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AFRICA SYMPOSIA ON STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME



Economic Commission
for Africa
ESPD



Advisory Board on
Statistics in Africa

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**Africa Symposia on Statistical Development:
Draft Work Programme**



Africa Symposia on Statistical Development

Draft Work Programme

April 2006

Background

1. The United Nations Statistical Commission, at its 36th Session in March 2005, approved the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses and established an Expert Group to take care of its implementation. The Expert Group, in turn, proposed the formation of working groups and technical subgroups to carry out its mandate. One of the main purposes of the Expert Group is to carry out the revision and update the global *United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (P&R)*. To carry out its mandate, the Expert Group is expected to work in conjunction with the Regional Commissions and other relevant organizations in order to take into consideration processes already in place, to maximize the efficiency of the process, to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure coordination and harmonization of the results.
2. During the 22-26 August meeting in New York, the Expert Group on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses was concerned with the lack of progress and preparation at the African region level, and resolved to organize a meeting for census experts with the purpose of preparing the report in time for submission to the UN Statistical Commission in March 2006.
3. Since the Expert Group meeting in August 2005, significant progress has been made by African countries towards engaging in the ongoing global dialogue on the role of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, particularly with regard to providing key baseline data towards measurement of African development.
4. The forthcoming round of population and housing censuses is especially critical because of the Millennium Development Goals, which governments have embraced, and the role that censuses play in providing the necessary underlying data for monitoring the Goals. The ECA and African countries recognized this at the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results, held at Marrakech in February 2004, and preparation for the 2010 census round was one of the six action areas identified as priority for improving development statistics in the future.
5. Recognition was also made of the need to focus and foster the linkage between MDG-related and census campaigns, especially given the low priority given among governments, and even among certain agencies, to the role of population and housing censuses in providing data for monitoring MDGs.
6. To this end, African countries met to discuss and prepare an African position on preparations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, showing Africa's willingness to participate in the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. At a meeting of African national statistical offices on census advocacy and resource mobilization in November 2005 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, African countries mandated South Africa to coordinate African countries to discuss the 2010 censuses and to come up with recommendations with respect to the *P&R* - an African position - as its contribution to the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses.

7. In close consultation with the UNECA and the UNSD, a meeting was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 31 January to 2 February 2006, entitled ‘**The 2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development: The 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.**’ The Symposium was a modest yet significant step for the continent towards preparing successfully for the forthcoming censuses.

8. The focus of the symposium was five-fold:

1. To encourage all African countries to undertake a population and housing census in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses;
2. To reach consensus on recommendations on the revision of the United Nations;
3. Principles and Recommendations from an African Perspective;
4. To reach consensus on core topics and tabulations of relevance to African censuses;
5. To focus and foster linkages in MDG-related statistical activities and census campaigns; and
6. To provide a platform for a comprehensive exchange of experiences, countries’ participation, technical assistance, information and data dissemination.

9. The symposium also considered a number of aspects that relate to developing sustainable statistical systems in Africa and addressing the challenges of statistical development and capacity-building in Africa.

10. Attended by 43 African countries and international organizations that support census programmes in Africa, out of the symposium came a number of key recommendations and resolutions that represent a comprehensive African position on census taking in Africa in the 2010 round, as well as key issues and challenges that confront the continent on national statistical systems and capacity-building.

11. Mandated by the 2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development, the Friends of the ECA was established to work with the ECA to re-establish a sustainable statistical programme for Africa. At its first meeting in Pretoria, South Africa in April 2006, the Friends of the ECA, seized by the demand for development information and imperatives of regional integration and the information that supports such regional integration, have developed a work programme that seeks to address four challenges, in addition to a special focus on the Global Programme on the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses:

- Capacity-building in Africa;
- Institutional Reform;
- Leadership and Management; and,
- Advocacy and Resource Mobilization.

12. The work programme takes into account an understanding that African countries will continue to meet on an annual basis to review progress on the work programme and to develop new strategies towards statistical development in Africa.

