in Africa; and
- d. Capacity-building activities.

49. The high-level Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration will be organized during the second week of August 2010. African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, Heads of NSOs and Civil Registration Offices are expected to attend.

11. Presentation on global strategy to improve Agricultural Statistics

50. For Mr Hiek Som, Deputy Director, Statistics Division of FAO, stated that the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics was based on input from a large number of stakeholders including national statistical institutes and ministries of agriculture, plus regional and international organizations.

- a. FAO’s new global strategy and programme are expected to result in (i) strengthened technical capacity of countries to collect, compile and disseminate food and agricultural statistics on a regular basis; (ii) improved quality of national statistics; (iii) improved data access by all users, including global databases such as FAOSTAT; (iv) more sustainable and integrated institutional framework for production of agricultural statistics;
- b. The global strategy was an initiative of the UNSC developed in partnership with international agencies as well as developed and developing countries. It has subsequently been adopted by NSOs and FAO Governing Bodies and national Ministries of Agriculture. It was a long-term plan to respond to the statistical needs of the 21st century;

- c. The main reasons for the strategy were basic data requirements that are not met; emerging data needs linking the economic, environmental and social dimensions; and agricultural statistics not integrated in the NSS and NSDS;
- d. The capacity-building challenges have to do with basic statistical infrastructure, education and training on new methodological tools, and new technologies, data analysis, a regional approach and partnerships for a sustainable statistical system; and
- e. On the way forward, FAO would develop an implementation plan for its statistical capacity-building strategy for the 42nd Session of the UNSC in 2011, add agriculture in the NSDS, focus on fund raising to the NSS, focus on capacity-building and support for statistics on overall NSS, promote regional STCs of excellence in agricultural statistics, support NSDS implementation instead of separate sectors, and involve data users in the development of the strategy and its implementation.

12. Presentation on Environment Statistics and Climate Change (by ACS)

51. ECA has been involved in Environmental Statistics since the late 1980s. An Environmental Statistics Unit established in the then Statistics Division has produced the first “African Compendium of Environment Statistics 1991”. Since 2007, the African Statistical Year Book (ASYB) has included the following indicators on environment statistics such as carbon dioxide emissions per capita in metric tons, percentage of protected area to total surface area, and proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities:

- a. In April 2006, ECA, in partnership with the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS/WMO) has co-organized a regional workshop on climate information for development in Africa. The workshop resulted in a strategy and implementation programme aimed at improving climate information for development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa). The operational designs of the ClimDev-Africa programme were the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), which was the policy arm, and the ClimDev-Africa Special Fund (CDSF);
- b. In terms of capacity building, since 2005, three workshops have been organized in Africa in the area of environment statistics. The workshops were mainly organized by UNSD in collaboration with UNEP, ECA, ECOWAS, etc. Furthermore, the Biodiversity Indicators Capacity Strengthening (BICS) project has, so far, organized three workshops, two for East African and one for Southern African countries. The project has been funded by the UN Development Account and implemented by UNEP and the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); and
- c. During 2010-2012, ACS planned to undertake the following activities in the area of environment statistics and accounts: to create a unit within the ACS and strengthen the unit in terms of resources, both human and financial; to continue undertaking missions to member States; to collaborate with UNEP, AUC and AfDB to include more relevant environment indicators and improve data availability; to work together with the NEPAD secretariat and the RECs in order to update the core list of environment indicators; to introduce the core list of environmental indicators to member States; to continue organizing capacity-building workshops; to cooperate with the ACPC of the FSSDD; to be involved in the collection of environment statistics in collaboration with UNSD and UNEP; and to produce a Compendium of Environment Statistics in Africa.

VII. Plenary Session 6: Coordination of Statistical Activities

13. Presentation on Joint Missions (By ACS)

52. The presentation covered the joint missions undertaken to Djibouti, Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In total, five joint missions were undertaken; two to Djibouti, two to Angola, and one to DRC, in 2009. The organizations that participated in the joint missions were ECA, PARIS21, ENSEA-Abidjan, AfDB, World Bank, UNFPA, Statistics South Africa, and INE Mozambique. The missions have consulted with government officials, FTPs, data users, etc. on NSDSs and PHCs as follows:

- a. The result of the joint missions have been more synergy and less duplication, a reduced burden on countries, missions well received by governments, greater impact and effective support to heads of NSOs, and common messages from the statistical community being well received instead of several sometimes conflicting or redundant messages. However, there have been delays in the implementation of recommendations, and weaknesses in monitoring the implementation of recommendations; and
- b. In the future, organizations should remain committed to working together in African countries. The first joint mission in 2010 was planned to take place in Sao Tome and Principe in February 2010; the ASCC would take action to bring on board the Association of African Central Banks in order to cover all statistics areas, and to continue coordinating action; working group programmes would be implemented in a coordinated manner; and the missions will include other FTPs.

14. Presentation on RRSF Implementation (by AfDB)

53. The presenter covered the main objectives of RRSF, its strategies, implementation level and resource requirements. Failure to promote the RRSF has been the cause for restructuring during the period 2006-2009 at ECA and AfDB. Even though some RRSF recommended strategies and actions have been built into country NSDSs, the RRSF is not well known at the country level. On the upside, therefore, the RRSF has generated a momentum for statistical development in Africa, leading to restructuring and strengthening in regional organizations. Through the creation of ASCC and StatCom-Africa, the activities undertaken in the context of the RRSF and geared towards the coordination of statistical activities in Africa have brought improvements in the following:

- a. Advocacy for statistics mainly through the African Charter on Statistics and African Statistics Day celebrations;
- b. The preparation of various consolidated reports on statistical activities and the development of an RRSF web site;
- c. Joint statistical capacity-building activities such as workshops with the result that Africa is being mobilized to more effectively participate in the 2010 RPHC in a renewed effort to develop CRVS systems;
- d. Mainstreaming of gender in NSS and their activities; production of a joint ASYB; development of the NSDS within countries;
- e. Information sharing through publication of the African Statistical Journal and the African Statistical Newsletter, undertaking of study tours and peer reviews, etc;
- f. Since 2005, 21 countries have completed their NSDS design process and are currently implementing a strategy with five of them also designing their next NSDS; 19 have either designed strategies ready for adoption or were designing one while 13 have yet to initiate the process. However, many

countries faced the challenge of finding enough resources to effectively implement their NSDS and needed to improve the NSDS process and the quality of NSDS documents. From 2007 to 2009, Partners have supported statistical development in Africa to the tune of \$US 422 million, but that support has been concentrated on a small number of countries with only three countries receiving 39 per cent of the regional total of disbursements. The main partners have been the European Commission, the World Bank, the United Kingdom, UNICEF and AfDB; and

- g. To implement RRSF and NSDS, more advocacy was needed at all levels, including the need to strengthen the statistics departments/units at RECs, AUC and regional STCs, to improve the quality of the NSDS following those guidelines developed by PARIS21 in collaboration with partners, to improve on the NSDS implementation process, to increase development partner support to statistics development in African countries, to prepare a mid-decade review by mid-2010, to determine whether the framework remained relevant and agree on changes in strategies if needed, to secure country information on indicators for monitoring progress, to nominate national RRSF coordinators, and to organize RRSF dissemination workshops at regional, subregional and national levels.

15. Presentation on the African Charter for Statistics (by AUC)

54. Status of the signature and the ratification of the Charter: Adopted on 3 February 2009 by the 12th ordinary session of the Conference of AU Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, the Charter was sent to the countries in March for signature and ratification and has, to date, been signed by ten countries. Prospective actions to be carried out include:

- a. Advocacy to accelerate the signature and the ratification of the Charter through: (i) the examination of national processes of accession to such international legal instruments as treaties or International Conventions; (ii) the identification of possible obstacles to national ratification of treaties, starting with a review of the state of accession of Member States to AU Treaties;
- b. Proposal of clear steps to be undertaken at all levels to facilitate the ratification of the charter by all countries; and
- c. Popularization of the Charter for better ownership by the African statistical community by:
 - i. asking NSOs, as coordinators of NSS, to popularize the charter in their respective countries by every means suitable;
 - ii. working out a presentation layout of the charter to be used as reference material for its popularization;
 - iii. encouraging statistical training centres to envisage in their curricula a presentation of the Charter to their students; and
 - iv. taking advantage of various for a (meetings of Heads of State, ministers, members of Parliament) to present the Charter;
- e. Development of a Handbook for the effective implementation of the Charter by:
 - i. developing a methodological framework based on the principles of the Charter and on the NSDS checklist as developed by PARIS21;
 - ii. working out NSS plans of discussion with stakeholders, more particularly, users; and
 - iii. identifying pilot countries for the first peer review and conducting evaluations.

16. Discussions on presentations

55. The presentations were followed by a general discussion, during which the following issues were raised:

- a. Given the challenge of their civil registration problems, it was crucial for countries to build synergy between censuses and national civil registration systems;
- b. There was a need for political commitment from countries and heads of villages in implementing civil registration;
- c. Research was needed on factors that hindered civil registration in countries. The use of ICTs in civil registration activities was important and countries have to learn from each other;
- d. Effective coordination of agricultural statistics could only be achieved by involving all stakeholders at national and subregional levels. Adequate coverage should be given in the area of environment statistics to adapt the core list of environment indicators;
- e. Countries planning to attend the Fifth Agricultural Conference to be held in Kampala in October 2010 were invited to consult the Conference website and to prepare papers for presentation;
- f. Since the depletion of natural resources and climate change were problems that affected all countries, there was a need to study in detail the link between climate change and economic development as well as the need to harmonize indicators, coordinate the activities of all stakeholders, and take on board the expertise required to create sustainable environment systems;
- g. Several countries indicated their readiness to ratify the African Charter on Statistics but asked for more information on the process. PARIS21 indicated that peer review was undertaken on the African Charter on statistics. Parliaments and governments should debate the issues of national statistical development;
- h. EUROSTAT indicated that it would have participated in the joint missions, if the EU delegation had been duly alerted;
- i. AFRISTAT indicated that for synergies between ECA and AfDB to be sufficiently seen, more information should be disseminated on the terms of reference (ToR) of joint missions; and
- j. Finally, it was suggested to create a working group on social inclusion to address the need for social safety nets.

