

**Sixth Forum on African Statistical Development  
(FASDEV VI)  
Tunis, 08 December 2014  
Draft Communiqué**

Representatives of African countries, bilateral and international institutions, United Nations Secretariat and agencies, African statistical training centres, and regional and sub-regional organizations, attended the fourth meeting of the Forum for African Statistical Development (FASDEV-VI) on 8 December 2014 in Tunis, Tunisia. The meeting preceded the fourth session of the African Statistical Commission (StatCom-Africa) held from 10 to 12 December 2014.

Recalling the endorsement of the report of FASDEV-V, by all stakeholders of statistical development in Africa;

Recalling the main objectives of FASDEV to: (i) have an overview of statistical activities, including assistance, and training in Africa; (ii) set up a permanent system for the monitoring of statistical development in Africa; and (iii) strengthen modalities for cooperation with a view to leveraging on each partner's comparative advantage;

The meeting:

- a) Appreciated the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the Partnership In Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21) Secretariat, the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB), to organize this sixth meeting of FASDEV;
- b) Noted the progress in the reporting mechanism for partners (PRESS) and countries (CRESS) and asked questions on the methodology.
- c) Reiterated the expression of concern at the inadequate domestic funding for National Strategies for the Development of Statistics NSDS and the absence of an adequate reporting mechanism on the implementation of RRSF.
- d) Welcomed the sharing of experiences and best practices of some African countries on the NSDS implementation and funding.
- e) Discussed issues relating to statistical development in Africa and in particular, addressed the following key issues:
  - Level and trends of support to statistical development in Africa;
  - New donor initiatives;
  - Making partner' support more efficient and effective;

The participants:

1. Call upon countries to mainstream NSDS in the PRSP, and in particular, in the national budget, to ensure sustainable funding for statistics, instead of statistics as a monitoring and evaluating tool for the PRSP.
2. Invite PARIS21, in collaboration with ECA and AfDB to invest further in the development of CRESS from African countries, in order to provide accurate figure for domestic financing of statistics, in particular with detailed information separating statistical funding from various project on improved economic managements or public finance among others.
3. Call upon countries to scale up the revenue of statistical offices through delivery of services to users and through innovative funding, including data revolution, open data and other donors such as the Bill Gates foundation;
4. Request ECA, AfDB and PARIS21 to advocate and to scale up the funding of data needs, required for the post 2015 development goals (SDGs) and for the data revolution programme for Africa.
5. Commend ECA and PARIS21 for organizing the high level Conference on Data Revolution to be held in Addis Ababa in March 2015, at the Joint Conference of Ministers of Finance, Development and Planning.
6. Call on financial and technical partners to use NSDS as a framework for coordinating and streamlining financial support and technical assistance, and to provide institutional and budget support, instead of operational funding for statistical activities.
7. Request the ECA, in close collaboration with the AfDB, the PARIS21 Secretariat and the World Bank, to convene the seventh FASDEV meeting preferably in 2016;
8. Request the ECA, in collaboration with PARIS21 and AfDB to provide a summary of country reports, based on NSDS reports, PRESS and CRESS, in order to provide an overview of the level and trends related to domestic financing for statistics during the next session of FASDEV.
9. Call on all stakeholders to support FASDEV and implement the above recommendations.

The sponsors of the draft recommendations commit themselves to amending them according to the participants' comments and distributing the official amended version by the end of March 2015.