Part I
Work Programme

13. Part I presents the work programme for the Africa Symposia on statistical development. This work programme (Table 2) has been developed to take into account the key challenges to be addressed in strengthening sustainable statistical systems in Africa. Underpinning these efforts is a need for a strategic framework (Table 1) that considers urgent and much-needed interventions of political and technical nature, but also identifies the resource intervention requirements. The commitment of the ECA is highlighted, drawing from the resolutions of the 37th Session of the UN Statistical Commission, the 2006 Africa Symposium resolutions and the commitments pledged by the ECA at the Symposium (Document ASSD2006/04). The work programme must therefore be implemented in the context of the interventions outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Strategic Framework

Theme	Political intervention	Technical intervention	Resource intervention	ECA commitment
Capacity-building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Africa institutional arrangements for training. 2. Country initiatives 3. Staff deployment protocol 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Skills and training innovation 2. Africa wide training institution 3. Technical capacity at management and operational level 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government's commitment 2. Twinning arrangements (e.g. CIDA Canada) 3. Assistance by funding agencies 	Resolution of the Statistical Commission on Capacity-building OP1, OP2, OP3 and OP4 as well as ECA commitment 1, 7,8 and 2006 ASSD Resolution 3
Institutional reform	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legislative reform around statistical organizations 2. Institutionalizing NSS 3. Protocol around legislation 4. Protocol around data exchange 5. Protocol around staff deployment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observing the fundamental principles of official statistics 2. Documenting and sharing experiences of models of technical independence and statistics Acts 3. Models of organizational setups 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government's commitment 2. Assistance by funding agencies 	2006 ASSD Resolution 6 also ECA commitment 2, 3 and 10
Leadership and management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adoption of NSDS 2. Creation and reinforcement of effective governance structures for effective leadership and management 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of NSDS 2. Technical capacity at management and operational level 3. Adoption of modern technology for collection and processing of administrative records 4. Provide special training on organizational management and leadership of NSS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government's commitment to good conditions of services that would attract and retain good quality management 2. Funding for technical capacity by funding agencies 3. Government has to commit substantial resources 	ECA commitment 4 and 11

Table 2: Work Programme

Overall objective: Allow production of statistics, mainly by statistical offices, to meet the user needs of the country

Theme: Capacity-building for the organization to dispense its mandate to produce statistics that are credible and have integrity						
NO	OBJECTIVE	KEY OUTPUT	INDICATOR	ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESP
1.	Increase the skills levels of staff employed by statistical agencies in Africa	Training Programmes in relevant fields of official statistics	Increase in the number of staff trained in the relevant field of official statistics within the NSO and NSS	Research relevant courses	2006	Friends of ECA
				Approved training programme	May 2007	NSOs, NSS
				Coordinate training courses	September 2007	Friends of ECA
				Annual reports on training interventions	Ongoing from September 2007	NSOs
				Consolidated Regional Report	April 2008	ECA and Symposia Secretariat to produce a consolidated report
2.	Develop a staff recruitment and retention strategy	Approved recruitment and retention strategy	Average number of years of experience in the relevant areas within the NSS	Regional workshop on recruitment and retention plan	December 2006	ECA and Symposia Secretariat to Coordinate
				Research and compile draft strategy	In line with NSDS	Friends of ECA
				Approved strategy	2007ASSD	Member States
3.	Compile an infrastructure development plan	Sufficient infrastructure in place	Number of statistics units established in Ministries	Research and draft plan	2007	Symposia Secretariat and ECA
				Approved Plan	May 2008	Council of ECA Ministers
				Establishment of statistical units	2008-2009	Member States
4.	Enhance the capacity of African Training Institutes to deliver training	Resourced training institutions	Total operating costs per student	Assessment of current capacity	May 2007	ECA to produce consolidated report
				Approved training and recruitment plan	May 2008	Statistical Training Centres (STCs)
				Annual reports on training and recruitment	Ongoing from 2006	STCs and ECA

