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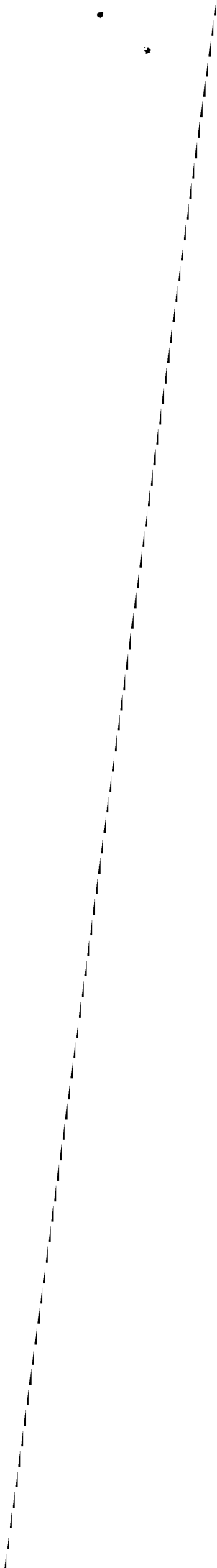
UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Consultative Meeting on Indicators for Monitoring
Progress Towards Good Governance in Africa

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
(9-11 April 2001)

REPORT



I. Introduction

The consultative meeting on indicators for monitoring progress towards good governance in Africa was held at the United Nations International Conference Centre, Addis Ababa from 9 to 11 April 2001. The meeting was an opportunity for representatives of partners' institutions, consultants and some professors having long experience in governance to examine the indicators developed by ECA, share their experience and help ECA streamline the indicators and adopt a methodology for the first phase study on good governance in the 15 selected African countries.

II. Participants

High level participants from partner institutions such as DFID, OECD and ADB, universities and institutes of social studies with long experience in public administration management and good governance took part in the three-day meeting and made valuable contributions towards improving the research instrument for good governance in Africa. The list of participants is annexed to the present report.

III. Account of the Proceedings

1. Opening ceremony

The Director of the Development Management Division (DMD), Mr. James Nxumalo officially opened the meeting. In his opening statement, Mr. Nxumalo welcomed the experts on behalf of ECA and thanked them for taking time from their busy schedules and responsibilities to come and contribute to the proposed indicators for good governance in Africa.

Having under-scored the importance of governance in the development process of Africa, Mr. Nxumalo gave the background of the whole exercise being undertaken by ECA. In fact the latter initiative started in September 1999 when ECA convened a workshop on

“Measuring and monitoring good governance in Africa”. The workshop helped to generate a number of indicators, which later on were scrutinized and refined in a second methodology workshop, which was held at Addis Ababa in March 2000.

Following the preceding two exercises, the proposed indicators were fine-tuned, a research framework designed, the research instrument finalized and capacity assessment missions fielded to 15 selected African countries with a view to identifying collaborating research institutions having required capacities to administer the research instruments in their respective countries and prepare a report on the state of governance at national level.

In addition, Mr. Nxumalo underlined the overall objective of the project which is to assist each African member country in monitoring its progress towards good governance. He then draw the attention of the participants on the fact that their meeting should come up with comments and suggestions to validate the instruments before them. ECA is also expecting the meeting to assist in formulating the methodology and the way forward. Mr. Nxumalo concluded his opening statement by wishing every success to the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

The following agenda and programme of work were adopted:

Agenda

1. Introductory remarks
2. Overview of the instrument
3. Discussions
4. Methodological issues
5. The way forward
6. Conclusion

Work programme

Monday, 9 April 2001

08:30 – 09:30	registration
09:30 – 10:45	introductory remarks
10:45 – 11:00	coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	discussion
13:00 – 14:30	lunch
14:30 – 15:45	review of instrument A ¹
15:45 – 16:00	coffee break
16:00 – 18:00	review of instrument A ¹ (continued)
18:00 – 19:00	reception

Tuesday, 10 April 2001

09:00 – 10:45	review of instrument A ¹ (continued)
10:45 – 11:00	coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	review of instrument A ²
13:00 – 14:30	lunch
14:30 – 15:45	review of instrument A ³
15:45 – 16:00	coffee break
16:00 – 18:00	methodological and implementation issues

Wednesday, 11 April 2001

09:00 – 10:45	the way forward
10:45 – 11:00	coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	closure

3. Review of the research instruments

The research instrument examined by the meeting is composed of three parts: Part I, which consists of 88 indicators seeks opinion-based responses from an expert group about the nature of governance in each country as reflected in its political, economic and social life and institutions. Part II, which is composed of 37 indicators also seeks opinion-based responses from a random sample of ordinary people about the nature of governance in their country. Part III is a fact-based instrument with 30 indicators. Here, the collaborating research institutions are requested to collect data and information to be processed, analyzed and compared to fact-finding indicators.