Break-out Session

VIII. Plenary Session 7: Report by Working Groups

17. Report of the Working Group on Data Management

56. About 20 participants attended the meeting. ECA presented summary ToR for Data Management functions in ACS, for feedback from member States and partners. The role of geography and geospatial technologies, notably GIS and GPS in all stages of the statistical process, especially running parallel workshops at subsequent StatCom meetings, was discussed as follows:

- a. Three technical presentations were made by ECA on: (i) enhancements since StatCom I; (ii) the Gazetteer application being developed in collaboration with UNGEGN; and (iii) the African Statistical Knowledge Network Platform. There was a need for ACS to:
 - i. Cover data management features, from data collection to data exchange through web 2.0;
 - ii. To survey countries to determine those having databases (and what systems they were using) with a view to identifying those that needed assistance to implement databases; and
 - iii. Set up expert groups to review various database platforms and systems and recommend suitable options with appropriate features.

18. Report of the Working Group on Development Indicators

57. The main objective of the Group is to support StaCom-Africa in its quest to address challenges facing African countries on MDG monitoring. The Working Group has agreed on a number of deliverables including the development of detailed Terms of Reference by the end of 2008. The working group was composed of representatives from nine countries, ADB and ECA. After electing its Bureau, the Group has reviewed the Terms of Reference then recommended the following measures aimed at improving the development and tracking of development indicators:

- a. To conduct a study on why African countries might not meet some MDG targets and to prepare the inclusion of development goals/indicators specific to Africa beyond 2015;
- b. To have ECA and its partners develop a Handbook on the derivation of development indicators from population censuses and household surveys;
- c. To get countries to build national databases which should include MDG indicators;
- d. To have ECA and its partners provide resources to the Group to enable it carry out its mandate (e.g. workshops, meetings, consultancies etc.);
- e. To promote the setting up of national MDG focal points and Coordination Committees; and
- f. To promote better involvement of national political authorities (Government, Parliament, Civil Society and the Private Sector) in MDG monitoring.

19. Report of the Working Group on Gender Statistics

58. The Working Group was composed of representatives from seven countries and four international organizations; Gender Statistics Initiatives were presented by the following institutions:

- a. ECA: Time-use surveys, a project to support countries in adapting the world manual on time-use surveys, with Ghana and Djibouti as pilot countries; the methodology will be shared through GESNET;
- b. INWENT Statistical Capacity building programme to support training in the region: E-learning programme on mainstreaming gender in economic statistics (capturing unpaid work and contribution of women to GDP);
- c. AFRISTAT: Work Programme 2011-2015 integrates activities on Gender; AFRISTAT is a member of the Expert group on engendering censuses and surveys;
- d. Uganda-KCG-GS: a forum where African stakeholders and partners can discuss, propose, support and address issues, needs, and challenges related to the development of gender statistics in line with PRSPs and the MDGs;
- e. AfDB has established a Gender Unit to advise and mainstream gender in all AfDB activities particularly the focal areas of ADF-II and providing training throughout the Bank on how to integrate gender in various components of the bank's activities; and
- f. The StatCom-Africa Gender Working Group (GWG) will support and advise on gender statistical issues, needs and challenges in line with PRSPs and MDGs.

20. Report of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Statistics

59. The Group discussed strategy on the development and harmonization of the African Statistical System which has been validated during the meeting of the general managers of African NSOs held on 10 December

2009 in East London, South Africa. The strategy provides the African Statistical System with a general framework to:

- a. Produce statistics of harmonized quality for the definition and implementation of national policies and programmes in Africa;
- b. Follow-up and evaluate the development and integration policies in Africa;
- c. Reinforce the institutional sustainability of statistics systems in Africa; and
- d. Concerning the implementation of the strategy, 12 specialized technical groups were identified. Three Technical Commissions will be set up to validate the work of technical groups. The general managers of African NSOs adopted the Committee's outcomes and submitted them to African Ministers in charge of statistics.

21. Discussions on the working group presentations (Part 1)

60. The draft SHaSA document will have the logos of the three Pan-African institutions, namely ECA, AUC and AfDB and the document will be signed by the Heads of the three organizations. However, the logo of the AUC will be put on the document that will be presented to the African Heads of States and Governments. Besides, outputs should be included when timelines are ready. Therefore the following were proposed:

- a. The need to hold joint meetings of StatCom-Africa and the Director Generals of NSOs of AU was also raised. ASCC should look on how to synchronize the meetings;
- b. The idea of undertaking studies by the data management working group is good. It will help in learning the best methods to make informed decisions. The role of RECs in data management is not indicated and the objective of the data management working group should be more coherent;
- c. The documentation with regard to the gender working group is not adequate. Most of the documents prepared are in French. The membership of the working group is big, which may not be convenient to work efficiently. Adequate time should also be given in order to comment on the activities;
- d. There is a problem with the agenda of the Gender working group. It was indicated that gender indicators could be obtained from censuses and surveys by properly designing the questionnaires;
- e. In response to the questions it was indicated that documentation with regard to the gender working group is limited, efforts will be made to post the documents on the website; the working group will continue to improve the documentation; the conceptual as well as the methodological framework will be prepared; and the membership of the gender working group is large, however, it will stabilize;
- f. The need to work on indicators of social inclusion and country unity was indicated. Indicators on social inclusion/exclusion could be looked into and will be decided in which working group to put them, or to create a new working group;
- g. There is a need to look into social inclusion/exclusion, this to be included with gender. Social inclusion can also be investigated by the informal sector working group. Studying social relationship in Africa is critical for African integration and governments should commit themselves to address the issue. It is necessary to look into the subject before deciding where to put it; the outcomes of the study to be presented to the next StatCom-Africa meeting;
- h. Cape Verde indicated that demographic projection is ready. It is different from the projection of the UN organizations. It indicated that international organizations should use country data if available;

- i. International standards need to be followed in developing indicators. UNSD informed the meeting that a handbook on MDGs and development indicators is developed. This handbook could be used in order to avoid duplication. The exact title of the handbook will be communicated later;
- ii. There are two working groups on development indicators. The ASCC should look into the matter and coordinate their activities;
- iii. AUC indicated that there is a report on development indicators from the Cairo meeting. Countries were expected to prepare mid-term report on the subject and AUC and AfDB were expected to discuss the report on MDG indicators. The two working groups need to work together;
- iv. The MDG working group is not adequately informed about the Cairo meeting on indicators. It was requested that the handbook on development indicators that was prepared by UNSD to be disseminated widely;
- v. In order to implement the NSDS countries should work with international organizations. They should as well have the means to implement the strategy. Countries want harmonization of activities. The issue was raised in various fora, such as in Mali (2006), Rwanda (2007), Côte d'Ivoire (2008), and South Africa (2009); and
- vi. There is the need to integrate training activities and to promote the integration of STCs. Micro finance could be proposed on a short-term basis; it could be included in specialized working groups.

22. Report of working group break-out sessions (part II)

23. Report of the Working Group on the Informal Sector

61. The Working Group on the Informal Sector in Africa was composed of 20 countries which have all expressed their wish to take part in the activities of the 2010-2012 Action Plan. AFRISTAT and ECA/ACS presented the proposed Action Plan centred on the implementation of national mixed surveys (Employment/informal-Sector) in pilot countries with the aim to produce an annual balance sheet on employment as well as a satellite account of the informal economy. ECA/ACS presented the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Working Group, putting forward the following points:

- a. The background to the establishment of the Working Group on the Informal Sector;
- b. The activities to be implemented at the regional level;
- c. The criteria for selection of the pilot countries reflecting realities of the Region;
- d. Participants adopted the proposed action plan worked out by AFRISTAT and ECA/ACS subject to the incorporation of the following amendments:
- e. Inclusion of country suggestions in the list of activities;
- f. Alignment of the ToR guidelines with those of the Action Plan; and
- g. Use of job input matrices in the development of national accounts.
- h. (e) Countries members of the Group expressed their need for a technical note on the recent methodological innovations on the mixed surveys (LFS/Informal-sector) and for speedy organization of technical assistance to them.

24. Report of the Working Group on Statistical Training (AGROST)

62. Twenty-four participants from 19 African countries and four international organizations registered for the meeting, chaired by PARIS-21 and reported on by InWent. The agenda was to provide background information on the mission of AGROST initiated in 2009, establishing its permanent secretariat and its funding; working programme for 2010-2011, defining different levels and kinds of training. Most participants agreed that the permanent secretariat should be placed immediately under the umbrella of ECA; basket funding to ECA (by various FTPs) was already in place, but could not be practicably accessed in the short term; participants expected ECA to find a solution so that AGROST could start operating. In addition to the proposed list of AGROST activities made in Bujumbura in June 2009, the following tasks have been added:

- a. Analysis of support from the various FTPs to different levels and modes of statistical capacity building;
- b. Creation of national STCs and encouraging them to provide more training-of-trainer courses; and
- c. Definition of different levels and kinds of training.