Overall objective: To enhance the integrity of the NSOs and the NSS

Theme: Institutional reform						
NO	OBJECTIVE	KEY OUTPUT	INDICATOR	ACTIVITIES	PERIODICITY	RESP
1.	Legislative frameworks that allow compliance with the fundamental principles of statistics	Legislation in line with the fundamental principles of official statistics	Number of countries which have legislation in line with the fundamental principles of official statistics	Assessment of current situation	January 2007	ECA to present report to 2007 ASSD
				Consultative fora on legislation	2007	ECA and Symposia Secretariat
				Recommendations for changes to legislation	April 2008	Friends of ECA
2.	Establish a statistics subprogramme at ECA	Subprogramme on statistics established at ECA	Subprogramme established	ECA launches process	To be determined	ECA
				Endorsement by ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance		
				Endorsement by ECOSOC		
				Endorsement by GA		

Overall objective: To accelerate the production of reliable, relevant and timely statistics

Theme: Leadership and management						
NO	OBJECTIVE	KEY OUTPUT	INDICATOR	ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESP
1.	Development of NSDS	National strategies developed for the NSS	Number of countries that have developed and adopted their NSDS	Assessment of countries with/without NSDS	2007 ASSD	Member States
				Development of NSDS	2007-2008	ECA and ECA partners
2.	Create effective management structures for NSOs and NSS	Approved management structures	Number of functional structures	Research on structures		ECA
				Approved structure		NSOs/NSS
				Implementation of approved structure		NSOs/NSS
3.	Creation of an effective coordinative role of the ECA	Effective ECA coordination in place	Number of ECA interventions in African countries on coordination and harmonization issues	Assess current role of ECA	2006	Friends of ECA/ECA

Overall objective: To raise the awareness about the power of official statistics for the socio economic development

Theme: Advocacy and communication						
NO	OBJECTIVE	KEY OUTPUT	INDICATOR	TARGETS/MILESTONES	DATE	RESP
1.	Integration of statistics in the development processes of the country especially in the planning stage	National planning systems that have performance and outcome indicators	Number of countries that have plans with performance and outcome indicators	Research and Develop format for strategic plans	2006	Member States, ECA (PRS)
				Identify training needs for managers responsible for the development of plans	2006	Member States, ECA (PRS)
				Approved format	May 2007	Member States
				Implement approved format to ensure consistency with strategic plans	September 2007	Member States
		Indicators compiled for monitoring performance and measuring outcomes	Compendia of commonly defined indicators developed	Research and develop format for reports ensuring linkage to strategic plans	2007/2008	Friends of ECA
2.	Develop an unified vision and mission for the development of statistics	A shared vision developed and adopted by the ECA	Number of NSDS taking into account such a vision	Research on vision and mission statements	2006	Friends of ECA
				Workshop to discuss vision and mission	January 2007	2007ASSD
				Approved vision and mission	May 2007	2007ASSD
				Market vision and mission	2007/2008	Friends of ECA

Overall objective: To raise the awareness about the power of official statistics for the socio economic development

Theme: Advocacy and communication						
NO	OBJECTIVE	KEY OUTPUT	INDICATOR	ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESP
3.	To sensitize the suppliers and users of statistical data on importance and usefulness of data	Conduct awareness campaigns to sensitize the suppliers and users of statistical data on importance and usefulness of data	Number of countries with awareness programmes	Identify methods for communication (road shows, advertising,	January 2007	2007ASSD
				Develop plan for awareness campaigns (when, where, how)	January 2007	2007ASSD
				Conduct awareness campaign	2007/2008	ECA, NSOs, NSS
4.	Invigorate the celebration of the Africa Statistics Day as an important event in the national development agenda	Outputs of the Africa Statistics Day (media coverage, road shows ...)	Number of countries that effectively celebrate Africa Statistics Day	Identify annual theme	June annually	ECA and Friends of the ECA
				Development of advocacy tools	June-November annually	ECA, NSOs, NSS
				Celebrate Africa Statistics Day	18 November annually	ECA and Member States

Overall objective: To mobilize resources for sustained production of official statistics