The instrument in Part I is a likert-based perception instrument on various aspect of governance to be administered to a carefully selected expert group. The instrument in part II will be administered to a sample population randomly selected on the basis of a multi-stage sampling and will solicit the perception of the general public on selected aspects of governance that impact its life. The respondents will be required to provide their assessment, among other things, on service delivery effectiveness, extent of transparency and accountability of state organs, pro-poor orientation of the government and observance of human rights. After a lengthy discussion, the meeting agreed on the following:

- (i) The number of questions should be reduced and some questions should be merged or reformulated;
- (ii) With regard to questionnaire A2, questions should be mostly open-ended and leave room for the possibility that people might come with surprising or unexpected answers;



- (iii) Some questions should be followed by supplementary questions for those who answered Yes/No;
- (iv) On the assumption that geographical locality will be defined by the sampling method, respondents can be asked to give the following information about themselves, either at the beginning or end of the survey: age, sex, number of children, education level, mother tongue, literacy in mother tongue and in administrative language of the country, ethnic grouping, religious affiliation, occupation, household income;
- (v) Most of the questions can be pre-coded; the few open questions can be coded retrospectively;
- (vi) The questionnaire will need an introductory blurb, explaining its purpose and importance, and reassuring respondents about anonymity and independence from governance, etc. Individual blocks of questions will also need introductions along the lines of “Now we should like to ask you about ...” etc. Interviewers may need to help respondents distinguish between local central, regional and national government where indicated;
- (vii) A list of definitions should be provided in order to clarify some concept.

4. **Methodological and implementation issues**

The meeting discussed the whole question of how the exercise will be conducted on the ground, how to ensure the quality and use of the end product, how to monitor its implementation and how to measure its impact.

The meeting agreed that the workshop with the contracting institutions will:

- (i) On the basis of a guide manual prepared by ECA, adopt a methodology to conduct the exercise on the ground. The methodology should, among other

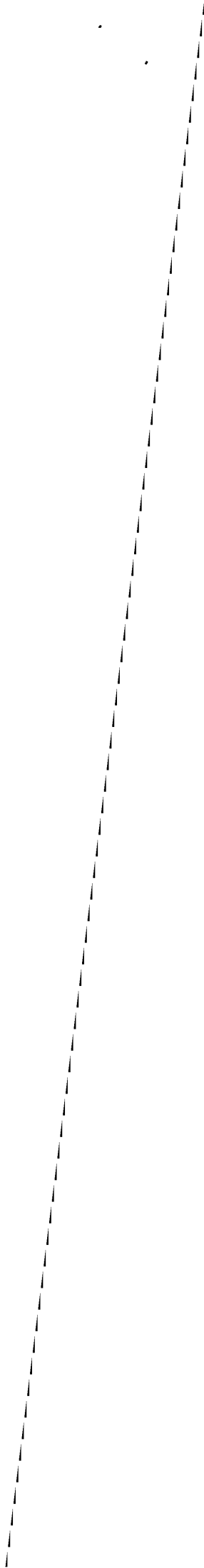
things, define the respondent population and the respondent sample, and how data will be collected, edited, scored, entered and analyzed;

- (ii) Agreed on the outline of the “State of African Governance Report”;
- (iii) Find ways and means to closely involve UNDP offices and governments in each country in the exercise;
- (iv) Find ways and means to solve the problem of ownership by government.

The meeting also agreed that in order to ensure the quality and use of the final product, a pre-test should be conducted for part I and II, in-country workshop should be organized and ECA should be present in the country during the launching of the study.

5. Closure of the meeting

The meeting requested ECA to revise the instrument taking into consideration the amendments and recommendations made. As there was no other business, the Director of DMD concluded by commending the work done by the participants. He promised that necessary efforts will be made to finalize the instrument, complete the intermediate activities and undertake the study as scheduled. He wished safe journey to participants who came from abroad.



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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
9-11 April 2001 – UNCC, Conference Room 6**

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