25. Report of the Working Group on National Accounts

63. The 15 members (11 countries, 4 international organizations) of the African Group on National Accounts (AGNA) held sessions from 18 to 20 January to finalize the African Strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA. After the draft strategy was reviewed and approved by StatCom-Africa, it would be presented to the board of governors for consideration and funding from partners. Issues were raised regarding: (a) the appropriateness of the African System of National Accounting (ASNA), (b) the labelling of various national accounts according to the period of production, (c) national accountant profiles, (d) the number of trainees per year, (e) the need for having a transitional period for the implementation of the ASNA, (f) the relevance of the national accounts analysis, and (g) the need for setting up revised classifications of activities and products. The following activities include:

- a. Monitoring and reporting: all implemented activities are subject to follow-up and evaluation according to the adopted timeline. The stakeholders for each activity are to be identified. AGNA will prepare bi-annual reports to be submitted to the regional statistical coordinating bodies, namely the ASCC and the Bureau of StatCom-Africa. AGNA will prepare, every two years, a report on 2008 SNA implementation to be submitted to StatCom-Africa;
- b. Coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa: the coordinating role is entrusted to AfDB. The five Regional Economic Communities will be subregional coordinators, and AFRISTAT will be a technical adviser;
- c. AGNA recommended that activities related to the organization of workshops, training and development of manuals should be led by ECA in collaboration with AFRISTAT, while AUC takes a leading role in advocacy; and
- d. Implementation at national, subregional and regional levels: the review was a good opportunity to discuss: (i) the relevance of performance indicators, and (ii) the hypothetical risks and mitigating measures. Concerning the calendar, participants were asked to propose a suitable period for each activity and the organizations likely to undertake or to support those activities.

26. Discussions on presentations (part II)

26. The second round of presentations was followed by a general discussion on:

- a. The idea of creating the African system of national accounts, undertaking research and development in national accounts and involving research centres in the work of national accounts;
- b. With countries in Africa being at different levels of SNA implementation, there was a need to develop a system of national accounts with African specificities. Africa was lagging behind in SNA implementation and needed to quicken its pace;
- c. The delegation from France sought the recommendation of countries with regard to national accounts and stressed the need to work on statistical harmonization, indicating that it was not good for Africa to have different national accounts systems;
- d. The Working Group on National Accounts indicated that notwithstanding the problem of taking into account the African specificities, it was committed to implementing the international SNA 2008. Given its specific needs, Africa would continue to implement SNA 1993 until 2012 and its countries needed common software for the SNA 2008;
- e. Additional countries requested to be included in the list of pilot countries in the informal sector;
- f. SRO-NA indicated that training activities needed to be elaborated in order to include emerging issues and training of middle-level staff in statistical methods;
- g. The representative of AUC indicated that the East London meeting had discussed capacity-building. The report of the East London meeting and the work done by the ACBF were not considered by AGROST;
- h. It was felt that AGROST needed to be clear on training offerings and the establishment of national training centres. The need to re-establish the STPA at ECA was also raised as was the need for capacity-building on the use of software packages; and
- i. There should not be disconnect between statistics and planning at country and regional levels and ECA Divisions should lead the way on that orientation.

IX. Plenary Session 8: Millennium Development Goals

64. Two presentations were made, the first in reference to improving MDG reporting and the second on a study conducted in relation to monitoring development beyond 2015.

27. Regional perspective by ACS

65. A review of ongoing efforts in support of the monitoring and evaluation of progress made by African countries towards the MDGs include that:

- a. In recent last years, African countries conducted censuses and surveys for the purpose of monitoring development indicators including MDGs, on the one hand, and of improving their National Statistical Systems (NSSs) through a coherent National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), on the other hand, the review pointed to the fact that African countries will not meet some MDGs;
- b. The international process for collecting and transmitting information aimed at monitoring the MDGs was a commendable initiative, allowing as it did for cooperation among such stakeholders as national producers, regional and international organizations, and, ultimately, the global

- database based at the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). In that regard, the Inter Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) meeting on MDG Indicators played a central role in the smooth functioning of the process of tracking progress towards achieving the MDGs;
- c. The review took stock of the activities undertaken by the Working Group. After its establishment by StatCom-Africa I in 2008, the Group has elaborated its terms of reference that determine its mandate to examine all issues and challenges related to data collection and compilation including tools for data collection, other sources of information, definitions, methodologies, reporting systems and capacity-building, - all issues that contributed to discrepancies between national and international figures as well as data gaps;
 - d. As secretariat of the Group, ECA has ensured that at least three African countries attended all meetings of the International Agencies Expert Groups held every six months. In addition, studies have been conducted to assess the extent to which African countries faced the challenges of data discrepancies and data gaps. In that regard, ECA and AfDB have drafted a comprehensive Framework for improving MDG Data Quality, Availability and Reporting. Similarly, Case Studies on Assessment of Data Discrepancies between national and international sources and possible solutions have been conducted in six African countries namely Uganda and Ethiopia (by ACS), Burkina Faso and Senegal (by Afristat), Liberia (by UNSD, DFID and ACS) and the United Republic of Tanzania (by UNSD and DFID). Other initiatives to enhance African capacity in monitoring MDGs included the Statistical Training Programme and the Joint African Statistical Yearbook and Database;

It was important to tackle the following factors contributing to discrepancies and data gaps:

- a. Definitions and specifications; inadequacy of estimates from sample surveys; inadequacy of coverage; reference years; differences in methodology; differences in population estimates; adjustments in the MDG framework; frequency of updates; periodicity of sample surveys; and national priorities; and
- b. On the way forward, ACS planned to produce a handbook on the derivation of MDGs from population censuses and household surveys and to implement, jointly with UNSD and other Regional Commissions, a Development Account Project on MDGs. Also, expert group meetings and workshops were planned for the purpose of reinforcing national capacities for monitoring and reporting on MDGs. The Commission might wish to provide guidance on how to support countries in improving the monitoring and evaluation of progress made towards the MDGs.

28. Presentation of a study on monitoring development beyond 2015

66. Mr Moubarak Lo made an extensive and theoretical presentation on monitoring development beyond 2015, supported with a study report including a proposal and a recommendation on the need to support and encourage research and study on MDGs and their implications for development as a whole. He also raised important questions that have served as a basis and rationale for his research, namely: why Africa was not developing as compared to others and why economic crises made MDG attainment more difficult. Emerging economic theories pointed to the limitations of the current MDGs in properly addressing the full spectrum of development issues, specifically those of concern to Africans. In that respect, the MDGs only covered 15 to 20 per cent of the economic aspects, the rest are being dominated by social issues. He further argued that institutional and physiological dimensions were not well covered. Describing the development stages of countries and using empirical data from selected indicators, he proposed a “quality of political leadership” to be taken as future research engagement and the main decisive factor for development.

29. Issues raised during the discussion

67. Some countries reacted to the data presented by pointing out that it did not conform to their official reports. Some participants argued against the theoretical basis of the presentation while most welcomed the study and proposed to further improve it using recent data. Furthermore EUROSTAT suggested sharing similar studies as done in Europe. Problem of transparency and data gaps between international and national data sets were mentioned as major challenges that needed to be addressed in improving MDG monitoring in Africa. It is also proposed that a dialogue be initiated between international and regional agencies and countries in strategizing the harmonization of measurements and methods.

X. Plenary Session IX: Statutory Issues

30. Reporting on statutory issues

68. ECA presented the summary Report on ECA Statistical activities in 2008-2009 and ACS Programme of work for 2010-2011: The objective of this presentation was to provide a summary of the implementation of the statistical activities at ECA for the period January 2008 to January 2010 as well as to get contribution from countries and partners.

69. Implementation of the Work Programme for 2008-2009 include:

- a. ACS has carried out several activities during the biennium 2008-2009 aimed at increasing the capabilities of African countries to develop key economic and demographic data for monitoring the MDGs. These capacity-building activities included technical assistance and workshops. ACS also collected quality data from countries for the compilation of the African statistical yearbook and databases. These include 29 programmed activities as well as other activities under the development account (DA) and technical cooperation;
- b. As per recommendation of StatCom I and ASSD IV, an emphasis was put on supporting the participation of African countries in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (2010 RPHC): two Expert Group Meetings were convened, i.e. on census planning and enumeration, and on census data processing. Further, ACS organized four workshops in French and in English for wide dissemination of the manuals which have been produced;
- c. Two non-recurrent publications carried over from the previous biennium were also finalized, i.e. the ECA/UNSD handbook on Basic Economic Statistics in Africa (BES October 2009) and the study on the Measurement of the Informal Sector and Informal Employment (July 2009). Under recurrent publications, ACS produced the African Statistical Yearbook 2008 (ASYB 2008) and the ASYB 2009, which became a joint publication of ECA/AfDB/AUC; and
- d. ACS has also developed promotional materials, including posters, communiqués, CDs and DVDs in support of the celebration of the African Statistics Day (ASD) on every 18 November. The ASD 2008 focused on the role of statistics in regard to the challenge posed by increasing food prices, while the ASD 2009 stresses the importance of civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in support of national development and MDGs in Africa.