Theme: Resource mobilisation						
NO	OBJECTIVE	KEY OUTPUT	INDICATOR	ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESP
1.	Ensure adequate resources, both financial and human, for the realization of the strategic plan	Resources received and deployed	Proportion of funded programmes relative to the overall need Number of programmes that are successfully implemented by NSOs and NSS	Establish current status of financial and human resources	Annually	ECA and Member States
2.	Ensure efficient and effective utilization of financial resources	Well managed budget with minimum audit queries	Programmes executed within budget	Research activity based budgeting Link activities to approved budgets Research software for the effective management of budgets	Annually	ECA and Friends of ECA Member States ECA and Member States

Part II

The 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses

14. At the Second International Roundtable on Managing for Development Results held in Marrakech in February 2004, preparation for the 2010 round of population and housing censuses was one of the six action areas identified as priority for improving development statistics for the future. At this point in the process of the preparation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, all regional organizations have organized working groups, tasks forces and other meetings, with the collaboration of their member States, to assess their census experiences for the 2000 round as well as to have a regional position on the proposed recommendations with respect to the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*.

15. The Africa Symposia on Statistical Development, among other things, seeks to engage Africa in influencing the 2010 round of population and housing censuses as a mechanism not only to propel Africa's development agenda, but also in ensuring that knowledge management in Africa will contribute to both the global dialogue and development on the continent in the context of NEPAD and other African Union initiatives.

16. Against this backdrop, the main aim of the Project will be to facilitate the strengthening of the role of African countries in the World Programme on 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses; to strengthen collaboration on census-related activities, to develop strategies for African countries to fill the glaring data gaps that limit Africa's ability to monitor progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and finally to promote knowledge management in statistics and the pivotal role statistics plays in the development of the African continent. This objective will be achieved through:

1. Encouraging all African countries to undertake a population and housing census in the 2010 round of censuses (2005 – 2014);
2. Reaching consensus on recommendations on revision of United Nations *Principles and Recommendations* from an African perspective;
3. Reaching consensus on core topics and tabulations of relevance to African censuses;
4. Focusing and fostering linkages in MDG-related and census campaigns; and,
5. Providing a platform for comprehensive exchange of experiences, countries' participation, technical assistance, information and data dissemination.

17. It is intended that this process carry itself through the entire period of the 2010 Round of Population Censuses (2005 –2014), which provides a timely opportunity to provide mechanisms for Africa to monitor progress made towards achieving the time bound Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

18. Notwithstanding the challenges noted in advancing statistical development in Africa, in the context of the Global Programme on the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses, the work programme for 2006/2007 will focus to a large extent, on preparations on the African continent for the undertaking of censuses in the period 2005 – 2014.

19. The work programme will be anchored around the design of a regional census programme. The thrust of the regional census programme will be:

Subprogramme1: Coordinate between regional and world programmes

Subprogramme2: Convene workgroups on selected four topics in line with recommended topics of the Global Programme

Subprogramme3: Census advocacy and networks

Subprogramme4: Coordinate the supply and demand of expertise

Subprogramme5: Forging partnerships

Subprogramme 1: Coordinate between regional and world programmes

Review of UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses

Activities by Africa to review the UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses take into account that Africa has delayed substantially in submitting its recommendations to the UN Expert Group. However, while recommendations were made at the 2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development, the following activities are outlined in order to achieve the objectives:

1. To summarize the extent to which African countries complied with the 2000 round recommendations and to conduct an in-depth review of the synoptic paper on the 2000 population censuses; and
2. Through the work of Task Forces, to recommend specific types of modifications to be made to the recommendations for purposes of obtaining an improved set of population census recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses in time for submission to UNSD by 2007.

Activity 1 (ECA in consultation with the Symposia Secretariat):

Distribute a detailed questionnaire to all ECA countries to obtain information on the extent to which they complied with the ECA/Secretariat Recommendations for the 2000 round of censuses, as well as feedback on which parts of the 2000 recommendations should be revised and improved, and which new issues should be addressed.

Activity 2 (ECA and Secretariat):

Prepare synoptic papers based on the results of the questionnaire and establish a list of issues to be addressed by the methodological work with a detailed timetable.

