UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Seventh Meeting of the Coordinating Committee
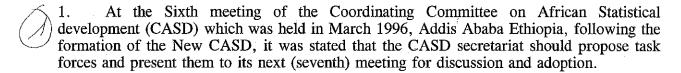on African Statistical Development (CASD)

21-22 May 1997
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

A Proposal on Task Forces by the CASD Secretariat

ECA/DISD/CASD.7/97/2

Table of Contents

A.   Introduction

1.   At the Sixth meeting of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical development (CASD) which was held in March 1996, Addis Ababa Ethiopia, following the formation of the New CASD, it was stated that the CASD secretariat should propose task forces and present them to its next (seventh) meeting for discussion and adoption.

2.   It should be stated that, following the dissolution of the CASD sub-committees, a suggestion was made that the work of the New CASD should be driven by task forces. The membership of the task forces would not necessarily be restricted to CASD members, but would also bring in non-members who were interested or could contribute to the work of the task forces.

3.   The Sixth meeting did not state the number of task forces to be proposed and as such the CASD secretariat was left free to propose as many task forces as it deemed important for the work of CASD.

B.   A proposal on Task Forces

4.   The CASD secretariat is proposing nine (9) task forces which address various areas of concern and require research in order to render possible solutions. A brief background and justification for each task force is provided in Annex I and the task forces are described in Annex II under the headings: title; task leader; associates; objectives; expected output; and duration.

5.   In deciding on which task forces to include in the proposal, the CASD secretariat was guided by discussions which took place at the sixth meeting and previous meetings of CASD and its sub-committees. Also taken into account were issues and themes raised by international organisations and their meetings including the United Nations Statistical Commission. The areas of the proposed task forces include: connectivity, electronic data processing, statistical activities, statistical training, archiving, poverty, gender, System of National Accounts and social statistics.

6.   In proposing the task forces, the CASD secretariat decided that the positions of Associate should be left open to enable members to make proposals on their interest in a particular task force. Proposals have however been made for the task leaders, with the exception of Task Force number 7, to enable them to think, before the meeting, about the way in which they would like to organise their task forces. If however other members would wish to take on the leadership role of a task force or feel that they should not take on the leadership role, they should feel free to give this indication to the CASD secretariat earliest. The CASD secretariat would like to be as flexible as possible at this stage and leave the Committee to take decisions on these matters.

7.   The numbering of the task forces should not be confused with priority rating. The numbering of the task forces was done arbitrarily and does not in any way constitute an assignment of priority.

8.   The task forces presentation includes background and justification and task force proposals. This will be followed by a discussion when the meeting is convened. If the task force is adopted, an initial discussion on the organisation of the work of the task force will take place. It is expected that the proposed task force leader will chair the discussion on the organisation of the work of his/her task force.

C.   **Conclusion**

9.   The proposed task forces have only addressed some of the areas of concern to CASD. The list of task forces proposed by the secretariat should be considered as an initial proposal. If any CASD member feels that there are other areas which should also be addressed by CASD at this stage, they should feel free to submit their proposals to the secretariat for inclusion in the list, to enable consideration by CASD.