70. Highlights of the ACS Work Programme for 2010-2011 include that:

- a. The ACS will continue its recurrent activities, namely: the inter-governmental machinery of ACS (StatCom-Africa II) to review the activity of ACS, the annual publication of the Statistical

Yearbook (2010 and in 2011), the substantive servicing of the African Symposium (one ASSD in 2010 and in 2011), the development and provision of promotional materials for celebration of the African Statistical Day (ASD 2010, ASD 2011) and the meeting between partners and countries under FASDEV 2011;

- b. More specifically, an Action Plan (2010-2012) on the integrated monitoring of informal sector and informal employment in Africa is under preparation in collaboration with AFRISTAT. Mixed surveys will be programmed for five pilot countries in 2010-2012; this phase will be followed by interventions in other petitioning countries from 2012 on word;
- c. In addition to the recurrent activities, in line with the emerging issues raised by countries, RECs and the AUC, the biennium programme 2010-2011 will also emphasize statistical harmonization to support the regional integration, towards customs union, free trade areas and common currency for subregions. ACS support will be delivered through the developments of three handbooks on harmonized national accounts statistics, comparable GDP and harmonized CPI (HCPI), through consultancy, the validation of two expert group meetings, and four workshops and training courses to disseminate these manuals; and
- d. The activities of ECA are further aligned with the findings of the study on statistical harmonization by AUC and the African Group on National Accounts (AGNA). In line with emerging issues, the ACS will also conduct technical assistance and workshops on agricultural statistics, climate change and environmental statistics in 2010-2011.

71. Resources used to conduct statistical activities at ECA

The biennium 2008-2009 witnessed a further re-establishment of statistical functions at ECA, with the provision of six additional professional posts to ACS, and a doubling of the number of professional staff, with the increase of regular and extra-budgetary financing. In addition to regular staff, two regional advisors have joined ACS in 2009, on household surveys (on secondment by the French cooperation) and on CRVS, from UNFPA/ECA.

72. Lessons learned and areas of improvement consist the:

- a. ACS support to country efforts, through the meetings and workshops, as well as technical assistance and materials to conduct statistical operations and advocacy materials. Consequently, more and more countries are better equipped to compile and to report their statistical data, in conformity with the international standards;
- b. Due to increased demand for statistics and the expanded mandate, ACS has responded to requests, through extensive collaboration and partnerships. The demand for quality and authoritative statistical data required for the compilation of the statistical yearbook has been met thanks to capacity-building activities and collaboration.

73. Issues for Consideration by StatCom-Africa-II comprise:

The report is a very brief summary of the ACS activities; further details are available in the African Statistical Newsletter (ASN), produced quarterly by ACS. The Commission may wish to provide its view, and recommendations on the following issues:

- a. Implementation and programmed output since the last StatCom meeting (January 2008-January 2010);
- b. Proposal of improvements on the implementation of the work programme 2010-2011, including date and venue and possible collaboration and any support to the events; and
- c. Additional activities from emerging issues such as climate change and early information system, which may be considered as part of the programme of work in 2010-2011.

31. Preparation on the forthcoming UN Statistical Commission Session (ACS)

74. Even if StatCom-Africa only meets every other year, the analysis of information will go on through the Working Groups, which will regularly report to the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD).

Because the meeting agenda is fixed one year in advance, it is crucial that African Countries to assist to the working sessions. The UNSC will be preceded by the inter-secretariats meeting on National accounts.

The Chairperson informed the participants about the UNSC meeting and its side events. Africa should be prepared to adequately address the meeting issues. He encouraged Africans to prepare for the meeting and strongly present themselves.

It was indicated that in the 40th Session of UNSC more than 140 countries participated out of which 36 were African countries. UNSD indicated that partners agreed to sponsor countries. Invitation letters on the UNSC meetings are sent through the countries' permanent missions in New York, with copies to heads of NSOs. So far many responses have not been received. UNSD advised African countries to come with common positions in order to influence the outcomes of the meeting, and cited the example of South Africa during the previous meeting. UNSD further indicated the importance of being effective during the meeting as the duration of the meeting is only for 3 and half days.

UNSD indicated that the Director of UNSD contributed in the increased participation of African countries in UNSC meetings and informed participants to be prepared for the next UNSC meeting which will be held in February 2010. It was indicated that ECA and the Bureau of StatCom-Africa will participate in the meeting. If the African delegation wants to meet prior to the UNSC meeting to have a common position, UNSD promised to arrange office facilities for their meeting.

AFRISTAT indicated that it may be late to prepare for UNSC meeting now. In the future Africa should prepare in order to contribute positively and suggested debates on UNSC meetings to be held in StatCom-Africa in order to formulate common position.

World Bank indicated that one of the objectives of StatCom-Africa is proper representation of Africa in UNSC meetings. For this purpose it was pointed out to look into an article on the May 2009 issue of the African Statistical Journal as a starting point.

France advised the meeting participants to better be prepared for UNSC as the agenda and the documents are already posted on the UNSD website. It was further indicated that partners should provide countries with information on funding in advance.

It was indicated that the terms of reference StatCom-Africa takes into account what will be discussed in UNSC and ASSD. It is good to prepare Africa's position on emerging issues such as environment and climate change. African climate problems were not properly addressed at Copenhagen summit and it is essential to empower ECA on these issues.

Finally, the Chairperson reminded participants to prepare for the next UNSC meeting and encouraged all countries to attend the meeting. The need to meet prior to the UNSC meeting to have common position was also stressed.

32. Discussions on the presentations

75. EUROSTAT indicated that NSDS is now at implementation stage. It also indicated the need to prepare a harmonized GDP and relate it to the SNA Africa project.

AfDB indicated that the work will be undertaken to prepare manual on national accounts. The manual will be adapted to African context and comments will also be incorporated.

World Bank was requested to provide information on emerging issues. The issue of social inclusion is referred to the ASCC; NSOs should be more responsive on planning needs; A study to be undertaken to draw lessons and produce evaluation criteria of NSDS.

EASTC indicated that NSSs in countries are facing many problems; there are still countries where the NSS has not yet established statistical departments in line ministries and regional offices, and the offices may not be supplied with adequate financial and human resources.

ISI recognized the success of the 57th Session of the ISI held in Durban South Africa and informed participants that the next session will be held in Dublin, Ireland in 2011. ISI encouraged participants to produce quality papers for the session, young statisticians to learn from experienced ones and ACS to contribute in this area.

ECA indicated that the evaluation of the ASSD is already started to draw the lessons learnt and on how to proceed into the future. The trainings presented in the ACS activities are from the regular budget only; other activities were based on requests from countries and institutes.

France wanted to know why so few meetings/workshops were organized in French-speaking countries. AFRISTAT indicated that on the ECA programme of 2010-2011 it wanted to be involved in the harmonization of national accounts and price statistics. It also wanted to be involved in methodological development.

Countries were advised to establish advisory councils as their contribution is invaluable to guide the NSO, ministries and parliaments. ACS needs to emphasis capacity building in its planned programme. AUC could play a role in advocating for statistics.

ECA indicated that it sends missions to countries. There are activities of ECA both under the regular budget and in technical assistance. Technical assistance is based on the request from countries. It undertook joint missions with partners such as AfDB, PARIS21, etc which indicates its good relationship with partners. The regional advisor of the ACS is assisting countries in NSDS preparation and has undertaken many missions in the area. If countries submit requests, ECA will address them. Advocacy

is done through the ASSD which resulted in the involvement of countries in 2010 RPHC. For ASD the themes are selected in consultation with countries. ECA also celebrates ASD with countries.

It was indicated that many countries have designed NSDS. There is now a need to work on the implementation with countries.

With regard to hosting of meetings/workshops, there is imbalance. Portuguese-speaking countries are also complaining about it. Organizing meetings outside Addis Ababa also helps for statistical advocacy. If countries invite ECA to organize meetings, it is possible to organize them there. However, transport, language and other problems may hinder the meeting organization. The reason why many workshops are organized in English-speaking countries could be due to invitations coming from them and this resulted in imbalances.

33. Proposed date and agenda items for the 3rd Meeting of StatCom-Africa

76. The Provisional Agenda of the StatCom-Africa-III meeting that will be held in January 2012 was presented. The meeting will be held at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

34. Discussions on the provisional agenda

77. AFRISTAT indicated that the time allocated for working group discussions was not adequate. More time is needed to discuss issues and future plans; it is not important to have an independent session on RRSF, it could be put under another agenda; to allocate time to discuss issues on the agenda of the UNSC session in order to have common position.

Countries expressed the need to strengthen the StatCom-Africa process; to harmonize a lot of initiatives; the need to consolidate the reports of the working groups, and to use the TOR of StatCom-Africa as a pillar.

World Bank indicated the need for a body to coordinate African common position to the UNSC meeting while StatCom-Africa is not in session (UNSC meets every year while StatCom-Africa is held every two years).

It was pointed out that marriage between statistics and cartography is proper and needs to be followed-up by ECA. The need to hold a session on GIS in parallel with StatCom-Africa meeting was suggested.

It was indicated that Young Statisticians, Statistical Associations will continue as observers during StatCom-Africa meeting.

It was suggested to have a look at the agenda of UNSC and task the working groups and the ASCC to provide inputs. It was indicated that inter secretariat meeting on national accounts will be held.

It was found that training and funding are not adequately addressed. Allocation of Funds for training needs to be improved. The NSOs have inadequate human resources due to shortage of funds.

The need for Africa's representatives to the UNSC meeting should be made available to StatCom-Africa was pointed out.

UNSD indicated that authority is given to the Bureau of UNSC to amend the agenda. UNSD indicated that it will provide ACS with the list of African participants. The regular members of UNSC from Africa are indicated to be Cameroon, the Sudan, Togo, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UN provides regular members with air ticket but not with DSA. It was indicated that ECOWAS provides its members with DSA.

Young Statistician indicated that South Africa provides statistics training to elementary school students. There is a need for StatCom-Africa to support such types of programmes. It was further indicated that there is a need for countries to follow the example of South Africa.

Some countries wanted to know how the working groups will perform their duties in the coming two years. It was pointed out that the NSO train statistical assistants and grant scholarships to statisticians to get further training at university levels.