Activity 3:

Set up Task Forces composed of a small number of interested countries to conduct work on designated issues insofar as they are not already subsumed under other activities of this programme (subprogramme 2).

Subprogramme 2: Convene workgroups on selected four topics in line with recommended topics of the Global Programme

ECA to convene four Workgroups on:

1. Effective use of IT and GIS for census operations
2. Using the census for measuring new and emerging priority issues
3. Planning and financing the next censuses
4. Analysis, dissemination and utilization of census data

It could be anticipated that the census recommendations for 2010 may be more than a simple update of the 2000 recommendations, and would have to address issues of the following type as well:

- Should Africa's recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses focus exclusively on population censuses, or should they deal with both population and housing censuses?
- How can different methods for collecting data (traditional method and administrative sources) in the context of a census be combined? How can population groups that are not observed by other sources be adequately covered in the census?
- What is the influence of different forms of collecting data directly from the population on the exhaustiveness and quality of the results, and what are the problems to be faced when different options coexist?
- What is the path to the integration of census, surveys, registers and administrative records for establishing inter-census statistics of high reliability, notably for the inter-census population estimates?
- What are the criteria for making a decision about which variables to include in population censuses?

<p>Working Group 1: Effective use of IT and GIS for census operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should cover crosscutting issues in the use of IT tools, ie. CAPI, ICR, OCR and OMR • Should cover contribution of digital mapping techniques and GIS to census operations 	<p>Working Group 2: Using the census for measuring new and emerging priority issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should focus on events and characteristics, which, because of their rarity, were not well captured in sample surveys (e.g. health and human functioning, maternal and adult mortality etc.) • Should discuss how to collect information on emerging issues in the census (e.g. poverty, ageing, migration, religion, ethnicity and race etc.) 	<p>Working Group 3: Planning and financing the next censuses</p> <p>Among the issues proposed for discussion and coordination are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to make government see the value of censuses • How to raise supplementary resources needed to cover the increasing costs of censuses • Statistical legislation for census 	<p>Working Group 4: Analysis, dissemination and utilization of census data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should discuss how to make more extensive use of data for national planning and development • Should discuss how to use small-area estimates/micro-data without breaching confidentiality • Should review the problems connected with the use of census data for non-statistical purposes • Should discuss the methodology connected with outsourcing data dissemination to private business providers
<p>Subprogramme 3: Census advocacy and networks</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist national statistics offices in Africa to advocate for conducting regular censuses and securing the necessary funding within countries; • Build national capacity at the technical level and to develop management skills needed to prepare an overall strategy and costed plan to negotiate with government and users, pooling potential contributors in a cost-effective strategy; and • Undertake urgent improvements for MDG monitoring. 			

Subprogramme 4: Coordinate the supply and demand of expertise

- ECA to coordinate and facilitate the supply and demand of expertise;
- Provision and reception of technical expertise and information
 - **Identify resources and expertise to be shared, e.g. IT expertise, exchange of professionals, training materials;**
 - Pledging financial contributions to a Symposia Fund, provision of fellowships and technical expertise.

Subprogramme 5: Forging partnerships

Purpose: discuss how to work in “partnership” with ECA and with other countries in the region. Advice on priority areas and modalities for regional census programme. The outcome would be an agreed understanding of working in partnership and on what should be the content of the regional census programme.

- Devise mechanisms to work with subregional bodies such as SADC, AFRISTAT and ECOWAS
- Ad hoc forum to support the 2010 round of censuses in the African region and roll-out support by year of census -undertaking

Country	Census Date	Support Required
Cameroon	November 2005	Processing, Analysis & dissemination
Lesotho	April 2006	Advocacy, Processing
Egypt	November 2006	Advocacy
Ethiopia, Mozambique and Swaziland	2007	Census planning and management
Angola, the DRC and Eritrea	Unknown	Preparation of Census plans, Advocacy

- “Census newsletter”
- Web-based census instruction materials and e-discussion groups
- ECA organize a workshop to discuss issues related to using modern tools for training of census enumerators and supervisors