35. Any Other Business

78. Importance of advocacy was stressed as far as financing University plans to open Masters Programme in statistics are concerned.

UNSD urged heads of NSOs and senior NSO managers to attend the next UNSC meeting.

XI. Plenary Session 10: Closing

79. The meeting discussed and amended the draft recommendations presented by the rapporteur of StatCom-Africa-II. The meeting adopted the following resolutions as set out below.

Mr Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of ECA closed the second meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa, which has brought together a mix of statisticians, policy makers, national statistical associations, PRSP unit representatives, statistical training centres, universities, young statisticians, regional economic communities and technical and financial partners, leading to very intensive and wide-ranging discussions.

The programme put together by ACS turned around the working groups and it was quite inspiring to see what was achieved in a relatively short period of time by various groups: strategies on national accounts, harmonization of statistics for regional integration. The call for technical and financial partners to support various groups in the delivery of their activities has been reiterated accordingly.

The reports by various groups and the discussions held on a number of issues demonstrated that progress has been made in terms of coordination of statistical activities in the continent. Nevertheless, there are still a number of issues yet to be addressed in nurturing the coordination as voiced by some of the participants.

Finally, the Executive Secretary of ECA noted that partnership has been key in organizing and successfully concluding this second meeting of StatCom-Africa.

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Second Session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa II)

Preamble

- a. *Acknowledging that* the theme of this second session of StatCom-Africa “Harnessing Financial and Technical Resources in Support of the Monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals in African Countries” is timely as we are preparing for the second five-year-review of the MDGs;
- b. *Considering* reports from seven working groups namely on (i) Data Management, (ii) Development Indicators, (iii) Gender Statistics, (iv) Informal Sector, (v) National Accounts, (vi) Statistical Training, and (vii) Harmonization of Statistics in Support of Economic Integration; and VIII Emerging and other issues;
- c. *Considering* other ongoing and emerging issues namely: (i) the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, (ii) Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, (iii) Improving Agricultural Statistics, (iv) Environment Statistics and Climate change, (v) Coordination of Advisory Services to member States;
- d. *Having examined* reports on (i) the implementation of the Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity-Building in Africa (RRSF) and, (ii) the African Charter for Statistics;
- e. *Taking cognizance* of a number of programmatic issues including (i) the implementation of the 2008-2009 and the planned 2010-2011 work programmes of the African Centre for Statistics (ACS);
- f. *Noting with satisfaction* the participation of young statisticians and universities in the discussion of the Commission for the first time;
- g. The second session of the Statistical Commission for Africa concluded and recommended as follows:

1. On Data Management

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Urges ECA to:**
 - ii. Organize an expert group to undertake a comprehensive study of the major data management software tools to draw up a comparative table of their features to enable National Statistical Offices (NSOs) to select the appropriate ones for drawing up a composite optimum set of features for an African software system for data management and dissemination to be developed as an open source of software under the auspices and full ownership of the African Statistics fraternity;
 - iii. Undertake a survey of database systems and software tools available in countries to determine what databases and systems (if any) they are using with a view to identifying those that need assistance to implement databases;
 - iv. Produce a handbook on data management including guidelines on data management policies and Software for analysis, dissemination, archiving, etc;
 - v. Involve its subregional offices in making requests/recommendations to member States because these subregional offices are closer to the countries and will have to harmonize information coming from those member States; and

- vi. involve and collaborate with the regional economic communities (RECs) and other regional institutions in the process of data collection and database updating;
- b. **Encourages** Professional Statistical Associations to participate in meetings, access and use available data with a view to offering comments and identifying errors, mistakes, and best practices for data management;
- c. **Recommends** that the capacity of NSOs should be enhanced in the use of geospatial tools to reinforce the combination of geographic and statistical data in development planning and monitoring;
- d. **Encourages** ECA to prepare a work programme, in collaboration with United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) that will lead to authoritative national databases, which will be consolidated into a continental database and feed into the global geographical names database.

2. On Development Indicators

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. Recommends that:
 - i. A study should be conducted to ascertain which African countries may not meet some MDG targets, and why they may not meet those MDG targets;
 - ii. Countries, and regional and international organizations should encourage and support research and study initiatives on methodologies that would allow for the identification of development objectives for African countries as well as indicators for measuring them beyond 2015;
- b. **Calls on** ECA and its partners to develop a Handbook on the derivation of development indicators from population censuses and household surveys;
- c. **Urges** African countries to build national databases which include MDG indicators; set up national focal points and Coordination Committees on MDGs; and promote better involvement of national political authorities in MDG monitoring.

3. On Gender Statistics

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Recommends:**
 - i. The preparation of an African handbook on gender statistics;
 - ii. The preparation of Training material on gender statistics;
 - iii. The speedy completion of the Compendium on gender statistics; and
 - iv. The formulation of a Regional strategy on gender statistics;
- b. **Calls for** the mainstreaming of gender into the themes of all working Groups, and the identification of gender-responsive indicators to monitor Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes (PRSPs.)

4. On the Informal Sector

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Adopts** the Action plan of the Working Group for improving and monitoring informal sector statistics in Africa including the proposed terms of reference for the period 2010 – 2012;
- b. **Re-affirms** the importance of ECA collaborating with other regional commissions on the measurement of the informal economy and urges them to implement an inter-continental project on measuring the informal economy; and
- c. **Recommends** that identified pilot countries should finalize their project on information sector surveys and conduct, in collaboration with AFRISTAT, ECA and ILO, regular employment surveys, preferably on an annual basis.

5. On National Accounts

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Adopts** the African strategy for the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA);
- b. **Makes it** the first pillar of the African Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA); and
- c. **Urges** pan-African institutions, regional economic communities and member States to take ownership of the strategy and mobilize the necessary funds for its implementation; and urges Africa's development partners to support its implementation.

6. On Statistical Training

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Recommends** that ECA should coordinate the various initiatives and establish a programme on statistical training;
- b. **Endorses** the inception of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST);
- c. **Advocates** for the establishment of a permanent secretariat for AGROST at ECA
- d. **Requests** the African Statistical Coordination Committee to explore funding modalities for the permanent secretariat.

7. On Harmonization of Statistics in Support of economic integration

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Recognizing** the important work of AUC to develop SHaSA, especially advocacy and its strong policy commitment at all levels;
- b. **Recommends** the establishment of 12 working groups on thematic areas of harmonization, and the assignment of a lead country or institution for each thematic group;
- c. **Proposes** that the African Statistical Coordination Committee rationalizes the programmed meetings of heads of NSOs.

8. On Emerging and Other Issues

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Recognizing** the importance of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and the gaps in National Statistical Systems (NSS) due to the inadequacy of civil registration systems in most African countries;
- b. **Further recognizing** the limited awareness on, and lack of political support for CRVS among governments and political leaders; and
- c. **Supports** the organization of a high-level Ministerial Conference on CRVS.

Agricultural Statistics

The Statistical commission for Africa:

- a. **Recognizing** the crucial role of agricultural statistics in dealing with the challenges of food security and climate change, and observes that the current arrangement for collecting and managing them are inadequate for these crucial roles;
- b. **Supports** the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics; and
- c. **Recommends** that NSDS include provisions for producing agricultural statistics, with technical expertise and funding in the area of agriculture statistics being channelled through the appropriate country institutions that have the infrastructure for producing them.

Environmental Statistics and Climate Change

The Statistical commission for Africa:

- a. **Noting with appreciation** the work undertaken in the area of environment statistics by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), ECA and UNSD to adapt the core list of indicators to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) subregion for use in national and regional reporting;
- b. **Further appreciating** the Biodiversity Indicators, Capacity Strengthening workshops organized for selected East and Southern African countries by ECA and UNEP – World Conservation and Monitoring Centre;
- c. **Reiterates** the recommendation of StatCom-Africa I calling on ECA to establish a task force on environment statistics to:
 - i. Streamline the core list of environmental indicators for Africa;
 - ii. Prepare a work programme on environment statistics for the Africa region; and
 - iii. Work closely with the Inter Sectoral Working Group on Environment Statistics.
- d. **Requests** ECA to provide technical assistance to enable countries to develop their environment statistics and indicators and to continue organizing training workshops in the area of environment statistics and accounts;
- e. **Recommends** the strengthening of Statistical Training Centres to ensure that they include environment statistics in their curricula.

Poverty Reduction

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Acknowledging** the need to develop sectoral statistics in social fields, as well as for infrastructures
- b. **Adopts** the recommendations of the PRSP Group:
 - i. To improve collaboration between statisticians and planners, including capacity-building activities and use of modern software; and
 - ii. To include among its priority the statistics on social protection which are the pillar of PRSP

Geography and statistics

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Endorses** the view that geographic information is essential and should be incorporated more into statistical processes and:
 - i. **Calls on** African countries to ensure that national statistical, planning and cartographic authorities have effective collaboration between them in the development of their respective data infrastructures and systems by having National Statistics and Planning Offices represented in the coordination arrangements for the National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) and National Mapping and Planning Agencies represented in the coordination of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics; and
 - ii. **Requests** ECA, with technical support from UNSD and the two United Nations Cartographic Conferences to organize a parallel session for cartographers and geo-information practitioners.

Social Inclusion and Protection

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Recognizing** the importance of social inclusion/protection as an important strategy in the fight against poverty, and for safeguarding Africa's gains in the MDGs in the face of the global financial crisis (particularly rising food and oil prices), and climate change;
- b. **Recommends** that the African Statistical Coordinating Committee (ASCC) undertakes the necessary conceptual/technical review and establish modalities for setting up a working group on social inclusion/protection and report back on progress made to the next session of StatCom-Africa.

Coordination

The Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. **Recommends** that pan African institutions in charge of statistics, improve on the coordination of their respective activities;

- b. Acknowledges** that statutory statistical councils/boards constitute major stakeholders in some NSDSs of member States and that these organizations are important players in the enhancement of the development of and coordination of the NSDS in the countries and agrees that they be represented in StatCom-Africa and other strategic formations in pursuit of statistical excellence in Africa;
- c. Recognizes** the opportunities provided by strategic initiatives within member States such as the 2010 round of population censuses in creating the basis for the implementation of other programmes such as the civil registration, collection of agricultural statistics, employment statistics, etc, and agrees that coordination efforts be mounted in order to create optimum comprehensive statistical programmes in respective states; and
- d. Endorses** the view that Africa's input into the work of the sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission should be coordinated during forthcoming sessions of StatCom-Africa.

Annexes: Reports of the Working Groups

Annex 1: Report of the Working Groups on data Management

The Working Group on data management was attended by 24 participants (see table below). The participants composed of National Statistical Offices, Partners (Prognoz, IPUMs, Google and Inwent), Donors, Professional Associations, and Young statisticians.

The bureau was established as follows:

Chair : Uganda
Rapporteur : Nigeria

Eight presentations were made. The presentations were grouped in to two parts. The first presentation focused on policy issues and the second part dealt with technical presentation.

1. Policy issues presentations:

- a. Summary of Terms of Reference for Data Management functions in ACS, for feed back from member States and partners by Chukwudozie Ezigbalike, ECA;

2. The technical presentations were:

- a. The ECA Statistical Database enhancements since the first StatCom-Africa, by Mr. Molla Hunegnaw, ECA;
- b. ECA presented the Gazetteer application being developed in collaboration with UNGEGN, by Yoseph Mekasha, ECA;
- c. Prognoz data management by Vladimir Eskin, Prognoz;
- d. Google tools and services for statistical data management and mapping, by France Lamy, Google;
- e. IPUMS Microdata Management: Preserve the Microdata (and Documentation) and Make Them Useful, by Patricia Kelly Hall;
- f. African Statistical Knowledge Network Platform, by Alegntaye Yilma, UNECA;

3. The presentations covered:

- a. Role of geography and geospatial technologies, notably GIS and GPS in all stages of statistical process, especially running parallel workshops at next STATCOM Africa meetings;
- b. The need to develop Handbook/Guidelines on Data Management and Dissemination was also discussed;
- c. Data Collection /Compilation and Administration;
- d. Data Access/Browse/Search Engines/Downloads;
- e. Security/Disclaimers/Anonymisation;
- f. Validation/Quality control;
- g. Analysis/Modelling;
- h. Archiving/Integration – Micro and Metadata;
- i. Development Platform/Web enablement/Stand Alone/Independent/Open Source;
- j. Language – Bilingual;

- k. Compatibility;
- l. Regional/Subregional Data Bases;
- m. Publications/CDs/Reporting/Disseminations;
- n. Data Exchange/web 2.0;
- o. Need for ECA to survey countries to determine those that have databases and what systems they are using with a view to identifying those that need assistance to implement databases;
- p. Need to set up expert group to review various database platforms and systems to recommend suitable options with appropriate features;
- q. Available Data Sets;
- r. Data Management Tools;
- s. Support countries as it concerns Data Production;
- t. Geography/Statistics;
- u. Integrating Statistics and Geography;
- v. Holding Parallel sessions for statistics and Geography at the next STATCOM;
- w. Focal Point for UNSD in their cartographic meetings;
- x. Geography Names (Toponyms); and
- y. Nationally approved/Free Tools.

The group discussed thoroughly on the presentations made and, and after a thorough analysis of the challenges and needs of countries, the group recognized the importance of data management, data dissemination and geography in statistics.

4. The group therefore recommended the following:

- a. Comprehensive study of the features of the Data Management platforms to draw up a comparative table of features to enable NSOs select the appropriate options; and then draw up a set of composite features for the optimum software platform;
- b. Based on the composite set of features, commission the development of an African Open source of software with complete ownership by the African Statistical Fraternity for Data Management;
- c. Human Resources Reinforcement at NSOs in the use of geospatial tools to reinforce the linkage between Statistics and Geography;
- d. At the next STATCOM there should be a parallel seating of Statistics and Geo-information communities;
- e. NSDS management/coordinating bodies should include representatives of national geo-information structures and in the same way the Geoinformation strategies (NSDI) should involve the Statistics offices in their coordination;
- f. ECA to produce a Handbook/Guidelines on Data Management hence evolving common tools to measure the quality of Data Base;
- g. Push NSOs to Audit their Information System using the Handbook/Guideline hence making NSOs strong and unique in providing Data;
- h. There should be a training of NSOs and ECA staff before STATCOM III thereby strengthening their capacity in Data Management;
- i. Involvement of ECA subregional offices in making requests/recommendations from member States because the subregional offices should have the responsibility to manage the eventual approvals as well as harmonize information coming from the member States;
- j. Provision of sound financial support from donors;
- k. Encourage Professional Statistical Associations to attend meetings, have access and use available data with a view to offer comments, identify errors/mistakes/good criteria of the data;

- l. Hence AfDB should increase and maintain more involvement of the professional associations to participate in these meetings/conferences;
- m. Include Technicians Platform knowledge Transfer.

List of participants:

DRC	Lukaku Alexis Nzinga
Mali	Aboume Diane Toure
Morocco	Abdelilah Zerrou
Nigeria	Amobi Boniface Oseloka
Uganda	Ms. Yovani Moses Lubaale
Cape Verde	Antonio Dos Reis Duarte
Côte d'Ivoire	Goore Bi Zahi Robert
Senegal	Ms. Dieh Mandiaye Dime
Young Stat - Côte d'Ivoire	Ms. Kouanin Ado Gossan Kouanin
Young Stat - Benin	Nayo Ankouvi
Young Stat - Cameroon	Tinang Nzesseu Jules
IPUMS	Patricia Kelly Hall
InWent	Issa Ouedraogo
AfDB	Ben Havej Abdellatif
ENSAE	Mody Diop
Mauritius	Cheung Kai Suet Lifa
Senegal	El Gazri Khahil
Gooflw	France L
Guinea Bissau	Braima Manafa

Annex 2: Report of the Working Group on Development Indicators

The Working Group was composed of 15 participants belonging to 13 countries and 2 international organizations as follows: Angola, Gambia, Madagascar (NSDS), Guinea (PRSP), Togo, Benin, Guinea, the Niger, Comoros (PRSP), Guinea-Bissau (PRSP), Senegal (Lo), Uganda, Zimbabwe, Cameroon (PRSP), ESA, France,

The meeting was chaired by Zimbabwe, Benin and reported on by Angola and the Gambia.

I. Mandates :

1. Examine progress, identify problems, and propose solutions to existing and emerging issues on measuring progress towards development initiatives including the MDGs;
2. Promote exchange of experiences, peer learning, technical cooperation, and data sharing among African countries and institutions on MDGs;
3. Advise StatCom-Africa on the establishment of methodologies, norms and standards at the international level and the adoption of these internationally-agreed methodologies, norms and standards and practices in the production and use of statistical information on MDGs;
4. Advocate in favour of resource mobilization and technical cooperation in support of countries' efforts in monitoring the MDGs;
5. Ensure the dissemination of the results of its work to National Statistical Offices (NSOs), subregional, and international organizations, or any other user; and
6. Recommend studies that may be required to address issues pertaining to the monitoring of the MDGs.

II. Action Plan for 2010 and 2011

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	LINES OF ACTION	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET (in US \$)
OS1: Promote Harmonization of statistical methods	Harmonization of concepts, methodologies and standards	Contribution to the realization of the ECA Handbook on the derivation of development indicators from population censuses and household surveys (1 expert group + 1 workshop)	ECA
OS2: Analyze relevance of indicators on Development Monitoring	Analysis on the MDGs	Study on the profound causes of the status of African countries regarding the MDGs' indicators	30,000
	Monitoring development after 2015	Study on common indicators for monitoring development in Africa beyond 2015	30,000
OS3: Examine Data collection for MDGs indicators	Analysis of Current Data sources, of Sustainability of data production, and of Alternative data	Setting up of Peer review mechanisms (including countries visits), in conjunction with regional and subregional organizations	Regional and subregional organizations

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	LINES OF ACTION	ACTIVITIES	BUDGET (in US \$)
OS4: Ensure Data Quality (coherence, coverage, disaggregation)	Promotion of coherence between country published data and those generated by international organizations	Participation to the ECA Development Account Project (one regional capacity-building workshop)	ECA
		Follow up on the ECA-AfDB work on the comprehensive Framework for improving Data Quality, Availability and Reporting, by actively participating to the Statistical Training Programme for Africa and the Joint Regional Publications and Databases Working Group of the African Statistical Coordination Committee	ECA, ADB, AUC and other partners
		Participation to the IAEG meetings	ECA
OS5: Contribute to better reporting mechanisms on the MDGs	Setting up of national focal points + Coordination Committees on MDGs Involvement of national Political Authorities on MDGs monitoring	Sharing of experiences on the matters, during the various Group meetings	
OS6: Promote better dissemination of Reports to Users	Promotion of better Coordination among statistical producers and users	Sharing of experiences on the matters, during the various Group meetings and online discussions	
OS7: Facilitate Exchange of Experiences		Organization of special sessions on experiences sharing on various themes during the annual meeting of the Working Group	
OS8: Advocate for Capacities-building on processing, packaging and dissemination of MDG indicators by NSS	Facilitation of human and financial resources mobilization	Publication of a aggregated report on National needs regarding MDGs monitoring, and advocacy for their funding by national and international sources (one continental Roundtable to be organized)	120,000 Reports prepared by Group discussed in meeting
OS9: Organize dissemination of WG Results and recommendations		Publication of an Annual report on Group activities that will be widely disseminated	10,000
OS10: Ensure a well functioning Working group	Organization of various Group meetings and Networks	Holding of the Annual meeting in January each year at ECA Headquarters. Setting up and coordination of the Group Virtual Forum on MDGs	Annual meeting organized with the Regional Roundtable (see above)

Annex 3: Report of the Working Group on Gender Statistics

The Working Group was composed of 14 participants belonging to 7 countries and 4 international organizations as follows: Uganda, Ghana, Senegal (NSO x 2), Lesotho, Senegal (Young Stat), Guinea Equatorial, Rwanda, Statistics South Africa (2), ECA, AFRISTAT, AfDB and World Bank.

The meeting was reported by Senegal and Uganda representatives.

Gender Statistics Initiatives have been presented by the following institutions:

- a. ECA: Time use surveys, a project to support countries in adapting the world manual on time use survey, Ghana and Djibouti as pilot countries; methodology will be shared through GESNET;
- b. INWENT Statistical Capacity-building programme to support training in the region: E-learning program on mainstreaming gender in economic statistics (capturing unpaid work and contribution of women to GDP);
- c. AFRISTAT: Its Work Programme 2011-2015 integrates activities on Gender; is a member of the Expert group on engendering censuses and surveys;
- d. Uganda-KCG-GS: a forum where African stakeholders and partners can discuss, propose, support and address issues, needs, and challenges related to the development of gender statistics in line with PRSP and the MDGs;
- e. Uganda-KCG-GS: a forum where African stakeholders and partners can discuss, propose, support and address issues, needs, and challenges related to the development of gender statistics in line with PRSP and the MDGs. Resolutions of the KCG-GS:
 - i. Prioritization of a core list of gender statistics indicators (about 40);
 - ii. Formulation of Compendium of gender statistics concepts, definitions and terminologies;
 - iii. Adoption of coordination mechanisms within individual countries to strengthen the gender statistics e.g. National Task Forces.
- f. AfDB has established a Gender Unit to advise and mainstream gender in all AfDB activities particularly the focal areas of AfDF-11 and providing training throughout the Bank on how to integrate gender in various components of the bank's activities: about 400 indicators disaggregated by sex;
- g. Member of the Expert group on engendering censuses and surveys;
- h. ECA-STATE OF AFRICAN WOMEN
 - iv. One of the 3 pillars of the Consensus Statement and Plan of Action: Collecting reliable data on gender Equality and Violence against women and girls;
 - v. Preparation of a publication on State of African Women;
 - vi. Meeting of countries and organisms: countries should be ready to participate on doing plan of action.
- i. AFRICAN GENDER HANDBOOK
The Manual on integrating gender on African censuses and surveys with a conceptual framework and methodology is under preparation.

The STatCom-Africa Gender Working Group (GWG) will support and advise on gender statistical issues, needs and challenges in line with the PRSPs and MDGs. Terms of Reference of the Gender Working Group is concerned with the following:

- a. Overall objective: To provide a statutory forum to discuss and convey all gender statistics issues to StatCom Africa;
- b. Specific objectives:
 - i. Promote mainstreaming of gender into national statistical systems and the StatCom-Africa specialized Working groups;
 - ii. Provide a forum for discussion between key users and producers of statistics;
 - iii. Promote coordination of initiatives and activities on gender statistics;
 - iv. Promote exchange of experiences and foster best practices on gender statistics; and
 - v. Advocate for the development of a regional strategy on mainstreaming gender into national statistical system.

Outputs of the Gender Working Group are as follows:

- a. Compendium of definitions, concepts and terminologies on gender statistics;
- b. Strategy on the development of gender statistics;
- c. Inventory of gender statistics.

Membership (voluntary): Categorized under the following:

- a. Regional and Subregional organizations;
- b. Countries; and
- c. Individual Experts; e.g.: Gender specialists, Survey Experts, PRSP Experts, Sociologists and Economists, NSDS Experts, etc.

Emerging issues:

- a. Monitoring and evaluation tools for existing gender policies;
- b. Monitoring and evaluation tools to better address gender responsive budgeting; and
- c. Gender dimensions of climate change.

Recommendations are as follows:

- a. The Gender Working Group recommends the preparation of:
 - i. African Handbook on Gender Statistics;
 - ii. Training Toolkit on Gender statistics;
 - iii. Compendium should be speeded up; and
 - iv. The Regional Strategy on Gender Statistics.
- b. Gender should be mainstreamed into all the themes of others working Groups;
- c. National priority needs should be taken into account in the Working Groups programmes; and
- d. Specific gender responsive indicators should be identified to monitor PRSPs.

Annex 4: Report of the Working Group on the Harmonization of Statistics

The Working Group on the Harmonization of Statistics in support of economic integration met on Tuesday January 19, 2010 in CAUCUS- Room 1. Chair Mr. Risenga MALULEKE of Statistics South Africa; Rapporteur Mr. Taha KHSIB of INS of Tunisia.

Four countries were represented in the group: South Africa, Mali, Senegal, and Tunisia. The Commission of the African Union was represented as a facilitator.

The group discussed strategy on the development and the harmonization of the African Statistical System which was validated during the meeting of the general managers of the African NSOs which was held on December 10, 2009 in East London, South Africa.

The principal objective of the strategy is to provide to the African Statistical System a general framework in order to:

- a. Produce statistics of harmonized quality for the definition and the implementation of the policies and the programs in Africa; and
- b. Allow the follow-up and the evaluation of the development and integration policies in Africa.

This objective is declined in three strategic axes namely:

- a. To produce statistics of quality for Africa;
- b. To coordinate the production of the statistics in Africa; and
- c. To reinforce the durable institutional capacity of the system of statistics for Africa.

The discussions of the working group related mainly to the questions carrying about the process of implementation of this strategy. A meeting will be held in February 2010 with the participation of 3 representatives per country (a member of Parliament, a representative of the direction of planning and a representative of the NSO) to support this implementation.

Concerning the implementation of the strategy, 12 specialized technical groups were identified:

1. Governance, Peace and Security;
2. External Sectors (External Trade and Balance of payment);
3. Money and Finance;
4. AGNA national Accounts and Price Indices;
5. Infrastructure, industry and Tourism;
6. Public Finances, Private sector and Investment;
7. Sciences, Technology and Education;
8. Social, Demography, migration, Health, Social protection and Gender;
9. Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources;
10. AGROST Statistical capacity-Building;
11. Informal Sector; and
12. Classifications.

Three Technical Commissions will be set up to validate the work of technical groups. These Commissions have been designated as follows:

- a. Political integration, regional and continental governance;
- b. Economic integration; and
- c. Social and cultural integration.

The Committee of the DGs of NSOs adopts the Commissions' outcomes and submits them to the ministers in charge of the statistics. The latter report to the African Heads of State and Government for decision making.

Parallel to the work carried out by the working groups and the commissions, the inter departmental groups of the AUC examine the questions of extra-statistical integration.

Recommendations

Following the discussions, the group recommends:

- a. To improve coordination between the Pan-African organizations in charge of the statistics,
- b. To propose that the STATCOM Secretariat together with the African Statistical Coordinating Committee:
 - i. To determine the countries leader for each of the 12 topics;
 - ii. To rationalize and programme the meetings of the general managers of the INS.
- c. To propose Afristat as leader of the group in charge of the informal sector and the UNECA as leader of the group in charge of classifications;
- d. That the item «Marital status and vital statistics» to be clarified in the wording of group 8;
- e. To propose to exploit to the maximum of Information and Communication Technologies in all the conciliation work (email, video-conference,...).

Annex 5: Report of the Working Group on the Informal Sector

The Working Group on the Informal sector in Africa was composed of 20 countries which all expressed their wish to take part with the activities of the action plan 2010-2012. The importance of the role of the informal economy in the African economies was noted as well as that of the informal employment as an essential factor in the fight against poverty. The tools available today (15th and 17th ICLS, SNA 2008) make it possible to consider a more rigorous measurement of the indicators of the informal economy.

Composition of the Working Group on Informal Sector

Chairman : Martin BALEPA, Directeur Général d'AFRISTAT

Rapporteur : Gérard RAVELOMANANTSOA, DG INSTAT-Madagascar

Countries participating with the working group: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape-Verde, the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, DR the Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan and Togo.

Institutions having taken part in the work of the group: AFRISTAT, CAS/CEA, DIAL, France

Presentation, examination and adoption of the Action Plan for the period 2010-2012

1. AFRISTAT and the CAS/CEA presented the project of Action Plan centred on the implementation of national mixed surveys (Employment/informal-Sector) in pilot countries with the aim to produce an annual balance sheet on employment as well as a satellite account of the informal economy. The presentation related to the following points:
 - a. General and specific objectives and strategy of intervention;
 - b. Main axes of interventions highlighting the regional activities and those to be achieved by countries, year per year;
 - c. aspects to take into account for rigorous estimates of the forecasted budget; and
 - d. Conditions of success and potential risks.
2. ACS from ECA presented the Terms of Reference of the Working group, putting forward the following points:
 - a. The contextual having led to the installation of the Working group on the informal sector;
 - b. The activities to be implemented at the regional level;
 - c. The criteria of selection of the pilot countries reflecting realities of the Region;
 - d. The orientations of the Terms of Reference in connection with those of the Action plan. TOR were adopted subject to putting them in coherence with the Action plan.
3. Examination and adoption of the Action plan on the informal sector
Participants adopted the project of action plan worked out by AFRISTAT and the ACS from ECA subject to the taking into account of the following amendments:
 - a. To include the suggestions of the countries in the list of activities;
 - b. To put in coherence the orientations laid down in the Terms of Reference with those of the Action plan; and
 - c. To examine the use of the job input matrices in the development of the national accounts.

Needs expressed by the countries related to the activities of the group: (i) to dispose of a technical note on the recent methodological innovations on the mixed surveys (LFS/Informal-sector); (ii) to quickly organize the technical assistance to the countries.

Answers to the needs expressed by the countries:

- a. From now to February 2010, a first version of the technical note on the methodological innovations methodological will be disseminated to all countries; for this purpose, it is requested from each country to transmit to the ACS from ECA (copy to AFRISTAT) a short note on their programming LFS and Informal-sector surveys; and
- b. The technical assistance strategy will promote the South/South cooperation and will aim at constituting a pool of experts in charge of this assistance to the countries.

Installation of the Secretariat of the Working group on the Informal sector for 2010-2012

The Secretariat will be composed of 9 members as follows:

Countries: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Morocco, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Senegal; they should transmit as soon as possible to the ACS (copy to AFRISTAT), the names, first names and contacts of their respective representative.

Institutional members: AFRISTAT, CAS/CEA, DIAL; the Secretariat of the Working group is jointly assured by the ACS and AFRISTAT.

Categorization of countries vis-à-vis the activities of the Working group composed of:

- a. Eight (8) pilot countries - directly involved in the implementation of the Action plan have been identified for the first phase of 2010: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Gabon, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Senegal. All these countries should programme the launching of a mixed survey LFS/Informal sector during 2010;
- b. Associate countries: those are countries likely to contribute to some activities of the Action plan; their list has not yet been finalized; and
- c. Other countries: these countries do not have programmed activities fitting in the framework of the Action plan in 2010 but would wish to be informed of the progress of work.

Recommendations and conclusion of the Working group include:

- a. The Working group urges the Commission, to support its Action plan and to help it to mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of its activities;
- b. The Working group encourages the pilot countries to conduct annual labour force surveys; and
- c. The working group re-affirms the importance of ECA collaborating with other UN regional commissions on the measurement of the informal economy and urges them to implement an inter-continental project on measuring the informal economy.
- d.

Annex 6: Report of the African Group on National Accounts (AGNA)

Registered participants and Bureau of the Group:

Djibouti, Gabon, REC (UEMOA), Burkina Faso, Zambia, EUROSTAT, Côte d'Ivoire, NSO- Nigeria, Swaziland, ESA (2), Rabat UMA, AfDB (**Chair**), Afristat (**Rapporteur**)

The 15 members (11 countries, 4 international organizations) of the African Group on national Accounts (AGNA) held sessions from Monday to Wednesday (18th – 20th January) to finalize the African Strategy for the implementation of the 2008 SNA. The draft strategy was reviewed and presented for approval to StatCom-Africa; it will then be presented to the board of governors for consideration and funding from partners. The strategy was structured along the following lines:

- a. *Presentation of the activities:* They are set out in various strategic objectives. Their realization aims at contributing to meeting these objectives;
- b. *Presentation of the action plan:* This presentation focused on the planning of the activities targeted for the implementation of the 2008 SNA; and
- c. *Presentation of logical framework:* Explanations were given to participants on the design of the strategy (logical framework matrix) and additional work needed to finalize the document.

1. Discussion

Among the questions raised, are the following: (a) the appropriateness of the African System of National Accounting (ASNA), (b) the issue to label the various national accounts according to the period of production, (c) the national accountant profile, (d) the number of trainees per year, (e) the need for having a transitional period for the implementation of the ASNA, (f) the relevance of the national accounts analysis, and (g) the need for setting up revised classifications of the activities and products. Suitable answers were given to these questions:

- a. Concerning the ASNA: Africa being preceded by other continents, it was indicated that the ASNA will allow better taking into account of African specificities without denying the well-founded role of the 2008 SNA as the global reference framework;
- b. The question of labelling remains open: whatever the system is selected, it should permit to safeguard reliability, robustness and objectivity of national accounts;
- c. The national accountant's profile will be defined to guarantee the quality of training of African national accountant. However, it will be necessary to find transitional arrangements concerning the national accountants in place;
- d. If Africa has its own training institute, the number of national accountants to be trained each year could exceed the proposed number of 50 executives;
- e. A transitional period will be necessary due to time needed for the design, the realization and the processing of the statistical surveys which are used to compile national accounts;
- f. Economic accounts analysis by the national accountants themselves is likely to improve their quality and therefore, it is among the priority tasks that the national accountants should undertake as well as the validation of the results; and
- g. The participants support the idea of updating classifications following their revision at international level. Taking into account African specificities in these classifications will be the main issue to be dealt with here.

2. Monitoring, Reporting

All the strategy implementation activities will be subject to follow-up and evaluation according to the adopted timeline. The stakeholders for each activity will be identified. AGNA will prepare bi-annual reports to be submitted to the regional statistical coordinating bodies, namely the ASCC and the Bureau of StatCom-Africa. It will also prepare every two years a report on the 2008 SNA implementation which will be submitted to StatCom-Africa.

3. Coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the 2008 SNA in Africa

The role of Regional Coordinator for the implementation of the 2008 SNA is entrusted to AfDB which is the leading institution for AGNA, in collaboration with ECA and AUC. The five Regional Economic Communities will be subregional Coordinators, and AFRISTAT will be a Technical Adviser.

After presentations and following the discussion, explanations were given to the participants on coordination mechanisms and the role of each stakeholder of the monitoring and reporting process. It was agreed that the AGNA will prepare the terms of reference for the various bodies which will ensure the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the African strategy on the implementation of the 2008 SNA. AGNA recommended that activities related to organization of workshops, training and development of manuals should be lead by ECA, in collaboration with AFRISTAT, while AUC will take a leading role in advocacy.

4. Implementation at national, subregional and regional levels

During this session, it was asked to review and amend the logical framework matrix (LFM). Two monolingual groups were set up for this purpose: Anglophone group and Francophone group.

The review of the LFM was a good opportunity to discuss: (a) the relevance of the performance indicators, and (b) the hypothesis/risks including the mitigating measures. Concerning the calendar, it was asked to propose a suitable period for each activity as well as the organizations likely to undertake or to support these activities.

If in general, the discussions in the two groups also included the understanding of some activities and of the ASNA, the Anglophone group reviewed the activities of the first three strategic lines and the Francophone group those of the first 4 strategic lines. Each group made proposals concerning the indicators and the calendar.

It was proposed to add two activities at the level of line 1:

- a. Activity 1.1.0: "Preliminary work before launching the implementation of the 2008 SNA"; and
- b. Activity 1.1.5: "Drafting of the ASNA handbook".

The groups explained that they cannot finish this review exercise because of the time constraints.

5. Recommendations

AGNA recommends to the Statistical Commission for Africa:

- a. To adopt the African strategy for the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA);

- b. To make it the first pillar of the African Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA);
- c. To urge pan-African institutions, regional economic communities and member States to take ownership of the strategy and mobilize the necessary funds for its implementation;
- d. To urge Africa's development partners to support its implementation.

Annex 7: Report of the African Group on Statistical Training (AGROST)

Twenty-four participants from 17 African countries and four international organizations registered for the meeting, chaired by PARIS-21 and reported on by InWent: Algeria, Burkina Faso, DRC, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire (STC), Senegal (STC x2), Morocco (STC), Cameroon (STC), the United Republic of Tanzania (EASTC), Rwanda (Univ.), Togo (Univ.), South Africa (2), Botswana, InWent, FAO, Mozambique, Nigeria, PARIS 21 (Chair), Uganda, Mauritania, ESA (2)

The agenda of the session was to provide background information on:

- a. The mission of AGROST and the establishment of its permanent secretariat as well as its funding;
- b. The work programme for 2010-2011; and
- c. To define different levels and kinds of training.

As an introduction, the temporary secretariat (ECA/PARIS21) clarified the main objective of the break-out session which is to follow up the process on AGROST initiated in 2009.

1. Background and news on AGROST

The secretariat provided a brief overview of the development of AGROST.

2. Establishment of the permanent Secretariat

- a. The majority of the participants agreed on the fact that the permanent secretariat should be immediately under the umbrella of the ECA;
- b. The FTP stressed the point that funding modalities (basket funding to ECA by various FTP is already in place), but it could not be practicable in the short term; and
- c. Participants expect ECA to find a solution to the existing funding problem in order to start operating AGROST activities.

3. Working programme for 2010-2011

In addition to the proposed list of AGROST activities made in Bujumbura in June 2009, the following tasks have been identified:

- a. Establishment of the secretariat;
- b. Analysis of support of the different FTPs to different levels and modes of statistical capacity building;
- c. Considering the creation of national STCs; and
- d. Encouraging the STCs to provide more training-of-trainers courses.

Due to time constraints, the definition of different levels and kinds of training could not be tackled and was added to the list of activities of AGROST.

4. Recommendations to StatCom-Africa II

- a. To endorse training as the theme of the 2010 African Statistics Day;
- b. To reserve a time slot for the different working group members to meet in order to better prepare and focus the breakout session discussions; and
- c. To provide translation in all the breakout sessions.



Second Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa



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Economic Commission for Africa
African Centre for Statistics

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